

# Independent

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## Bilawal pledges to fulfill expectations of Karachiites

KARACHI (APP): Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Monday vowed to live up to the expectations of Karachiites.

He said that Karachi was the biggest city in the country and it could take the country out of all problems. 'I will take a personal interest in the development of the city.'

He stated this while talking to media persons after attending the oath-taking ceremony of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Karachi, here at Gulshan-e-Jinnah (Polo Ground).

The PPP chairman advised Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) to work with political parties. He said that JI shook hands with those who attacked the Jinnah house, military installations and

other buildings.

Bilawal said that those who levelled fake allegations of rigging would be replied with PPP's performance and hard work.

He said that elections were snatched from them but they did not snatch the same from anyone.

He further said that PPP was deprived of Mayor in 1978, 1983 and 2001. After the end of the dictatorship and facilitators, political orphans were being defeated from Karachi to Kashmir in the elections, he said adding that the work started from now.

The PPP chairman said that his party had always tried to resolve the issues of the people and it would continue this spirit.

He said that PPP would resolve the issues of the city through unity.

He said that the graveyards of this city were full of 'Jeayalas' when this city was run by a phone call.

Bilawal said that PPP workers had sacrificed their lives for this city, the restoration of democracy and the country. Replying to a question, he said that the federal and provincial governments would cooperate with the Karachi administration.

Replying to another question, he said that the federal government should contribute to flood affectees and it was not a new stance of PPP. On the Greece incident, he said it was very disappointing. He said that illegal immigration was being thwarted. The government was in contact to repatriate dead bodies and action would be taken against those, who were involved in the illegal immigration.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari presenting souvenir to Barrister Murtaza Wahab, Newly Elected Mayor and Salman Abdullah Murad, Newly Elected Deputy Mayor during oath taking ceremony held at Polo Ground in Karachi.

## SC reserves judgment on petitions regarding Reviews of Orders and Judgments Act

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court (SC) on Monday reserved its judgment on petitions pertaining to SC Reviews of Orders and Judgments Act 2023. A three-member bench of the top court headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan and Justice Munib Akhtar heard the case.

At the outset of the hearing, Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan argued that there were different judgments of the apex court regarding the powers of the Parliament for legislation. A separate scope had been set for the review of the judgments in cases of Article 184/3, he said.

The AGP said before introduction of the act which had not affected the right of anybody, there was no method for review in the

cases of Article 184/3. It did not limit the scope of review.

He said as per the act it was the court's authority to choose members of the bench for a review case, and that bench should be larger than the bench, which had heard the main case.

CJP Bandial remarked that the government could introduce legislation but giving right of appeal in the review cases did not seem appropriate. The government should take a decision on the matter after thorough consideration.

He noted that there was also no right of review appeal in India in cases like those of Article 184/3.

Justice Munib Akhtar questioned whether the power of review could be compared with civil laws and whether civil laws fell in the jurisdiction of provinces.

## Murtaza Wahab, Salman Murad sworn in as mayor, deputy mayor of Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Barrister Murtaza Wahab and Salman Abdullah Murad on Monday sworn in as Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Karachi here at the Gulshan-e-Jinnah, formerly known as polo ground.

Provincial Election Commissioner-Sindh Aijaz Anwar Chohan administered the oath to the mayor and deputy mayor separately. On the occasion, Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and provincial ministers were also present in the oath-taking ceremony. After taking the oath of top slots in the city's offices, Mayor Murtaza and Deputy Mayor Salman Abdullah Murad hugged and thanked PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

## PM underlines need to invest in young talent

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday stressed that they had to make huge investments on the country's youth because those nations had always excelled whose youth got skills and requisite degrees in different fields.

Addressing a ceremony of the Prime Minister's National Innovation Awards, the prime minister expressed his pleasure over the strides made by the country's youth in different fields by utilizing their talents and skills.

The country's future was in safe hands and they had to make investments on the youth's talent as they direly deserved it, he added.

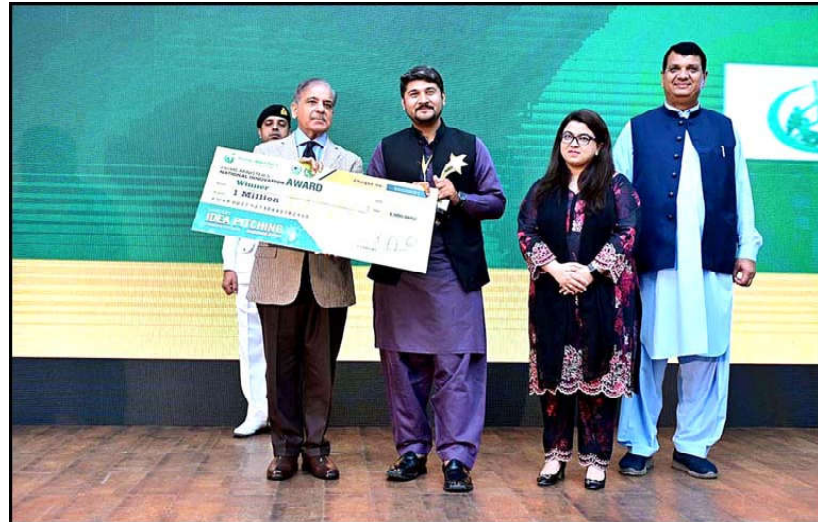
The prime minister said it was a matter of satisfaction as the young people strived during their educational careers and showed their innovative skills in the information technology (IT) sector,

biodiesel, traffic lights, motorbikes etc.

Under the Prime Minister's National Youth Award Programme, a total of Rs 160 million was distributed among the 100 talented youths who had achieved innovative business projects. The ceremony was also attended by ministers, parliamentarians and foreign ambassadors.

The prime minister said Pakistan was facing financial challenges, but he was confident that they would steer the country out of the issues.

Such situations arose in the lives of nations, he said, stressing that the Pakistani nation had to make the determination and chart its way forward and once they had decided, then nothing could hamper it. The prime minister also expressed his gratitude to China for supporting Pakistan during the economic constraints by extending \$1 billion loan facility.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif distributing PM's National Innovation Award among the successful candidates.

## Nasir Shah felicitates local bodies' representatives

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Local Government Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, on Monday, felicitated heads of all LG bodies on taking oath of their offices and hoped that they would play due role in the development of the province.

The minister, in a statement issued here, extended felicitation to Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Deputy Mayor Salman Abdullah Murad, Chairman District Council Sukkur Syed Kumail Hyder Shah, Vice Chairman District Council Sukkur Akhtar Ali Khan Mahar and all mayors, deputy mayors, chairmen and deputy chair-

men of local government institutions of Sindh.

He said that all the elected local government representatives of Pakistan Peoples Party were committed to serving the people of the province at the grass root level. He also congratulated elected LG representatives of other political parties.

Syed Nasir Shah hoped that newly elected LG representatives would play a proactive role in solving the basic problems of people and the development of the province as voters attach great expectations to their representatives.

## We appeal to court to see matter of disappearance of living people on Karachi mayor election day Naem

KARACHI (Online): JI Karachi Amir Hafiz Naem ur Rehman has demanded that JIT be constituted on Karachi mayor election matters.

"There is nexus of PPP and Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). PPP had started saying before election of Karachi mayor that people will not come. It should be seen elected people disappeared where and how on the election day of mayor. I demand of court to form JIT over this matter, he said this while talking to media men here Monday.

He alleged PPP and ECP have forged nexus. Mayor Karachi election has

exposed PPP and ECP. The election was got illegally possessed by PPP. Robbery was committed on Karachi mandate. The entire process of election of mayor and deputy mayor Karachi was a sheer forgery.

He claimed that PPP increased its seats through delimitation of constituencies on its own will. When election started then forms 11 were not being provided. As per form 11 JI had succeeded on over 100 seats.

He alleged mayor election was a formality. PPP had said before mayor election people will not come. ECP provided full opportunity to PPP.

## Bilawal threat works PM approves Rs 25b funds for flood affectees in Sindh

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chairman PPP and Foreign Minister (FM) Bilawal Bhutto threat has worked and Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has approved Rs 25 billion funds for flood affectees in Sindh.

PM had held out assurance to PPP delegation during a meeting on Friday for providing funds.

It is pertinent to mention here that Bilawal Bhutto while addressing public meeting in Swata day before had complained against non fulfillment of promises in budget by PM.

He had warned PPP would not allow the budget to be passed if funds were not provided for flood affectees.

## Zil Hajj moon sighted, Eid ul Azha on June 29

KARACHI (APP): The Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Pakistan announced on Monday that the Zil Hajj moon has been sighted in Pakistan, adding that Zil Hajj 01, 1444 A.H. will fall on June 20 (Tuesday), thus Eid ul Azha in Pakistan will be observed on June 29 (Thursday). Chairman Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Pakistan Maulana Syed Abdul Khabir Azad announced the decision following a meeting of the committee, held at the Met Complex here after Maghrib prayers to sight the crescent moon. Later, talking to media, Maulana Azad said that reliable testimonies of the moon sighting were received, therefore, Zil Hajj 01, 1444 A.H. will fall on June 20.



KARACHI: Chairman Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad announcing the sighting of Zilhaj moon and Eidul Azha will be on 29th June.

## Khawaja Asif calls strong action against illegal human trafficking

ISLAMABAD (APP): Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Monday emphasized the need for firm action against individuals involved in the illegal transportation of people abroad.

Speaking on floor of the National Assembly, the minister expressed deep grief and sorrow over the tragic deaths of Pakistani migrants in a recent boat incident near the coast of Greece.

Minister Asif highlighted that numerous families in Azad Jammu Kashmir, Sialkot, Gujranwala, and Gujrat were currently enduring immense grief as a result of the incident.

He called for a collective effort from the government and opposition parties to take stern action against human traffickers, emphasizing the urgency to put an end to this illegal movement.

While acknowledging the arrest of some individuals within the country, Asif stressed that these human trafficking networks also exist in various other countries.

He urged international cooperation to effectively combat this issue.

To demonstrate solidarity with the bereaved families affected by the boat tragedy, the nation observed a day of mourning.

## Nafisa Shah hopeful coalition partners to address PPP's reservations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan People's Party MNA Nafisa Shah Monday said that she was hopeful that the coalition partners would address the PPP's reservations over budget allocation for flood victims' rehabilitation and urged for gearing up for timely transparent elections.

Talking to a Private news channel, she said her party was neither in favour of early nor delayed general elections, adding, the general elections in the country should be held according to the constitution and democratic norms.

She termed timely elections need of the hour to overcome the chaos and instability in the country.

"No-one is dare to deprive the people of their due rights to elect their representatives and choose their government," she added, PPP considers its workers a precious asset as they made sacrifices and always help party in difficult times. Replying to a question, she said the PPP did not want any confrontation or deadlock and always preferred table talks to resolve issues. To another question, she said the PPP always ready for elections but we will support the partners till the completing time of assemblies, adding, we will not leave the coalition parties in any difficult circumstances and the PPP will continue to stand by its allies.

## CG of Thailand calls on Sindh Governor

KARACHI (APP): Consul General of Thailand Narut Soontarodom met Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House here on Monday.

Mutual relations, enhancement in trade, exchange of delegations and other matters of mutual interests were discussed in detail on the occasion.

The Governor Sindh said that Pak-Thai relations are strengthening by every passing day and mutual cooperation in various sectors

is increasing with the passage of time.

The Governor Sindh said that Sindh offers ideal investment opportunities in various fields.

He welcomed new Consul General of Thailand in Karachi and hoped that he would endeavour his utmost for cementing the bilateral relations further.

Narut Soontarodom said that Thailand was desirous of further strengthening relations between the two countries.

## Deeply grieved over Greece tragedy, incident must be probed: Sherry

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Senator Sherry Rehman has said that Greece shipwreck tragedy claiming lives of a number of countrymen has deeply grieved her and the incident should be probed thoroughly.

These views were expressed by her while sharing her sentiments relating

the tragedy on her twitter handle. Sherry Rehman wrote, "Devastated to hear of the terrible boat tragedy. This loss of lives of men, women and children is a moment of bereavement for all of us. Prayers for all the families who lost their loved ones." The minister further stated that there was also need to investigate how this happened as well as introspect on why it happened.



KARACHI: Sindh Information Minister, Sharjeel Inam Memon addresses to media persons during press conference, in Karachi.

## Commander of Iranian Navy calls on CNS Admiral Amjad Khan Niazi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy Rear Admiral Shahram Irani on Monday visited Naval Headquarters Islamabad and called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi.

Upon arrival at Naval Headquarters, Commander of the Iranian Navy was received by the Naval Chief and was presented a Guard of Honour, a Pakistan Navy news release said. After the wreath-laying at Shuhada monument, the visiting dig-

nitary was introduced to Principal Staff Officers at Naval Headquarters.

Later, Commander of the Iranian Navy called on Chief of the Naval Staff at his office. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest including bilateral and regional collaborations and maritime security in the region were discussed.

The Naval Chief highlighted Pakistan Navy's initiatives to ensure maritime security and peace through Regional Maritime Security Patrols.



KARACHI: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Chief, Hafiz Naem-ur-Rehman addresses to media persons during press conference held at Idara-e-Noor-ul-Haq in Karachi.

LAHORE (APP): The nation observed a mourning day on Monday over the Greece boat disaster, in which dozens of precious lives were lost. An overloaded ferry had capsized in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Greece on Wednesday.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif had announced Sunday observance of a mourning day to share the grief of the grieving families. The national flag flew at half-

mast across the country.

Various bar councils and civil society members held special prayers, 'Ghaebana Namaz-e-Janaza' (funeral prayers) and 'Fatehahkhwani' in the native villages, towns and cities of victims of the ferry disaster.

The United Nations Human Rights office said in a statement on Sunday that at least 500 people were still missing and that dozens of people were known to have perished.

## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Death at sea

It is unlikely that more survivors will be found. That means that at least 600 migrants — out of possibly 750 — on the fishing boat that set off from Libya towards European shores, may have perished when their vessel capsized in the Mediterranean on Wednesday.

The details are still sketchy but the passengers largely comprised Pakistanis, Afghans, Egyptians, Palestinians and Syrians. According to some reports, up to 300 Pakistanis may have drowned. It is a recurring tragedy — with no end in sight as economic, political and climate crises compel increasingly large numbers of people to flee their homes.

Who should be held responsible for this incident? The Greek coast guard that were not far off and that had, in fact, communicated with the people on the boat before it sank? If reports are to be believed, they tried to tow the boat. Did this in any way contribute to the tragedy? But the larger question is, why in the presence of maritime authorities did a tragedy of such immense proportions take place?

Only a comprehensive, unbiased investigation can reveal what happened between the time the authorities were first alerted to the presence of the overcrowded boat and when the vessel capsized later at night. Regrettably, the absence of help by the coastal authorities is part and parcel of Europe's larger xenophobic policy that aims to keep migrants out.

However, Fortress Europe alone cannot be blamed for why people in developing countries, such as Pakistan, choose to leave. This is not the first time Pakistani migrants have lost their lives at sea.

There have been several incidents. In a particularly heartbreaking one earlier this year, sportswoman Shahida Raza, who was unable to afford medical treatment for her young son in Pakistan, drowned as the migrant boat carrying her and scores of others crashed against the rocks.

She had been attempting to reach foreign shores to build a better future for her child. Therein lies the tragedy: an inept, uncaring government has made little effort to crack down on a vast network of human smugglers who fleece desperate individuals and put them on a path strewn with hazards. It is telling that in the latest incident, very few of the victims' families registered a complaint against the human smugglers. Perhaps they did not expect anything to come of it or perhaps they feared harassment at the hands of the authorities themselves. It is bad enough that the spectacular failure of the government to fulfil its part of the social contract by providing economic security to its citizens drives desperate individuals — even the educated ones — to leave the country. It is a crime when the government decides to ignore a grave issue that has snowballed into a crisis of deadly proportions.

## Cultural challenges of adoption



Tahera Hasan

In recent years, child adoption has increased across all sections of society. However, the practice often remains concealed, and couples are compelled to live with a web of lies. The adoption journey typically commences due to infertility, which holds significant cultural and social implications. In our society, women are often considered incomplete if they are unable to conceive. The ability to give birth is deemed an essential aspect of being a complete person. Consequently, individuals grappling with infertility not only face personal and relational struggles but also endure intrusive and insensitive questioning that is often masked as well-intentioned concern.

Unless someone has personally experienced the emotional turmoil of infertility, it is challenging to comprehend the depth of the pain it inflicts. Regrettably, the burden of blame usually falls on women, with men being encouraged to remarry in order to have children. Even when the root cause of infertility lies with the man, it is seldom discussed openly. I recall an encounter I had 21 years ago when I met a man from Balochistan who had three wives. These wives, unable to communicate in Urdu, accompanied him to an infertility clinic in Karachi. To his surprise, after medical investigation, he discovered that the issue rested with him, not the women. This realisation left him feeling ashamed for subjecting his wives to undue blame and distress.

Women undergoing countless cycles of IVF and enduring invasive and painful procedures often experience the anguish of repeated failure. Unfortunately, counselling is scarce, and the genuine option of adoption is rarely discussed or encouraged. Adoption has touched my life in various capacities, both personally and professionally. I have interacted with adoptive parents, counselled adopted children, and assisted individuals through the emotional and legal aspects of the adoption process. Throughout this journey, one recurring theme has emerged — the desperate need for answers to the questions that arise and the need to dispel misconceptions.

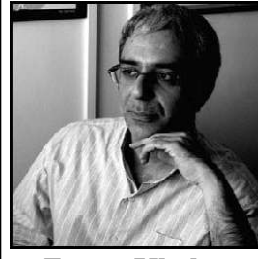
Cultural and social acceptance plays a pivotal role in adoption. When individuals choose to become parents through adoption, they make a commitment to protect and support their child, regardless of the circumstances. Yet, unwarranted beliefs persist that adopted children are more troublesome and a source of distress. But do biological children not cause parental worries, or refrain from abandoning their parents, indulging in drugs, or engaging in other behaviour that could cause pain? Such concerns apply to all children, irrespective of their biological or adoptive status. The fear of bonding with an adopted child often emerges as a question. It is worth noting that parents who choose adoption have usually endured immense suffering and possess an intense longing for a child. In my experience with over 100 adoption cases, I have never witnessed a lack of bonding between parents and adopted children; however, there can, of course, be challenges. On the other hand, the possibility of postpartum depression and the subsequent rejection of biological children rarely surfaces as a concern during pregnancy. The fear that one may not bond with their child is not a valid reason to dismiss the option of adoption.

Managing intrusive questions becomes a necessary skill for adoptive parents. Setting personal boundaries is crucial, as there are aspects of a child's story that are not to be shared with everyone. Those who have undergone the adoption process should become advocates, sensitising others and fostering a more accepting society for our children. To illustrate the kind of questions adoptive parents encounter, let me share an example. Once, someone asked me about my child's 'real parents'. I responded with a smile, saying, "I am". However, the person persisted, questioning the authenticity of my role as a parent. I gently took her hand and asked her to touch me, emphasising that I, too, am real. We must learn to assert ourselves and prevent undue intrusion into our lives, as allowing others to treat us poorly is often a reflection of how we permit it.

Addressing the trauma associated with abandonment is another crucial aspect of adoption. Should adoptive parents disclose the truth about their child's adoption? Secrecy surrounding adoption raises ethical concerns. Children should be informed from an early age, gradually incorporating the truth into their daily lives. It is not a single event to be scheduled but an ongoing dialogue based on trust, love and a sense of security. Parents who withhold the truth from their children deny them the opportunity to experience true security. I firmly believe in the resilience of children and the positive impact of being honest with them.

-- Courtesy Dawn

## Guerilla gardening



Zarrar Khuuro

There are those who complain, and then there are those who take action... and the residents of Kenya's Kericho county fall squarely into the latter category. Kenyan roads are poorly maintained; in the rural areas it's common to see roads that have more potholes than they do tarmac. Even when 'repairs' take place, they usually amount to sand or earth being filled in these craters, a half-hearted patchwork job that doesn't last long.

Fed up, residents of Kericho County decided to make use of these potholes by planting banana trees in them, thus turning a virtually unnavigable road into a virtually un-navigable banana-tree studded road.

The exasperated roads and transport secretary Kipchumba Murkomen sent out a passionate appeal to the locals to stop their activities and asked for patience as the government was committed to improving the roads. In response, Kenyans reminded him that his party had campaigned on the slogan 'We can't eat roads', which de-prioritised spending on infrastructure and so he was in no position to complain if the people had decided to turn roads into avenues for food production.

This rather innovative and fairly practical method of protest is by no means limited to Kenya; Bryan Raymond, a resident of Fort Myers, Florida, was so tired of fixing the many recurring potholes on his street that he decided to draw the city authorities' attention by planting a ba-

nana tree in the latest fissure. While this naturally generated a lot of media attention, it's unclear whether it bore any fruit by leading to actual repairs being made.

For others, their foray into pothole farming started as a safety measure. Alarmed by a growing pothole on the side of the road that was big enough for a child to fall into, New Orleans resident Ronnie Mackay decided to fill it with potting soil. Then an idea sprouted in his head: why not plant a few watermelon and corn seeds too? This attracted the attention of neighbours who pitched in to help. One local costume designer even made a miniature scarecrow who is perched above a traffic cone. And so, a pothole became a fun project for an entire neighbourhood.

Ron Finley, the 'urban gangsta gardener' of south-central Los Angeles, has taken guerrilla gardening, as it's known, to another level. South-central LA is known not just for its poverty and high crime rate but, as Finley points out, for being a 'food desert': an area with limited or no access to fresh foods. There are plenty of liquor stores and fast and packaged processed food in the stores, notes Finley, but it's snarly impossible to find fresh fruit and vegetables. The result is obesity, malnutrition and a higher rate of easily preventable diet-related illnesses than in most other areas. So Finley decided to plant a 'food forest' outside his home on a 45-metre by 3m stretch of overgrown land between the road and the footpath. Inviting volunteer gardeners to come and help tend the crops and fruit trees, Finley's forest became a neighbourhood attraction and joint project. Given that the land is owned by the city, Finley was asked to remove the forest, but media attention and online petitions, along with some grassroots organising,

forced the administration to not only give in but to support his plans to create more such forests — from which people in the neighbourhood are free to harvest — on empty lots across the city, and even in homeless shelters, where the residents help out by maintaining the gardens and, in return, get to eat fresh food. Now, he runs the Ron Finley project 'teaching communities how to transform food deserts into food sanctuaries, and teaching individuals how to regenerate their lands into creative business models'. Like he says: "Growing your own food is like printing your own money."

But it's not just about food and finances, it's also about building resilient, cohesive communities. In Finley's gardens, we see a model that isn't just practical but also therapeutic and educational, especially for children.

Similarly, the concept of urban community gardening is picking up pace around the world and, on a recent visit to Canada, I got to see this project up close: small plots of unused city land are gardened collectively by a group of people from the local community, who work on shared or individual plots growing fruits, vegetable, flowers or whatever strikes their fancy. There are now such gardens in many Canadian and American cities, varying in size and complexity — from simple plants in wooden crates, to sprawling gardens. Even rooftops are being employed in dense urban settings where vacant land simply isn't available. The Covid pandemic and Ukraine war have reminded us how fragile global supply chains are and how critical food security is; perhaps the urban areas of Pakistan could benefit from similar projects... if only we can somehow keep the land mafia at bay. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### Finance Bill 2023: Senate proposes 55 recommendations



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Inter-Governmental Commercial Transactions (CCoIGCT) held in Islamabad.

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate on Monday proposed 55 recommendations related to Finance Bill 2023 and gave 31 recommendations regarding the public sector development program.

The recommendations on the Finance Bill, 2023 would be forwarded to National Assembly which would decide whether or not these recommendations are to be incorporated into the Money Bill.

In the session of the upper house of the parliament on Monday, Senator

Saleem Mandviwala, Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance, presented the Senate's budget recommendations. The Senate recommended to National Assembly that tax of 12 percent of the sale on retailers and brands who are registered with FBR should be maintained, instead of increasing it to 15 percent. For filers, it was proposed that tax on credit card transactions should be increased from 1% to 5%, and for non-filers and 2% to 10% for non-filers to be maintained at previous rates.

Under the laptop scheme, mandatory technical training should be provided to those who purchase laptops so that they can earn income through online businesses. It has been proposed to gradually impose taxes on the real estate and agricultural sectors. Government institutions working in loss should be audited, and reform action should be taken against institutions like Pakistan Steel Mills, which have been incurring heavy losses for years. Income-generating industries should be given tax exemptions and provided with gas supply. It has been proposed to establish tax-free zones for foreign direct investment and rationalize the subsidy mechanism for seeds, fertilizers, solar energy devices, and essential food items.

The Senate proposed to ensure the availability of all items at discounted prices in utility stores, allocate funds for the National Development Volunteer Program in the 2023-24 budget.

### PCJCCI keen to boost Pakistan's dairy sector with China's help

LAHORE (APP): Cooperation between China and Pakistan on dairy industry and multifarious demands for high-quality dairy products in China would provide a contemporary path of development for Pakistan's domestic dairy sector. Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President Moazzam Ghurki stated this in a think-tank session, held here at PCJCCI Secretariat on Monday. He said that Pakistan was among the world's top five largest milk producers with over 60 million tonnes of milk production each year. Such ventures and exports could definitely add value to Pakistan's economy.

He added that China learned that Pakistan was the most important exporter and producer of dairy products in South Asia. "Chinese technologies are low-priced, and if we adopt the techniques and technology, used by China, the country can flourish in this industry," he suggested.

PCJCCI Senior Vice President Fang Yulong shared his views by saying, "We are willing to explore more about Pakistani dairy

industry to see if we have the opportunity to be part of it." From 2011 to 2023, China's dairy imports rose at a compound annual growth of 12.3 percent, and the demand was still expanding. Milk powder, liquid milk, high value-added dairy products such as whey, cheese, butter and cream were also in high demand in the Chinese market, he added. PCJCCI Vice President Hamza Khalid said that currently China's dairy imports mainly come from New Zealand (40.44 per cent), the Netherlands (17.15pc) and Australia (7.38pc).

### Dar chairs meeting of CCoIGCT

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Inter-Governmental Commercial Transactions (CCoIGCT), today.

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Syed Faisal Ali Subzwari, Federal Minister for Power Mr. Khuram Dastagir Khan, Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar, SAPM on Revenue Mr. Tariq Pasha, Attorney General of Pakistan,

Secretary Finance, Secretary Maritime Affairs, Secretary Law & Justice, and other senior officers attended the meeting.

The CCoIGCT considered summary of Ministry of Maritime Affairs about the management of operations of Pakistan International Container Terminal (PICT) and was informed that Abu Dhabi Ports (ADP) owned by the Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has shown interest in operating the Container Terminal.



RAWALPINDE: President Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) Saqib Rafique addressing during ceremony regarding "Chances of Trade in Gilgit"

### Dams play important role in agricultural development: Fazl

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker provincial minister for irrigation, Haji Fazl Elahi on Monday said that dams play an important role in the agricultural development of any country, while the agriculture sector is affected due to the lack of an excellent irrigation system, which results in shortage of food items.

After the completion of the Remodelling of Warsak Canal project, the water flow in the Warsak canals will increase up to 1250 cusecs.

The flow of seven hundred cusecs of water will increase with this project. Most of the areas of Peshawar and Nowshera are irrigated

from the canals coming out of Warsak Dam.

Unfortunately, a lot of our water is being wasted.

He expressed these views during his visits to various ongoing projects of the Irrigation Department in the Khyber and Mohmand districts.

During the visit, Chief Engineer South Yasin Khan, Project Director Remodelling of Warsak Canal Rosh ul Mohsin, Superintendent Engineer Batoor Zaman Khan and relevant officials of the Irrigation Department were present.

Minister Irrigation visited the pump house of Warsak Canal in Jamrud where he inspected various parts of

the pump house and inquired about their functions.

On this occasion Project Director Remodelling of Warsak Canal System Roshul Mohsin said during the briefing that the total number of pumps in the pump house is five of which four are in use while one pump is on standby, work is going on for the upgradation of the grade station in the pump house, which will be completed soon.

Meanwhile, minister Haji Fazl Elahi reviewed the work on the tunnel under the Remodelling of Warsak Canal project in Malaguri where the Chinese company is doing development work.

### Seafood exports increase by 17.13% to \$456 mln

ISLAMABAD (APP): The exports of fish and fish preparations increased by 17.13 percent during the first eleven months of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

The country earned \$456.668 million from seafood exports during July-May (2022-23) against the exports of US \$389.873 million in July-May (2021-22), showing growth of 17.13 percent, PBS reported.

In terms of quantity,

### Gold prices decline by Rs.1,000 to Rs220,700 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.1,000 and was sold at Rs.220,700 on Monday against its sale at Rs.221,700 the previous day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.858 to Rs189,214 from Rs.190,072, whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went down to Rs.173,447 from Rs.174,232, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

### Flood 2022: Roadmap for reconstruction, rehabilitation 'almost devised': Dar informs NA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Monday informed the National Assembly that a comprehensive roadmap to carry out reconstruction and rehabilitation work in the flood-affected areas had almost been devised.

said the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the cabinet had recently approved Rs12 billion to replenish the stock of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), keeping in view the predicted threats of the monsoon and the cyclone.

ing to \$16.3 billion were required to execute the physical work like repair of damaged houses and infrastructure, under the '4RF' strategy i.e. resilient, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

### Delegation of Diamer visits Baltistan region

GILGIT (APP): In a bid to promote inter-region harmony and exchange of ideas, a delegation from district Diamer was hosted by the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) during the visit to the Baltistan region.

oment initiatives of different districts in Baltistan. The visit, organized by AKRSP, aimed to facilitate an exchange of knowledge and experiences between the two regions, fostering a sense of unity and cooperation.



PESHAWAR: Rescue I122 worker using water gun to douse fire in a cargo godown near Ring road.

### CS GB vows to reform education landscape of Pakistan

GILGIT (APP): Chief Secretary (CS) Gilgit Baltistan (GB) Muihudeen Wani Monday vowed to reform the education landscape of Pakistan.

He added CEO Allah Waley Trust Shahid Lone and I personally inaugurated the unique initiative. Within two months, we will have extended the program to 30 public schools across Skardu.



LAHORE: Former Speaker Punjab Assembly Rana Muhammad Iqbal meeting with Punjab Governor Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman.

### KP Governor takes notice of excessive load shedding of gas, electricity

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali here on Monday summoned the meeting of Wapda and Suigas authorities at Governor House Peshawar after people complaints about excessive load shedding of these services and issued a letter to their high-ups to attend it on Tuesday.

He said people's complaints were being received over several hours of load shedding and the unavailability of gas in Peshawar City and its adjoining areas was a matter of great concern.

The governor directed the Chief Executive of PESCO and the General Manager of SNGPL to come to Governor's House along with concerned staff on Tuesday.

### PML-N is the last ray of hope: Shaista

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Divisional president of PML-N women's wing Hazara Jadoon Dr. Shaista Jadoon Monday said that Pakistan League-N is the only ray of hope and will overcome the crises and make the country stable.

Dr. Shaista further said that after the elections, the party will be reorganized and more active, making Mian Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif the party president and Maryam Nawaz chief organizer is a commendable step.

### CM inspects PIC to review facilities

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi paid a visit to the Punjab Institute of Cardiology (PIC) to assess the medical facilities being provided to the cardiac patients.

The CM also inspected the primary angiography facilities for cardiac patients and observed the arrangements made for maintaining cleanliness. He acknowledged the dedicated efforts of doctors and paramedics who continue to provide exemplary service despite the increased demand.

He spoke to patients and their attendants in the emergency wards to gather information about the available medical services, with a specific focus on the availability of bypass and angiography facilities.

### Govt provides relief to masses by cutting expenditures: Abbasi

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi Monday said his government after coming into power provided relief to the masses by controlling the price of essential commodities and cutting expenditures.

He stated that PTI led government was the real enemy of the people of Hazara division particularly Abbottabad as during 2018 PML-N government allocated 500 million rupees in funds for the construction of the Abbottabad Interchange which was cancelled.



LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Information and Culture Amir Mir along with Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce SM Tanveer addressing a Press conference regarding Punjab's budget at the Civil Secretariat

### ANF seizes over 41 kg drugs in seven operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting seven operations in different areas of the country managed to recover over 41 kg drugs and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday.

recovered 14.4 kg opium and 15.6 kg charras from the secret cavities of a vehicle while an accused resident of Gujranwala was also arrested. In the third operation at Multan International Airport, 1821 grams charras were recovered from trolley bag of an Abu Dhabi bound passenger, resident of Bannu. The spokesman informed that in the fourth operation, ANF foiled two bids to smuggle drugs from Jiwani to Karachi and recovered 4075 grams weed.

## International News

### Xi says China, US 'made progress' in Blinken visit

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping said the United States and China had "made progress" on a number of issues on Monday as he hosted US State Secretary Antony Blinken for talks in Beijing.

officials said. "The Chinese side has made our position clear and the two sides have agreed to follow through the common understandings US President Joe Biden and I had reached in Bali," Xi told the top US diplomat.

hour, came after Blinken held more than 10 hours of talks over two days with other top officials. At the ornate Diaoyutai State Guesthouse earlier on Monday, Blinken and China's foreign policy supremo Wang Yi offered polite smiles before talks with their aides, who unlike their bosses wore masks in line with lingering Covid-19 protocols.



US State Secretary Antony Blinken (L) shakes hands with China's President Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

### UN chief urges donors to step up aid response for Sudan

GENEVA: U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appealed on Monday for countries to step up aid pledges for Sudan, where a conflict between rival military factions has forced some 2.2 million people from their homes and sparked a major humanitarian crisis.

been funded. "Without strong international support, Sudan could quickly become a locus of lawlessness, radiating insecurity across the region," Guterres told a fundraising conference hosted by Germany, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt and the United Nations. "I appeal to you all today to provide funding to deliver lifesaving humanitarian aid and support to people living in the most difficult and dangerous conditions," Guterres said.



People board a truck as they leave Khartoum, Sudan.

### Over 10,000 migrants reach UK in small boats this year

LONDON: The number of people arriving in the UK in small boats has reached over 10,000 since the start of the year, UK government figures showed on Sunday.

more than 11,300 crossings by June 17. Last Sunday saw the highest number of crossings on a single day so far this year, with 549 people making the perilous journey. Crossings have picked up in recent days as a result of a hot spell, with a further 486 arriving on Friday and 374 on Saturday.

### Cyclone leaves 13 dead in Brazil

SAO LEOPOLDO: A cyclone which tore through southern Brazil has killed at least 13 people and forced thousands from their homes, authorities said on Sunday.

Torrential rain and strong winds on Thursday and Friday caused damage in dozens of towns in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, including its capital Porto Alegre — the latest in a string of weather-related disasters to hit South America's biggest country.

### Five Palestinians killed as Israel deploys helicopters in West Bank

WEST BANK: Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank killed five Palestinians including a militant on Monday, in a raid that saw seven Israeli security personnel wounded and rare helicopter fire.

91 others were wounded in the violence. It named four of those killed: 15-year-old Ahmed Saqer, Khaled Assassa, 21, Qais Jabareen, 21, Ahmad Daraghme, 19, and Qassam Abu Saria, 29. Meanwhile, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad claimed Abu Saria as a fighter for the militant group. Among the injured was Palestinian journalist Hazem Nasser, who was hospitalized with a gunshot wound, according to the Palestinian journalists syndicate.

the city after the dawn prayer in large numbers, and there was intense gunfire," he said. An AFP journalist at the scene said Israeli forces withdrew from Jenin at around 15:10 (1210 GMT).

The sound of gunfire was heard across Jenin as wounded Palestinians continued to arrive by ambulance at the northern West Bank city's Ibn Sina hospital in the early afternoon, an AFP journalist said. Crowds gathered outside Jenin government hospital, as the funerals of those killed in 11 hours of fighting began. The Palestinian health ministry said five people had been killed and at least

### Taliban's treatment of women could be 'gender apartheid' - UN expert

GENEVA: A United Nations expert said on Monday that the Taliban's treatment of Afghan women and girls could amount to gender apartheid as their rights continue to be gravely infringed by the country's de facto authorities.

Human Rights Council in Geneva. The U.N. defines gender apartheid as "economic and social sexual discrimination against individuals because of their gender or sex." "We have pointed to the need for more exploration of gender apartheid, which is not currently an international crime, but could become so," Bennett told reporters on the sidelines of the Council. "It appears if one applies the definition of apartheid, which at the moment is for race, to the situation in Afghanistan and use sex instead of race.



An explosive device left by Palestinians, detonates during an Israeli army raid in Jenin in the occupied West Bank.

### Russia to stay in touch with African peace mission, some ideas workable - Kremlin

MOSCOW: The Kremlin said on Monday that Russia would continue to talk to a group of African countries seeking to mediate in the conflict with Ukraine, notably at a Russia-Africa summit next month, and that some of their ideas were workable. President Vladimir Putin on Saturday gave the seven-country African delegation that had come to see him in St Petersburg a list of reasons why he believed

### The UAE and Qatar reopen embassies as Gulf Arab relations improve after a yearslong rift

DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates and Qatar announced the reopening of their embassies on Monday following a yearslong rift. The two countries issued statements saying the Qatari Embassy in Abu Dhabi and a Qatari Consulate in Dubai, as well as an Emirati Embassy in Qatar's capital, Doha, had resumed operations.

## Pakistan's commitment to welfare, voluntary repatriation of refugees remains steadfast: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has said that Pakistan's unwavering resolve and commitment to the welfare and voluntary repatriation of refugees remained steadfast.

"It is remarkable that, even after forty years, there have been no untoward incidents or frictions between the refugees and the host communities, exemplifying the harmonious coexistence and mutual respect that prevails," the president said in his message on World Refugees Day annually observed on June 20.

He said the Day reminded of the immense contributions of the government and people of Pakistan in hosting millions of Afghan refugees over the past four decades.

He said Pakistan's unparalleled humanitarian efforts in providing refuge to such a large number of displaced individuals, despite limited resources, served as a testament to the country's spirit of brotherhood and compassion.

"This day, observed annually on June 20, brings into focus the hardships endured by refugees and emphasizes our commitment towards supporting them during these challenging times," he remarked.

The president said that Pakistan continued to host one of the largest refugee populations in the world.

The people and the government of Pakistan opened their arms to Afghan refugees based solely on the principles of humanity and solidarity, and extended support despite the challenges posed by meagre resources, he added.

He said that Pakistan initially received financial and burden-sharing support from the international community during the early years of hosting Afghan refugees, such assistance has waned over time.

On its part, he said, Pakistan had extended all possible support to refugees.

He said Pakistan's

policies ensured their access to education and healthcare, and to have their bank accounts and other opportunities, enabling them to rebuild their lives with dignity.

Furthermore, he said Pakistan continued to work closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other humanitarian agencies to provide essential assistance and protection to refugees residing within its borders. President Alvi said that in order to equip Afghan refugees with the knowledge and skills, Pakistan had implemented comprehensive educational programs, ensuring that refugee children have access to quality schooling. He extended heartfelt gratitude to all those who have played a role in supporting and assisting refugees, including UNHCR and other international organizations.

"Let us continue to uphold the values of compassion, empathy, and inclusivity that define us as a nation," he added.



ISLAMABAD: As a token of appreciation and to thank the people and Government of Azerbaijan for hosting Prime Minister Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif and his delegation last week, the Prime Minister is holding hand of the Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan H.E. Khazar Farhadov during a ceremony.

## PTI is fully prepared to contest election: Asad

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI leader Asad Umar has said it is mentioned in the constitution election should be held.

"It is laid down in the constitution should be held. PTI is fully prepared to contest election. Our party is ready to participate in election whenever they are announced.

To a question from a journalist on the occasion of his appearance in District and Sessions Court Islamabad that he will contest election on PTI ticket or on the ticket of some other party, he said if ticket is awarded to him he will contest election at every cost.

Ambiguity was left in Asad Umar reply that ticket means ticket of PTI or from some party other than PTI.

He held it is enshrined in the constitution that election should take place. Our

## Bilawal grieves over death of Mir Manzoor Ali Khan Panhwar

KARACHI (APP): Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Monday expressed grief over the sad demise of former provincial minister of Sindh Mir Manzoor Ali Khan Panhwar.

He offered condolence to the deceased son Orangzaib Khan Panhwar and other bereaved family members.

Bilawal said that Mir Manzoor Ali Khan Panhwar was a man of principle and he was very famous among his people and other clans.

He prayed to Almighty Allah to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the family members.

## Wassan expresses grief over demise of Manzoor Khan Panhwar

SUKKUR (APP): Advisor to Sindh Chief Minister for Agriculture Manzoor Hussain Wassan on Monday expressed grief over the sad demise of former provincial minister of Sindh Mir Manzoor Ali Khan Panhwar.

According to a statement issued here, Wassan offered condolence to the deceased family and Prayed to Almighty Allah to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the family members.

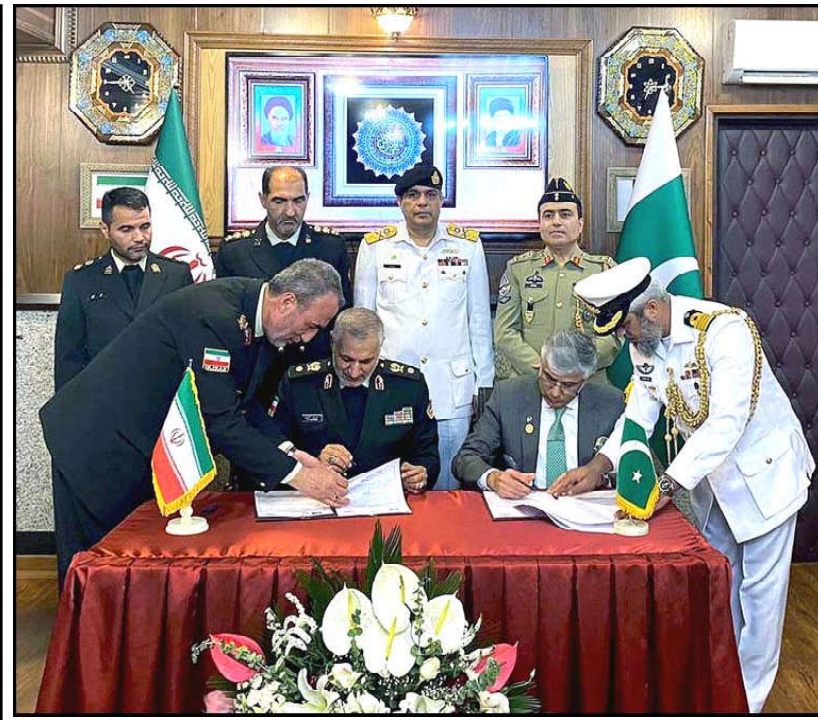
Meanwhile, Special Assistant to CM Sindh for Religious Affairs, Syed Muhammad Bachal Shah, Nawab Khan Wassan and MPA Munawar Hussain Wassan also expressed their grief and sorrow over the sad demise of Mir Manzoor Khan Panhwar and prayed for the departed soul.

## Anti-Polio drive kicks off in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD (APP): More than 37,000 children up to 5 years old will be administered anti-polio drops during the week-long campaign, started here on Monday, targeting only the high-risk areas in Hyderabad. The acting District Health Officer Dr Imdad Channa informed that 147 mobile teams headed by 10 doctors and 34 area-in-charges would carry out the drive. According to him, during the previous campaign around 9,000 children could not be administered anti-polio drops.

## ANF arrests six with narcotics in countryside operations

KARACHI (APP): The Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) arrested six drug peddlers and recovered narcotics in separate actions in various cities of the country. The ANF spokesman said that operations were conducted against drug peddlers in Islamabad, Lahore, Multan, Jiwani, Karachi, Bara Khyber and Peshawar. He said that during operations, six drug pushers were detained with 4.3 kilogram methamphetamine (ice), 17.420 kilogram hashish, 4.075 kilogram marijuana (weed) and hashish filled capsules.



TEHRAN: Secretary Defence Lt. Gen (Retd) Hamood Uz Zaman Khan and Commander Border Guards of Islamic Republic of Iran Brig. General Ali Goudarzi signing MoU.

## Pakistan-Iran sign MoU to enhance Maritime cooperation

Pakistan, Iran agree to expand cooperation in diverse areas

TEHRAN (APP): Pakistan and Iran have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance Maritime cooperation.

The MoU was signed between Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) and the Iranian border guards during the visit of Secretary Defence, Lt. Gen (Retd) Hamooduz Zaman to Iran. It will strengthen relations between PMSA and Iranian border guards.

Upon arrival in Tehran, the Secretary Defence was welcomed by the Iranian Deputy Defence Minister.

During interaction, the Iranian Deputy Defence Minister expressed best wishes for Pakistan's political and military leadership. The Secretary Defence emphasized the importance of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Iran. He also expressed the hope that bilateral relations will continue to evolve on principles of mutual respect and shared common interests.

During talks, both sides aimed to further enhance the collaboration in various areas of common interest including security, joint counter terrorism measures and ensuring regional economic connectivity. Meanwhile Pakistan and Iran have agreed to enhance and diversify bilateral trade and expand cooperation in energy, transport connectivity, education, and people-to-people exchanges.

The 12th round of Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) between Pakistan and Iran was held in Tehran on 17-18 June 2023, said a press release received here on Monday.

The two sides held discussions covering the entire range of bilateral relations and reviewed the status of the implementation of decisions of the last BPC. The two sides had also a comprehensive exchange of views on the regional situation.

Foreign Secretary Dr. Asad Majeed Khan and Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran, Ali Bagheri Kani, led the respective sides.



QUETTA: Federal Minister for Narcotics Control Nawabzada Shazain Bugti pressing button to burn recovered smuggled narcotics at Kuch-More area.

## Mayor, Deputy Mayor Municipal Corporation take oath

NAWABSHAH (APP): The elected representatives of local government including Chairman and Vice Chairman Zila Council, Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Municipal Corporation Nawabshah, chairman and Vice Chairman of Town Municipal Committee HM Khoja and Town Municipal Committee Old Nawabshah took oath of office at Deputy Commissioner Office here on Monday.

Commissioner Shaheed Banzirabad (SBA) Muhammad Abbas Baloch administered the oath of office to Ali Akbar Jamali as Chairman Zila Council and Abdul Rasool Brohais Vice Chairman.

Qazi Muhammad Rasheed Bhatti and Mubashir Ali Arain took oath as Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Municipal Corporation Nawabshah.

Syed Atif Zaidi and Muhammad Shafiq Rehman Jadoon took oath for the seat of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Town Municipal Committee HM Khoja while Muhammad Hayat Kakepota and Muhammad Yaqoob Arain took oath of Chairman and Vice Chairman Town Municipal Committee Old Nawabshah.

## Comprehensive plan to ensures for cleanliness, maintain hygienic conditions during Eid: SMC

SUKKUR (APP): Sukkur Municipal Corporation (SMC) has chalked out a comprehensive contingency plan to ensure cleanliness and maintain hygienic conditions in the city during Eidul Azha.

It was decided in a meeting on Monday to take measures for the purpose such as deployment of workers and machinery at the animal market designated by the district administration, distribution of customized waste bags and spreading general awareness regarding operational procedures.

In this connection, Sukkur Municipal Commissioner Muhammad Ali Shaikh, negligence on the part of workers would not be tolerated and strict action would be taken against the violators.

Meanwhile, the sale of sacrificial animals has started. Traders have started bringing animals to the Maweshi Mandi from far-flung areas.

The district administration of Sukkur has set up a Maweshi Mandi for the sale of sacrificial animals at the city bypass.

## Karachi witnesses sharp increase in street crimes

KARACHI (INP): Crimes ratio in Karachi has increased as police data shows 44 citizens were killed by muggers, 38 suspected robbers were killed in 'encounters', over 5,600 motorbikes, 518 cars snatched/stolen in the first five months of 2023.

According to the data compiled by the Sindh police, as many as 44 Karachiites were murdered by robbers from January to May this year. However, the number of people killed during the same period last year was 26, indicating that murders by robbers had doubled during the current year.

Police list incidents of mobile phone snatching, robberies, motorcycle/car snatching and theft in the category of street crime. The data of the Sindh police shows an overall situation of serious lawlessness in the provincial capital.

## Gujjar Nullah affectees move SHC for compensation

KARACHI (INP): The affectees of Gujjar Nullah on Monday moved the Sindh High Court against non-payment of compensation despite Supreme Court's orders.

The affectees in their plea stated during the anti-encroachment operation along with the Gujjar Nullah, their houses were demolished, but the Sindh government has not paid the compensation for the loss.

## Pakistan's economy to touch \$1 trillion by year 2035: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal on Monday said that the size of Pakistan's economy would be expected to touch \$1 trillion by the year 2035 as the country's economy would become one of the largest in the world.

Addressing 'Master Card Funded Care Ignite Project' ceremony held here, the minister said that the country's economy had the potential to become a major economy in the world by 2035.

Ahsan Iqbal hoped that domestic exports could reach \$100 billion in the next five years and current domestic exports stood at \$30 billion, which was much less than its potential.

He said that the current government was following short-term, medium and long-term plans to improve the economy, for which the Economic Council had been formed.

Ahsan Iqbal said that the economy of the country had deteriorated due to the wrong planning of the previous Tehreek-e-Insaf government.

He said that in the previous government of Muslim League-Nawaz, international economic think tanks were counting the Pakistani economy among the next 20 economies in the world.

Foundation of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was laid by the PML-N previous government and huge investment came into the country for it, he pointed out.

The minister said that the PML-N government had done a lot of work on other sectors including energy due to which the country's economy was on the path of development.

Ahsan Iqbal said that at that time there was a huge economic turnaround in the country and the economy of the country was developing rapidly.

He said that Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), regional trade and foreign investment were very important in the development of the country's economy, on which the present government was working with a comprehensive plan.



KARACHI: Sindh Health and Population Welfare Minister, Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho along with Dr. Palitha Gunaratna Mahipala, World Health Organization (WHO) Head in Pakistan are administering polio-vaccine drops to a child during inauguration ceremony of anti-polio immunization campaign, in Karachi.

## Sanjrani clarifies media reports on Salaries, Allowances and Privileges Bill 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Monday clarified the media reports about the salaries, allowances and Privileges Bill 2023 of members, chairman and opposition leader of the Senate.

In a clarification in the upper house of the parliament on some news reports being published in some media sections, the chairman Senate said that such reports were not based on solid facts and there was wrong information being communicated related to this bill.

He said that not a single increase of one rupee was made in this bill for the benefit of Senate chairman, deputy chairman or senate members.

He added only old act of 1975 was rectified and corrected as per the decisions of the concerned committees from time to time.

He said that as per bill, the monthly expenses of the chairman or deputy chairman office was Rs 6000, which had been increased upto Rs 50,000.

He however said that the chairman or deputy chairman never used this amount.

He said that a step was proposed for the residence of the chairman or deputy chairman as presently the chairman was residing in the place of Ministry of Housing and Works and there was no his official residence under the Senate secretariat.

Sanjrani said that the travelling allowance of only Rs 5,000 had been proposed against Rs 75 for the chairman or deputy chairman besides telephone line for the chairman senate on availing the privilege of acting or vice president when required.

## Mayor, Deputy Mayor Larkana Municipal Corporation take oath

LARKANA (APP): The Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Larkana Municipal Corporation (LMC) took the oath of their offices at a ceremony organized at Begum Nusrat Bhutto Multi-purpose, Jinnah Bagh here on Monday.

Commissioner Larkana Division Ghanwar Ali Leghari administered the oath to elected Mayor Anwar Ali Nawaz Lohar and Deputy Mayor Muhammad Ameen Shaikh on the occasion.

On this occasion, Commissioner Larkana Division Ghanwar Ali Leghari said that the people of Larkana have placed a great responsibility on the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of LMC, they have to work hard to fulfill this responsibility. He said that Larkana City should be given maximum care. However, they

should take all the parties together and solve the problems of the city.

President PPP Sindh Chapter Senator Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, DIG Police Larkana Range Mazhar Nawaz Shaikh, Political Secretary to Chairman PPP Jamil Ahmed Soomro, Chairman District Council Larkana Aijaz Ali Leghari, Tariq Anwar Siyal, Deputy Commissioner Rabiya Siyal, SSP Larkana Dr. Muhammad Imran Khan, District Election Commissioner Larkana Attullah Brohi, ADC-II Larkana Raja Daryal Khan Qureshi, President Larkana Press Club Murtaza Kalhor, other government officials and representatives of the civil society and political parties in addition to the leaders and workers of Pakistan Peoples Party attended the event.



LARKANA: Commissioner Larkana Division, Ghanwar Ali Leghari administers the oath of successful Municipal Corporation Larkana, Mayor Anwar Ali Lohar and Deputy Mayor Muhammad Ameen Shaikh during the oath taking ceremony held at Begum Nusrat Bhutto Auditorium Hall in Larkana.