



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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نبی کریم ﷺ نماز پڑھ رہے تھے کہ آپ ﷺ نے صبر میں قبلہ کی جانب منہ کرنا تو رک دیکھا۔ پھر آپ نے اسے اپنے ہاتھ سے صاف کیا اور غصہ ہوئے پھر فرمایا جب تم میں سے کوئی شخص نماز میں ہو تو ہے اللہ تعالیٰ اس کے سامنے ہو جائے۔ اس لیے کوئی شخص نماز میں اپنے سامنے نہ تھوکے۔ (بخاری، صفحہ نمبر 611)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

RAWALPINDI

## President negating supremacy of the parliament: Abbasi

Former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi says President Arif Alvi is refusing to accept the supremacy of parliament. It is hard to comprehend as to what fault he has found in the National Accountability Bureau-related bill passed by the parliament and sent to him for signatures. If president of the country will act like member of a political party, how the system will run. If former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan had received any threats, the government



## PTI & ex-NAB chiefs should be behind bars: Marriyum

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb says Imran Khan and the former NAB chairman should be behind bars for trampling upon the law and justice of the country. Imran's corruption had been exposed for the entire country to see and he could no longer harp on false narratives and accusatory politics. The four years of incompetence and corruption were now known to people who had figured out Imran's false narrative of accountability to persecute his political opponents.

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## Economy in focus

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairs Federal Cabinet meeting in Islamabad on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

## Govt likely to change economic team

PML-N's senior leadership gives nod

LAHORE: The London-based leadership of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has given the signal to change the incumbent government's economic team as it failed to overcome the current economic crisis being faced by the country. According to details, senior leadership is worried about the declining reputation of PML-N due to high inflation and high flight of the dollar. PML-N sources said that the leadership is of the view that leaders of allied parties should also defend the government. Sources said that Foreign Minister and Pakistan People's Party chairman Bilawal Bhutto should be asked to discuss the economic situation while all the ministers should also ensure attendance in the National Assembly and Senate. Following the failure of the economic team to overcome the crisis, the London leadership gave the green signal for the change of the economic team, sending a message from London that the change in the economic team should be done if necessary. It is believed that the Shehbaz government has completely failed to restore the value of the rupee. Meanwhile, on the second day of the business week in the interbank market, the dollar rose by one rupee and fifty-two paise and closed at two hundred and eleven rupees and forty-eight paisas.

PTI's political is coming to an end: Maryam

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) vice president Maryam Nawaz while criticising former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan said that the "certified liar" knows that his party is splitting and its political future is coming to an end.

In her latest tweet, the PML-N vice-president while taking a dig at Imran Khan said that not only does his blatant lies regarding false cases based on revenge against his opponents proved false, but his political narrative of "thief" has also been badly tarnished. She said that the "certified liar" knows not only does his party splitting but its political future is also coming to an end. "He [Imran Khan] has nothing left but to cry," Maryam Nawaz added.

NSC moot today

# Govt will steer country out of economic woes: PM

Says providing relief to poor govt's top priority

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Tuesday said that unfortunately, they had inherited severe economic crises left behind by the previous government, but with hard work and dedication, the coalition government would steer the country out of the current challenges. Speaking to media after chairing a meeting of the federal cabinet, the prime minister, in an apparent reference to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government, said that it had left behind a backlog of worst and imprudent economic policies, tainted with poor performance.

Criticizing his predecessors, he said the previous government reduced petroleum prices at the time of their exit from power corridors which smack of conspiracy

and based upon ill-will. "If they had any concerns and felt pains for the people, they ought to leave behind a precedent of serving the masses by providing any relief in their three and half years rule, so that it can be said that they had worked for the people," the prime minister regretted. The prime minister said that these were hard times, and they had taken difficult and bold decisions and hinted that if required in future, they would take such like steps for the economic turnaround.

"We will not budge from taking the necessary steps to set country's economy on the right track with hard work and nation's prayers," he stressed. The coalition government was determined to steer the country out of the current economic crises by striving day and night. Expressing his optimism,

the prime minister said it was his strong conviction that the good times were in store for the country. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said providing relief to the downtrodden segments of the society is priority of the govern-

Government is committed expand bilateral cooperation with Canada: PM

ment. Talking to Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Shazia Marri in Islamabad on Tuesday, he said that targeted subsidy will be given on flour,

sugar, ghee/edible oil, pulses and rice in the next fiscal year. He said all relevant ministries must ensure that this subsidy reaches the deserving people.

The Prime Minister also directed the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety to develop a comprehensive strategy in cooperation with the Ministries of Finance and Industries and Production for the targeted subsidy. Shazia Marri apprised the Prime Minister of the progress on different projects being executed under Benazir Income Support Program. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has summoned an in-camera meeting of the National Security Committee (NSC) today (Wednesday). The meeting will be attended by the services chiefs, intelligence officials and civilian leadership.

Foreign funding

## ECP reserves verdict on PTI's case

Petitioner thanks ECP for letting him check the record

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday reserved the verdict in the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) prohibited foreign funding case. According to details, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) chaired the hearing of PTI's prohibited funding case in which the petitioner Akbar S. Babar's financial expert said that PTI funds ignored the rules and standards of audit. He said that PTI leadership's companies are the donors, not any third party.

Akbar S. Babar's financial expert Arslan Vardag said that PTI has been funded from Canada, America, Britain and Australia. While he added that PTI accepted their 11 accounts on being exposed and did not reveal the sources of funds they received from. CEC said that PTI lawyer Anwar Mansoor

had given his arguments on details about the donors. According to PTI lawyer, at the time of funding, giving details about the donors was not part of the law.

Akbar Babar thanked ECP for letting him check the record. He said that this is the best example for making parties answer while these leaders and parties are the role model for other political parties.

On this occasion, CEC said that democracy is most important for the country and voters' trust must also be strengthened. He added that we will make sure that justice must be served. He thanked both the parties and said that he learnt a lot during the case.

While he said cases of other parties will also be resolved soon and we will try not to do any biasness.

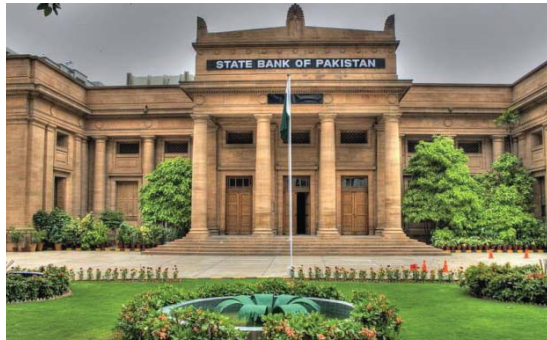
## Financial system remains resilient: SBP

FSR 2021 says financial system performs well

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Due to strong economic expansion, financial sector of Pakistan manifested steady performance in CY21 while its financial and operational resilience remained intact, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP)'s annual flagship publication, the Financial Stability Review (FSR) for CY21 said. The financial sector's asset base expanded by 15.6 percent in CY21, while financial markets observed a relatively contained volatility compared to last year.

The review presents the performance and risk assessment of various segments of the financial sector including banks, non-bank financial institutions, financial markets, financial market infrastructures and non-financial corporates. The assessment of global dynamics highlights that due to the better management of pandemic and an extensive vaccine inoculation drive, the ensuing recovery in world economic activity that started in second half of CY20 got further traction in



CY21. However, supply chain disruptions fueled inflationary pressures and the recurring waves of new COVID-19 variants continued to pose challenges to the global economic activity and financial markets.

The review highlights that the domestic economy navigated through two COVID-19 waves during CY21 without significant impact due to effective management of the pandemic, which facilitated a strong revival in economic activity. The GDP grew by 5.7 percent in FY21 (against 1.0 percent contraction in FY20), and the momentum got further traction in FY22 to post an estimated growth of 6.0 percent.

However, the robust recovery in demand and rising international commodity prices, especially oil, led to external account pressures. Accordingly, SBP took a number of macro-prudential and monetary policy measures to stabilize the external account, moderate the domestic demand and address associated risks.

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Fuel prices hike nothing to do with IMF: Miftah

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Miftah Ismail has asserted that the increase in prices of petroleum products has nothing to do with International Monetary Fund's (IMF) conditions. Miftah Ismail expressed his views while briefing the federal cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. During the meeting, he rejected the notion by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) that fuel prices were increased to revive IMF programme. The federal minister said that the global lender had not demanded to increase the fuel prices, but it was a result of global inflation.

He claimed that the Budget 2022-23 was the first in the country's history that provided relief to the poor and taxed the rich. Meanwhile, Miftah said that the next round of talks with the Fund will be held today (Tuesday) and tomorrow. Moreover, the federal cabinet also approved the issuance of Sukuk bonds.

## PTI to challenge NAB amendments in SC: Imran Khan

Says NAB laws amended for giving NRO to incumbent rulers

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan on Tuesday announced to challenge the amendments in the NAB law in the Supreme Court this week. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad on Tuesday, he said that he will not keep mum on the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) amendments and will consult every constitutional and legal forum.

Imran Khan said that he knew that the current rulers will protect themselves after coming into power. "They are trying to end their cases in the guise of reforms," he said. He said that he started movement against corruption 26 years ago and the corruption prevails when there is lack of justice. The PTI chairman said the country's development comes with the rule of law and rule of law means no one is above the law.

The former PM went on to say that there is no lack of resources in the country but the lack of justice, adding that the country cannot progress without bringing the corrupt under the law. "The rulers should be jailed for shamelessly passing amendments in the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) laws," he said, adding that the amendments would help the corrupt elite to protect themselves. "These rulers are



attempting to close the cases against them under the pretext of reforms," he added.

He said that he will not keep mum on the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) amendments and will consult every constitutional and law forum. Under the chairmanship of PTI leader Imran Khan, the party leaders had a meeting on the NAB amendments. Imran Khan said that he knew that the current rulers will protect themselves after coming into power. "They are trying to end their cases in the guise of reforms," he said. PTI leadership also

talked about the recent statement of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leader Khurram Dastagir.

Former prime minister Imran Khan said that Khurram Dastagir's statement is the proof that current rulers came into power to get the NRO. He added that inflation and people's problems are not their concern, while in their meet-

Imran Khan calls for throwing rulers in jail for 'shamelessly' passing NAB law

ing, the PTI leadership termed Khwaja Asif's statement on President Arif Alvi as disgraceful and a violation of oath.

Imran Khan called for throwing incumbent rulers behind bars for "shamelessly" passing the amendments in the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) laws. "They should be put in jail for their shamelessness. Nobody can pass such laws the way this government did," the PTI chairman said while speaking during a press conference as he announced approaching the Supreme Court against the NAB amendments.

## Fiscal management

Adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira chairing a meeting regarding financial issue of Gilgit Baltistan in Islamabad on Tuesday. Minister for planning Ahsan Iqbal, Finance Minister Miftah Ismail and Chief Minister Gilgit Baltistan Khalid Khursheed also attended the meeting.



Photo: PID

# Cabinet approves issuance of Ijara Sukuk bonds

*Finance Division will release assets, details of programme soon*

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Cabinet on Tuesday approved issuance of the Ijara Sukuk bonds in the domestic and international markets to support the government's budgetary position and promote Islamic banking industry in the country. Federal cabinet members gave tough time to Finance Minister Miftah Ismail over recent increase in taxes and prices of petroleum products. According to details, a federal cabinet meeting was held under the chair of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to discuss political and economic situation of the country.

During the meeting, ministers asked tough questions from Finance Minister about economic crisis and even PM Shehbaz Sharif, while directing Miftah Ismail to address concerns of his colleague, said that he will not defend him. Defense Minister Khawaja Asif said that due to petrol price hike popularity of all parties that are part of the coalition government has taken a hit. However, Finance Minister reassured that Pakistan will soon hear a good news from International Monetary Fund (IMF). He also clarified that tax has been increased

only for the rich. The minister also hoped that Pakistan will soon exit grey list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

Addressing a press conference after the cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz

Cabinet members give tough time to Miftah over taxes, fuel price hike

Sharif here, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal said the information regarding assets and other details about the programme would be available on the website of Finance Division soon. Flanked by PM's Advisor on Kashmir Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira, he said the cabinet also discussed the matter of shortage of edible oil in the country and acknowledged the efforts of minister for industries and his team for setting sail an edible oil ship from Indone-

nesia for Pakistan.

He said the prime minister thanked the Indonesian president, and congratulated the industries minister, who went to Indonesia himself and talked to the Indonesian president in that regard.

As regards the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar briefed the cabinet that Pakistan had met all the requirements of the FATF and hoped that soon after the visit of FATF team to Pakistan, the country would be out of the grey list.

The cabinet observed that after coming out of the grey list, international trade and other restrictions would be completely eased out and Pakistan would be able to expand its trade across the world.

It was informed that in 2019, the army chief had formed a core cell, which played a vital role in coordinating the institutional and ministerial efforts to complete the FATF's action plans. The cabinet observed that while sitting in the opposition, the present coalition government parties also played a key role in the legislation process regarding the FATF matters.

## Centre asks provinces to take action

*Dealers hoard, smuggle Urea to cause fertilizer shortage*

KARACHI: The Interior Ministry directed Sindh government to take action against the smuggling of urea but no action taken even after two weeks. According to a report released by the federal Ministry of Interior, the government of Sindh as well as I.G. Police Sindh and the provincial agriculture department were directed to act against the smugglers and hoarders of urea fertilizer. It is to be mentioned here that the farmers across the country protested against non-availability and price hike of fertilizer for their crops in recent days. Smuggling and hoarding were pointed out two major factors of fertilizer shortage in the country.

The interior ministry's report has

pointed out hoarders and smugglers in provinces behind the urea shortage in country. "In Sindh 40 dealers, Balochistan 28 and Punjab 24 dealers were involved in urea hoarding," according to the report. "Two smugglers from Mirpur Khas smuggled 300 metric tonnes of fertilizer," report disclosed. "Fifteen smugglers belonged to Balochistan and two to Punjab involved in the corrupt practice".

"The dealers overall hoarded 3158 metric tonnes of fertilizer," according to the federal report. "Sindh's dealers committed hoarding of 1310 metric tonnes of fertilizer. Two dealers in Mirpur Khas smuggled 300 metric tonnes of urea," according to report.

Article 63-A

*De-seated MPA files review petition*

ISLAMABAD: A review petition was filed in Supreme Court against the apex court opinion on Article 63-A of the Constitution which is related to the status of defecting lawmakers. The petition was filed by de-seated Punjab MPA Ayesha Nawaz. The petitioner urged the top court to review its May 17 verdict on interpretation of Article 63-A of the Constitution. The petitioner pleaded with the apex court to restore de-notified lawmakers by withdrawing its verdict.

The federal government and law ministry have been made respondents in the petition. The plea comes after the SC had announced its verdict on the interpretation of Article 63 (A), declaring that defective votes will not be counted in the Parliament. The decision was made with a majority of 3-2, Justice Jamal Mandokhel and Justice Nazeer Alam dissented from the decision. CJP observed that changing loyalties in the parliament damages the integrity of democracy. The verdict by the larger bench of the apex court was a 3-2 split decision, with a majority of the judges not allowing lawmakers to vote against party line in four instances outlined under Article 63-A.

*ECP takes notice of Qureshi's allegations*



Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikander Sultan Raja on Tuesday took notice of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) vice chairperson and the former Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi's press conference. Sources privy to the development said that the CEC has sought an immediate report from the Punjab Provincial Election Commissioner on Shah Mehmood Qureshi's allegation of ECP's code of conduct violation in Multan's constituencies and also directed to submit report within 24 hours. The CEC further assured that in case of violation of code of conduct in 19 constituencies including Multan, strict action should be taken under the law and all the action, sources added.

Despite President's refusal

*Govt likely to notify NAB, Election bills into law*

ISLAMABAD: The government has decided to issue gazette notifications of the election and NAB Ordinance amended bills, passed in the joint sitting of the Parliament and not signed by the president. The gazette notification, which will be notified in 10 days, will make these bills into law.

President Arif Alvi had returned back the election amendment bill and the NAB amendment legislation without signing on two bills to the government.

"I have an affiliation with the issues of electronic voting machines and the overseas voting," the President said. "I have followed these issues in governments, the Parliament and the Supreme Court," Alvi further said. "I know the constitution will enact the bill into a law despite my avoiding to sign on it. As President it is painful for me personally over not to sign on it," President commented. Former prime minister and PML-N leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, while criticizing the President's refusal said, "How the system will run if the President of the state will become a party worker".

"The President who was promulgating one of another ordinance, now seeing flaws in every piece of legislation. During the PTI rule the bill were even signed in the darkness of the night," he said. It is to be mentioned here that the president had earlier also refused to sign the bills seeking amendments in the NAB and election laws, and returned them back to the Parliament.

## Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan budget revised: Kaira

*Rules out a cut in the budget of PTI ruled provinces*

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, Qamar Zaman Kaira Tuesday said that the budgetary allocations for Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan have been revised as per the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. "The Planning and Finance Divisions have revised the budgetary allocations for Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan and made enhancements to meet their demands and completion of the developmental projects", Kaira said while speaking at a press conference along with the Federal Minister for Planning, Ahsan Iqbal.

A meeting was held with the stakeholders from Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan in this regard. The federal minister said that the

impression was being created that the federal government has made a cut in the budget of Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir where Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf is in power which he conveyed to the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif after which he took notice of it.

Kaira said that the present government realizes that Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan are lagging behind in development and have lack of resources and would continue taking all possible steps to improve the living standards of people of Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan. "We will continue to give preference to the progress and development of Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan not only at par with the rest of the country but even more than that", he said.

The broad based and consensus based govern-

ment took difficult decisions of increasing petrol and electricity prices owing to the ineffective policies of the previous government but also imposing taxes on the rich class, transferring ultimate relief to the masses. "Our basic aim is to bridge the gap between rich and poor through transferring relief from rich to poor which is one of the basic responsibilities of the present coalition government", he said.

Kaira also condemned the killing of ten to twelve innocent civilians in Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IloJK) during the last three days. He said that a new wave of violence is being imposed on the people of Kashmir again however all such tactics of India cannot defeat the courage of Kashmiri brothers and sisters and God willing they will achieve their goal of independence.

## PTI govt ruins economy: Rana Sanaullah

*Says Ishaq Dar guiding govt in managing economic crisis*

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Tuesday said that the incumbent government was seeking guidance from PML-N's "financial guru" Ishaq Dar to manage the ongoing economic crisis.

Speaking to a news channel interior minister said that Dar was aware of the situation Pakistan was currently facing at the economic forefront. During the initial days of the coalition government, Dar, who is based in London along with PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif, was very active and regularly appeared on TV shows, giving his input on the economy which sparked a debate about who was heading the finance ministry — Miftah Ismail or Dar.

The country is facing a crisis amid a delay in the revival of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) \$6 billion loan facility stalled due to policy breaches by the previous government. Sanaullah said that the PTI government signed a deal with the IMF which was not in favour of Pakistan. "They [the PTI-led government] agreed to remove all sorts of subsidies despite the fact



that the financial condition of our people was not such that they could tolerate more financial burden. They promised zero subsidies on petrol

with IMF."

He said that the incumbent government was reviving the same agreement which the PTI signed with the lender, adding that the PTI-led government "ruined the economy" and it was now difficult to manage it. "They used to criticise Dar for controlling the dollar rate and when the PTI government came to power it shot up to Rs190 from Rs115. During our two-month tenure, it has ascended further," the interior minister said. The minister added that the IMF was not ready to show any flexibility and the dollar rate was increasing due to the delay in the agreement.

"We told the IMF to allow us to remove subsidies in phases but it refused. We will bring down the dollar to 182 after the loan programme is restored," he claimed. On the PTI's nationwide protest call on Sunday against inflation, Sanaullah maintained that the masses are keeping themselves away from the protest. "Last time, from among a population of 220 million, only 10,000 to 12,000 responded to Khan's call," he said. The minister asked the PTI to admit its mistake and sit with the government to talk about an economic pact.

## Punjab govt using machinery before the by-polls: Qureshi

*Says Hamza can do anything to protect Chief Ministership*

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) vice-chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi while expressing concerns about rigging in Punjab by-elections on Tuesday said that the Punjab government is damaging the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) dignity and Hamza Shahbaz can do anything to protest his Chief Ministership.

During a press conference with PTI leaders Dr Yasmin Rashid and Hammad Azhar, the former foreign minister said that the Punjab government was using its machinery before the by-polls and CM Hamza directed 14 DPOs

that his future is connected with by-elections. He can do anything to protect his Chief Ministership, Qureshi said. Qureshi further claimed that said Punjab CM has directed the Special Branch officers to monitor their candidate's movement and conversations and they are harassing the people who are supporting PTI's candidates.

The former FM said the meetings were arranged by Hamza Shahbaz at the level of the Union Council to change the loyalties. He said that according to the principle of the Election Commission, no development work is allowed in the constituency before



the elections and in this regard the ECP also issued a press release on June 9 in but the development works are in progress despite the press released, adding that he

has also sent a video to an ECP member. "I want to ask the ECP why they are silent over these development works while they claim to be neutral," Qureshi said.

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# Torrential rain lashes various parts of country: PMD

*The consistent rain although contributed to increase the water level in dams and rivers and provided relief to the citizens*

ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: Torrential rains lashed different parts of the country including the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad decreasing temperatures on one hand but causing inconvenience for the people due to flash flooding and land sliding in the vulnerable areas on the other hand.

The consistent rain although contributed to increase the water level in dams and rivers and provided relief to the citizens from the hot weather conditions but caused flash floods and damaged crops and properties in the vulnerable areas.

The torrential rains started from Tuesday afternoon and continued for a few hours with gaps as a result of a strong weather system that entered the upper and central parts of the country on Monday and will continue to impact till Wednesday.

The rainfall recorded during the last 24 hours was Dera Ghazi Khan 67 mm, Rawalpindi (Shamsabad 60, Chaklala 34), Islamabad (Zero point 58, Saidpur 54, Golra 43, Bokra 20, Airport 15), Jhang 51, Bhakkar 50, Lahore (Chowk Nakhuda 40, Wasa Office, Lakshmi Chowk) 26, Gulshan Ravi 25, Tajpura, Farrukhabad, City 25, Upper Mall, Jail Road 22, Nishtar Town, Paniwala Talab 20, Mughalpur 19, Samana-



bad 18, Iqbal Town 16, Johar Town and Airport 16), Murree 39, Multan (City 36, Airport 17), Okara, Jhelum 30, Kasur 28, Khanpur 23, Gujarat 19, Attock 18, Bahawalpur (Airport, City 17), Toba Tek Singh 16, Khanewal, Mangla, Sahiwal 15, Sialkot (Airport 13, City 10), Narowal 12, Gujranwala 10, Kot Addu 06, Layyah 05, Nurpur Thal, Faisalabad 04, Joharabad, Chakwal 03, Sargodha, Hafizabad 02, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: DI Khan (City 64, Airport 26), Kakul 40, Dir (Lower 22, Upper 14), Takht Bai, Cherat 18, Malam Jabba

13, Balakot 11, Parachinar 10, Kalam, Pattan, Saidu Sharif 09, Saidu Sharif 07, Peshawar (City 05, Airport 03), Bacha Khan (Airport 04), Mirkhani 03, Kashmir: Rawalakot 45, Muzaffarabad (Airport 32, City 26), Kotli 28, Garhi Dupatta 23, Balochistan: Barkhan 28, Zhob 20, Gilgit Baltistan: Babuser 07, Gupis 05, Drosh, Astor 04, Hunza, Gilgit 02 and Bagrota 01 mm.

For Tuesday, the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast rain-windstorm/thundershower for

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, upper/central Punjab, Islamabad, Gilgit Baltistan and Kashmir during daytime.

Hot and dry weather is expected elsewhere in the country. Rain-windstorm/thundershower is expected in Islamabad during daytime, while partly cloudy weather is expected during evening/night.

Rain-wind/thundershower is expected in Rawalpindi, Murree, Galyat, Attock, Chakwal, Jhelum, Mianwali, Sargodha, Khushab, Hafizabad, Faisalabad, Mandi Bahauddin, Nankana Sahib, Toba Tek Singh, Chinot, Jhang, Sialkot, Narowal, Lahore, Sheikhupura, Okara, Kasur, Sahiwal, Vehari and Lodhran in Punjab during daytime.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, rain-windstorm/thundershower is likely in Malakand, Chitral, Dir, Swat, Buner, Shangla, Kohistan, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Hariपुर, Swabi, Peshawar, Nowshera, Mardan, Lower Dir, Charsadda, Bajaur, Mohmand, Khyber, Kurram, Kohat, Lakki Marwat, Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan, Karak, Hangu and Waziristan. While heavy falls are also likely at a few places.

However in Sindh, hot and humid weather is expected in most parts of the province with chances of rain-wind/thundershower in Sukkur and Larkana.

## British Council partners with PoliNations, Yousuf Bashir Qureshi Studios Institute

### Spokesman Report

KARACHI: British Council is partnering with PoliNations on the Pakistan-UK New Perspectives Season to mark the 75th anniversary of Pakistan. The partnership seeks to create an artistic response to the themes of PoliNations, including celebrating diversity and the cross-pollination of culture, exploring the influence of journeys along the silk road and the history of tea.

New Perspectives showcases the cultural wealth and contemporary creativity of both

countries, facilitating professional collaboration for culture, creative and education sectors, with a focus on a shared future through building lasting partnerships.

Created and produced by Trigger Collective, PoliNations is part of the UK-wide UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK. This project will culminate in the Birmingham 2022 Festival and will be open to all through free events across multiple art forms. The festival will celebrate the beauty, colour, and diversity that makes up British horticulture and culture.



Up-and-coming and renowned artists from Birmingham and beyond will perform under the shelter of giant architec-

tural trees and surrounded by thousands of colourful plants.

In June PoliNations' costume designer Joey A Frenette trav-

elled to Pakistan to collaborate with renowned Pakistan based designers Yousuf Bashir Qureshi and Riffat Aliani during a residency in Karachi to design and create costumes influenced by the journey of tea, for special performances as part of the PoliNations programme in Birmingham in 2022.

In collaboration with Yousuf Bashir Qureshi Studios Institute, the designers showcased their work at The PoliNations Pakistan Costume Show on Saturday 18th June at the Commune Artist Colony, Karachi.

## PAPGAI, APPMA rejects local paper mills price hike

### Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Paper merchants and graphic printers are faced with a severe shortage of paper, while the local producers have increased the prices by over 200 percent pushing the printing and packaging industry towards collapse.

Speaking at a press conference at Karachi Press Club, Chairman Pakistan Association of Printing Graphic Art Industry, Aziz Khalid said there was a severe shortage of paper in the country, and local paper mills were fixing the rates at their will.

"Local mills produce low quality paper and are unable to meet the demand."

He said due to the scarcity of paper, printers couldn't print the school syllabus so far, which was impacting the students of Sindh and Punjab Text Book Boards.

Criticizing the policies of the government as negative, Khalid claimed over 18,000 units involved in the printing and packaging supply chain were suffering due to higher taxes on imported paper.

"We have approached the Ministry of Finance, Commerce Division and Federal Board of Revenue FBR apprising them of the problems of the paper



and printing industry, but there is no redressal".

Speaking on the occasion, former Chairman All Pakistan Paper Merchants Association, Muhammad Saleem Bikiyia said the government allows them to import paper, and the government revenue would be doubled.

"The former government imposed multiple taxes on educational paper imports, while the locally produced paper is very low quality as well as unable to meet demand."

It may be mentioned here that the printing and packaging is the second largest value-added industry after textiles.

High prices & inferior quality are the major factors to confine us to enter US\$1000 billion export markets of books/leaflets/packaging materials etc, which are mainly consumed by Singapore, Malaysia, China, India and UAE, said Bikiyia.

Federal Minister of Finance & Revenue unfairly imposed 10% Regulatory Duty (RD) in uncoated woodfree paper (HS Code 4802) in year budget 2021-22 despite of facts that 11% to 39% Anti-Dumping Duty already exists in said item. This is double jeopardy tax. Lawfully, Regulatory Duty (RD) cannot be enforced when Anti-Dumping duty already exists.

## PACRA maintains entity rating of BOP to "AA+

### Staff Reporter

LAHORE: In recognition of Bank's strong financial position, the Pakistan Credit Rating Agency (PACRA) has maintained the long-term entity rating of The Bank of Punjab (BOP) to "AA+" and short-term rating to highest scale of "A1+" with a stable outlook. These ratings denote a very high credit quality, very low expectation of credit risk and indicate very strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments.

As per rating notification issued by M/s PACRA, the Management of the Bank, led by a sound leadership, is poised to build on strong foundations with a vision and defined roadmap to make a place for BOP among top banks of the Country. During year 2021, pursuing an aggressive strategic plan, the Bank has achieved phenomenal growth in all facets of operations.

## SECP introduces enabling framework for P2P lending

### Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: With an aim to increase access to finance for small businesses, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has notified the regulatory framework for Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Lending. The new framework, introduced under the NBFC Regulations, 2008, sets out the eligibility requirements and the process of applying to SECP for permission to work as a P2P Service Provider.

Under the framework, a lending NBFC having a valid license is eligible to apply for permission to act as P2P Service Provider subject to fulfilling certain requirements including additional equity; demonstrable technological, entrepreneurial and managerial resources; viable business plan; and a robust and secure information technology system.

## Chili Nursery inaugurated in Kunri



### Staff Reporter

KUNRI: Shan Foods, a leading name in the food and spice industry, inaugurated a chilli nursery in Kunri, Sindh, to create greater value for farmers by promoting improved agricultural practices and to boost sustainable chili farming in the region.

The newly-established facility was inaugurated by Sammer Sultan, Co-Chairperson Shan Foods, in the presence of local farmers. Saadi Masood, Head of Supply Chain Shan Foods, along with Imran Sherani and Fahad Patel were also present at the occasion.

## Bagallery to host Pakistan's biggest fashion & beauty Expo



### Staff Reporter

LAHORE: After the success of GlamFest in Karachi, Pakistan's biggest beauty & fashion online retail brand; Bagallery, is back with Glam-Fest Lahore. Well equipped with experience and focus, this growing company is yet again setting a new bar of excellence by challenging the status quo with one of its kind, Pakistan's biggest beauty and fashion exhibition on 25th and 26th June in Expo Centre Lahore.

Bagallery's co-founder, Mina Salman, and CEO, Salman Sattar, will be leading from the front with a team of over 150 people to set new records.

Pakistan's hot favorite celebrities such as Hania Amir will be meeting their fans and press at the red carpet event. Bagallery is committed to give its customer base in Punjab an unforgettable experience at the most instagrammable event in Pakistan. Attendees will have access to more than 500 brands at the exhibition, including some of the biggest beauty and fashion local and international brands.

Moreover, visitors will also be able to enjoy fashion shows, influencer meet-ups, celebrity interactions, make-up classes, skin consultations, hair styling, food stalls, and much more with a smooth shopping experience at this two-day event.

## ICAP reviews international sustainability reporting standards

### Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP), under the Accounting Standards Board, has formed a working group to review the draft sustainability reporting standards published by the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB).

The IFRS Foundation established the ISSB at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) with the vision to develop comprehensive global high-quality IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards. ISSB has issued drafts of two IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards for stakeholder consultations and feedback. The draft standards include IFRS S1, General Requirements for Disclosure of Sustainability-related Financial Information, and IFRS S2, Climate-related Disclosures.

IFRS S1 requires companies to provide material information about all the significant sustainability-related risks and opportunities necessary to assess enterprise value. These proposals respond to calls from primary users (investors, lenders, and other creditors) of general purpose financial reporting for more consistent, complete, comparable, and verifiable sustainability-related financial information to help them assess an entity's enterprise value.

## Fawad Abdul Kader becomes Country Manager of PAYMOB Pakistan

### Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Paymob, a leading Egyptian payment solutions facilitator announces the appointment of Mr. Fawad Abdul Kader as the Country Head for their Pakistan operations, effective April 2022.

Kader is a fin-tech project specialist with extensive in-depth knowledge and implementation experience in the financial services industry. He has played a key strategic role in the development and deployment of financial services solutions for various financial institutions across Pakistan.

Omar El-Gammal, SVP Global Business Development Paymob (Egypt) remarked, "Paymob is very excited to have Fawad lead the operations in Pakistan. His diverse experience in fin-tech project implementation in the country is key to unlocking the right strategy for market

expansion."

More recently, Mr. Kader served as the Head of Digital Financial Services at NIFT and helped establish an aggregated domestic payment gateway under the brand name NIFT ePay. During this time, he spearheaded the introduction of an aggregated account-based direct debit service along with card and wallet-based payments for online businesses. Mr. Kader has previously served as a consultant for National Savings Digitization Project with Alvarez & Marsal (A&M) for a project funded by Karandaaz. He has also

served as a Business Unit Head for numerous premier banking institutions in Pakistan, including Bank Alfalah and MCB. Throughout his professional journey, he has been a key player in developing and executing strategies aimed at facilitating the fintech and digital payment ecosystem in Pakistan.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Mr. Khalid Aziz s/o Abdul Aziz, allottee of plot No. 153-D, Area Development Scheme, Taxila have appointed General Power of Attorney to Mr. Usama Tahir s/o Muhammad Tahir vide registered deed at No. 663/4 dated 29-11-2011 from Sub Registrar, Rawalpindi. The General Power of attorney wish to transfer the above mentioned plot to Mr. Rashid Qayyum Alvi s/o Naimat Ali.

If anyone have objection of above advertisement submit their objection within fifteen days of this advertisement otherwise objection will not be entertained.

**Deputy Director  
Punjab Housing & Town  
Planning Agency  
Sub Region Rawalpindi**

## Budget devoid of political will, reforms: PEW

### Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Tuesday said real reforms and tough decisions needed to save the economy are not present in the budget.

No concrete step has been taken after the budget except for burdening the poor with high electricity and fuel costs, it said. The budget reflects that political interests are deemed more important than national interests by the policymakers, said Brig. (ret'd) Aslam Khan, Chairman PEW.

In a statement, he said that the continuous rise in oil, gas and electricity prices are not reforms but a wrong policy which is pushing half of the country's population below the poverty line. A budget which ignores an increase in savings and investment, breaking monopolies, imposition of tax on agricultural income, withdrawal of incentives from the industrial elite and fair distribution of wealth by imposing appropriate taxes cannot be termed a balanced budget.

Nothing has been done in

the budget to ensure poverty reduction, removal of trade barriers, promote competition and productivity, develop infrastructure and ensure sustainable development, he added.

Aslam Khan said that the growth rate in the budget has been estimated at 5% but it would be a stroke of good luck if it reaches 3%. On the one hand, preparations are being made to shrink the economy, while on the other hand, efforts are being made to increase revenue, which will result in unemployment and inflation.



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# Neglected student's career building & economic stability

**Aqsa Ehsan**

According to the first-ever scientific research ratings based on their levels of human capital, Pakistan stands 164th in the world for its contributions to education and health care as indicators of its commitment to economic progress. Any country's progress is determined by its literacy rate and educational quality. As a result, it is one of the most important national concerns. Pakistan's education system is one of the oldest in the world. It still follows the same educational patterns and traditional teaching pedagogy which is insufficient to develop confidence and creative skills which are necessary for students to utilize in their professional lives and develop their own businesses which will not profit their own selves but will also be a great contribution to Pakistan's growth and industrialization in terms of opportunities.

Pakistan is an underdeveloped country and hence unable to give jobs to every person according to their skills and qualification. To solve these problems, Pakistan needs young and educated people to take responsibility

not for their own economic welfare but also for other unemployed populations who have not enough means to start business and are dependent on job opportunities. But educational institutions which hold the central place in this phenomenon are unable to facilitate students and hence Pakistan is still lacking in various fields of development.

The history of Pakistan shows that it has always been negligent towards major, serious and future oriented issues and this is the reason that it has lost the race of becoming an independent and developed country after a decade of independence whereas many Asian countries who focused education and industrial development by own young generation have included themselves in line of progressed and developed nation and China is the biggest example. Pakistan has been more focused on import policies than its own production and export: these policies started in the 1950s and didn't allow little, new and modern industries to grow.

From 1972, the import duties were removed but private investments fell. Structural problems that arose at those times and still exist in the modern world were not resolved. The situation will get worse and indus-

trial progress and ration of goods production will decrease further. Although the government showed interest in Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation and its usefulness increased in the 1960s, later on these industries started declining or minimizing the production and export rate due to limited resources and unfavorable conditions. Also, the manufactured products are not showing diversity. The major key factors behind limited industrialization include a sense of nationalization, inability to invest for technological advancement and rigid policies in the structure which doesn't allow making a suitable environment for industrial development.

The major problems behind this crisis include governmental ignorance and lack of awareness which can be fulfilled through introducing good education which include both theoretical and vocational training by both educational industry and government. Pakistan is in need of innovative, creative and smart ideas which will help Pakistan government in stabilizing the economic crisis and different social issues of the nation including unemployment, poverty, and related psychological and social problems. New, crea-

tive and innovative ideas need to be organized. Environmental, organizational and climatic conditions must be considered in production and implementation of a new idea. Creative ideas and its implementation have different schools of thoughts in Pakistan. Some consider that creativity is the real and only solution to every difficult situation in Pakistan.

Some consider that creativity produces maladjustment in the structure of society and it is not a permanent solution since every creative idea doesn't get a required set-up that is needed. Pakistan's industry is unique and intense that only the presence of ideas is not enough, in fact its long-term sustainability, environmental impact and people's choice equally matter. In Pakistani society, the presence of creative and innovative ideas exists among students and young graduates and if the need of educational guidance and availability of training programs are fulfilled, then these students can surely lead this country towards progress. Examples include the software industry. The software industry is accelerating and rising due to roles played by enthusiastic, professional and dedicated people of Pakistan and

its output is in Billion dollars which is a meaningful addition in Pakistan's industrial growth and overall economic stability.

If the same dedication, passion and hard work gets the right direction in other areas of interest of people, then surely Pakistan will grow in every industry either medicine, tourism, social and entertainment. Even the education industry needs new ideas and direction to change the pedagogy of teaching and to turn docile bodies into a useful asset of a country. Manufacturing is the third largest industry of Pakistan and lack of skills; no technological advancement and no practical teaching will not make progress in this industry and ultimately GDP will not grow. Limited number of people is working for fast and reliable production in the manufacturing industry but its ratio can increase by giving more awareness to students who are degree holders and are unable to find a job. With this practice in industry more students will get a job, more societies will grow and as a result it will create a good impact on the economy of Pakistan.

*The writer belongs to Department of Sociology, Quaid-I-Azam University Islamabad.*

## Oppression & Kashmir's freedom fight

Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Indian troops in their fresh acts of state terrorism martyred four more Kashmiri youth in Baramulla and Pulwama districts. Two youth were martyred by the troops and paramilitary forces during a continued cordon and search operation in Tujan area of Pulwama district. Another two were martyred by the troops in Tulib area of Sopore town in Baramulla district.

The All Parties Hurriyat Conference in a statement issued in Srinagar while condemning the killings paid glowing tributes to the martyred youth. The APHC said that India, one day, will have to submit to the right to self-determination demand of the Kashmiri people as a result of great sacrifices of the youth. Hurriyat leader Abdul Samad Inqilabi in a statement from Indian jail also paid tributes to the martyrs. Meanwhile, police booked handler of The Real Kashmir News Facebook page for a post on social media revealing that an arrested youth was killed by the Indian troops in a fake encounter at Chandigam Lolab in Kupwara district.

In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Indian police have arrested four Kashmiri youth in Badgam and Baramulla districts. Indian police accompanied by paramilitary personnel arrested three youth identified as Ashiq Hussain Hajam, Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Dar and Tahir Bin Ahmed from Chadoora area of Badgam district. Another youth, Shahid Ahmad Parray, was arrested by a joint party of Indian police and army at a checkpoint in Juhama area of Baramulla district.

The police dubbed the arrested youth as members of a mujahid organization to justify their illegal detention. In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Indian police have attached five residential houses in different areas of Srinagar city. As per a press release, the police said that on 21 June, it attached five residential houses in Parimpora, Pantha Chhoke, Nowhatta, Zakoora areas of the city on the charge that they were used by mujahideen. The police further said more such houses have been identified and will be attached soon.

Amid criminal silence by international community on India's war crimes in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the Kashmiri diaspora groups collaborated and came together outside the UN Human Rights office in Geneva on Monday to remind it of universal values. Pressing the UN human rights body of speaking for voiceless Kashmiris, the Kashmiri diaspora members held demonstrations at the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) office and urged to hold India accountable for the war crimes and crimes against humanity which New Delhi was committing in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

India is the biggest violator of international norms, UN resolutions and brutally violates universal human rights which demand international intervention in India where its judicial system has become party of Nazi-inspired military regime in IIOJK. The joint demonstration outside UHNRC headquarters in Geneva was initiated by Tehreek-e-Kashmir Italy and Kashmir delegation to Geneva. India cannot enjoy the perks and privileges of the western world where democracy and respect to human rights take precedence to any support. On one side when India is trampling upon the values as espoused by the so-called international liberal order and on other hand same fascist regime in India is being given an easy passage for illegally occupying Kashmir which speaks volumes how double standards are at work.



# CPEC - A Journey for Economic Development & Social Prosperity

The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a flagship project of Chinese President Xi Jinping's dream Belt & Road Initiative (BRI), commonly known as a source of economic development for social development and prosperity. The collective value of projects under the auspicious of CPEC is more than US\$ 62 Million. The initiative intends to further improve the Pakistan's economy by enhancing its infrastructure including modern transportation networks, energy projects and special economic zones across Pakistan. During a visit to Rashkai Special Economic Zone (RSEZ) Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif once again mentioned about the Sino-Pakistan Relations and consider CPEC as a fruit of these time tested relations for the prosperity of Pakistan.

At that occasion Ambassador in Pakistan Madam Pang Chunxue, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KPEZDMC)'s CEO Javed Iqbal Khattak, General Manager-Pakistan China Road & Bridge Corporation Group (CRBC) LynMing, Dr. Ahsan Iqbal Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Maulana Asad Mahmood Federal Minister for Communications, Dr. Shehzad Khan Bangash Chief Secretary, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and signatories of NTDC, BOI and SNGPL were also present. According to PM "We

would like to engage Chinese companies to provide expertise and experience to manage other new economic zones in Pakistan".

Therefore the second phase of CPEC will comprise regional cooperation and industrialization through establishing industrial zones. Through that zone Pakistan's skilled and semi-skilled labor was comparatively cheaper and the joint venture of Chinese technology and Pakistan's labor and investment would help the two countries make production at competitive rates and export their products to other countries. The first phase of CPEC featured road and energy projects to meet Pakistan's power needs that transformed friendly relations into unique ones where people-to-people contacts had seen a new phase. On other hand in the form of CPEC, Pakistan had been the first beneficiary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

According to Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif CPEC is lifeline for Pakistan's economic development and road to success; that is why federal & provincial governments should work hard for the success of this initiative. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif offers all assistance and help to Chinese Entrepreneurs to establish their units in SEZs. Same like that KPEZDMC and CRBC teams briefed the economic zone on the development work, the marketing strategy adopted to promote the zone, the enterprises currently operating, and

the new businesses in the zone of The Rashkai Special Economic Zone on the side of the zone is a preferential special economic zone of 1000 acres under the CPEC framework.

After completion it will provide 200,000 direct and indirect jobs to local people with an expected investment of US 4 billion. Fifteen businesses have already allotted industrial plots with an investment of PKR 78 Billion. The Prime Minister also visited under construction site of Enterprise M / S Century Steel at RSEZ with a total area of 20 acres and will work in Phase I next year with an annual production of 0.5 million tones and 3 phases on its completion. On full operations, its annual production will reach 1.5 million tons. It has hoped that under the supervision of Prime Minister, all the projects of CPEC will be complete soon and will improve the economic condition of the country.

As a living example of Sino-Pakistan Friendship CPEC will its vital role in new & re developing sea port, airport, hospital school & communities in Gwadar area to overcome energy crises energy production projects like coal, wind, hydro power and solar power will complete and the improvement in Road & highways along with Railways and Aviation Connectivity. It

is admirable that the Prime Minister of Pakistan Shahbaz Sharif has reiterated his commitment that Pakistan will complete all the projects of CPEC in any circumstance. The Prime Minister said that Pakistan would continue its efforts for economic development and peace in the region with China.

The CPEC is being call as the Silk Road of the modern age, which is why the eyes of the whole world fixed on this great project of the century. The completion of which will give the China easy access to the hot waters of Gwadar. This project will bring

economic revolution in Pakistan.

The history of economic cooperation between China and Pakistan is as old as its friendship. Diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China established in May 1951. Pakistan was amongst the first countries to recognize China's new government since the founding of the People's Republic in October 1949. Over the last 71 years, Sino-Pakistan relations have grown exponentially.

These include economic co-operation increased trade and investment, co-operation in defense, culture, agriculture, industry and energy and regional and global challenges. China extended its hand for friendship and close relations with Pakistan at a time

when relations between Pakistan and India were tense due to Kashmir issue in 1951 and the Indian government abruptly cut off the supply of coal to Pakistan. At a difficult time, China supplied coal to Pakistan in an attempt to harm Pakistan's economy. Despite being a member of the anti-communist and anti-communist defense pacts SEATO and CENTO, Pakistan supported the restoration of China's legitimacy in the United Nations and voted in favor of China at every annual session of the General Assembly.

The most notable example of this is the CPEC, which launched in April 2015 during the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to Pakistan by signing a bilateral agreement. CPEC is one of the most important projects of the BRI, a large-scale project of China, which includes rail, road and pipeline from Kashgar to the Pakistani port of Gwadar on the coast along the Arabian Sea. The construction of a trade route consisting of lines will help not only China but also West and Central Asian countries to access the markets of the Indian Ocean and surrounding countries through Pakistan for their import and export trade. It has based on a bilateral agreement between Pakistan and China, which will initially complete 46 billion worth of Chinese infrastructure and energy generation projects.

The first phase of the project has completed and the second phase has begun. In the second phase, agricul-

tural, industrial, educational and scientific development in Pakistan will promote with the cooperation of China. Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang visited Pakistan in May 2013. The most notable example of economic cooperation is the CPEC. For example, in 2002, the volume of bilateral trade between Pakistan and China was only US 1.13 Billion, but in 2018 it reached US 12.12.7 billion. The second phase of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Pakistan and China was signed during Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to China in April last year. As a result Pakistan's export to China expected to increase. China is Pakistan's largest trading partner and Pakistan has the distinction of being China's largest trading partner in South Asia except India.

Therefore irrespective political government in country the relations between Pakistan and China continue to expand and deepen because these relations based on mutual interest, trust, respect and sincerity. The peoples of Pakistan consider China as a true friend that can rely upon in all circumstances. That is why, despite the negative propaganda from some countries there is no rift in the friendly and cooperative relations between Pakistan and China.

*The writer is Secretary-General of Pakistan China Friendship Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pakistan. email syeed.gilani@gmail.com*

# President of Uzbekistan vows to ensure country's progressive development

*Shavkat Mirziyoyev says our main goal is to ensure stability in society*

**Spokesman Report**

**O**n June 20, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev held a meeting with members of the Constitutional Commission.

The Constitution of our country is a solid legal basis for all the successes achieved in the years of Independence. At the same time, life does not stand still, the worldview of our people is changing.

In recent years, citizens have expressed many opinions about improving the Constitution. In this regard, on May 20 2022, the Kengashes of the Chambers of the Oliy Majlis created the Constitutional Commission. Over the past month, the Commission received 48,492 proposals from citizens.

At the meeting, the Head of State highly appreciated the activity of compatriots, their sense of belonging to the future of our country, and expressed his vision of constitutional reforms.

The updated Constitution should create a solid legal basis and a reliable guarantee of long-term development strategies for our country, in general, its future prosperity and tomorrow's prosperous life of our people. In a word, having deeply embedded in the content of our Constitution the idea "In the name of the honor and dignity of a person" and the approach "Man - Society - State", which is the main principle of our current reforms, we need to

turn them into the main value of our daily life. In other words, human dignity, honor and pride should henceforth come first in all areas, Shavkat Mirziyoyev said.

In his speech, the President focused on four priority areas and made proposals for each of them.

As the First Direction, a person, his life, freedom and dignity, inviolable rights and interests are indicated.

The elevation of human dignity, in fact, should be a constitutional obligation and a priority task of public authorities. These principles must be clearly reflected in our updated Constitution, find their perfect legal solution, the President said.

Emphasizing that the right to life is an inalienable right of every person, it is proposed to introduce into the Constitution a provision that "the death penalty is prohibited in Uzbekistan".

It was noted that it is necessary to clearly state in the Constitution that a person's criminal record and the legal consequences arising from it cannot be a basis for restricting the rights of his relatives.

The issues of strengthening the constitutional foundations for the humane treatment of persons deprived of their liberty were also touched upon.

When considering cases of administrative, civil, economic, criminal liability and in other areas, the measures of legal influence applied to a person should be sufficient to achieve a legitimate goal and, if possible, not burdensome for a person, the head of state noted.



In the Second Direction, it is proposed to enshrine in the Constitution the idea of "Uzbekistan is a Social State".

As you know, decent living conditions are created in a welfare state for everyone, no one is left without attention, alone with their problems. Therefore, it is proposed to reflect in the Basic Law the obligations of the state to provide the population with housing, strengthen the economic and spiritual foundations of the family, create all conditions for ensuring the interests and full development of children, support people with disabilities, and protect human health and the environment.

"In a word, the care of the state for men and women, families and children, youth and the elderly, persons with disabilities, all people, whether in

**Shavkat Mirziyoyev urges compatriots to take active part in constitutional reform process**

the country or abroad, should be enshrined in the Constitution," Shavkat Mirziyoyev said.

The Third Direction is to clearly define in the Constitution the status of the mahalla and the duties of state bodies in the process of interaction with it.

At the same time, it was proposed to reflect the principle that the mahalla is not part of the system of state authorities, can independently resolve issues of local importance on the ground, and receive support from the state for these purposes.

The Fourth Direction is the improvement of public administration, the strengthening of democracy.

We are aimed at building a democratic state that lives by the concerns of the people. This means that the state, its bodies and officials work for the

people, serve them. People's control over state power will be established. I propose to introduce into the Constitution norms that ensure openness, transparency and accountability in the activities of state bodies, as well as the compactness and efficiency of these bodies, the President said.

Thus, proposals were put forward to expand the powers of the Oliy Majlis to form a government and ensure its effective functioning, transfer part of the powers of the President to the Oliy Majlis.

It was emphasized that the time has come to exclude from the Constitution the provision that Khokims simultaneously head the councils of people's deputies.

The head of state proposed introducing the institution of making legislative proposals into the Constitution. Thanks to this rule, the people will have the right to initiate laws. According to this provision, a group of at least 100,000 citizens will be able to submit their legislative proposals to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis.

The necessity of expanding the powers of the Government and defining in the Constitution the responsibility of the Cabinet of Ministers and Khokimiyats on environmental issues, youth, family support, social protection of persons with disabilities, development of public transport, creation of conditions for recreation of the population, support of civil society institutions was also emphasized.

The importance of updating and improving the conceptual and legal

framework of Uzbekistan's foreign policy is also indicated, taking into account the fundamental changes taking place in the world.

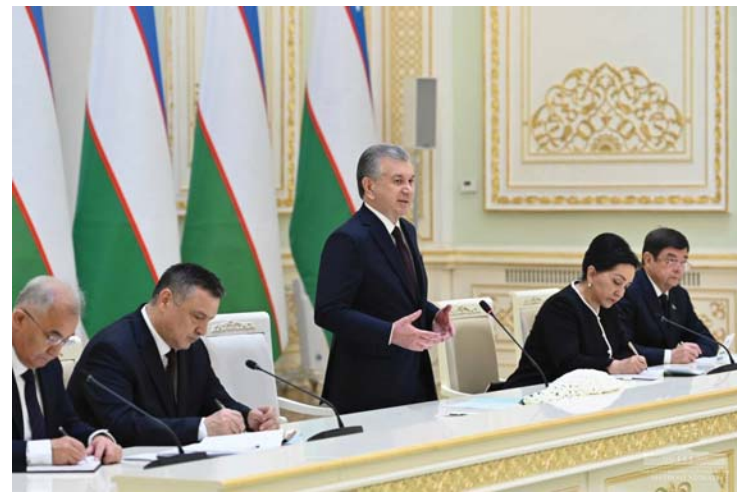
Deputies of the Legislative Chamber will subsequently submit the proposals summarized by the Constitutional Commission as a legislative initiative to the lower house of parliament. They will be discussed in detail in Parliament, which will prepare a draft of the updated Constitution. According to the current legislation, the Parliament has the power to independently amend the Constitution. However, the President proposed to consider the draft Constitution at a nationwide discussion and adopt it by referendum.

If we carry out a constitutional reform based on the opinions and support of our citizens, through a referendum, this will be a real expression of the will of our people - a truly people's Constitution, - said the head of state.

In this regard, the President called on compatriots to take a more active part in the process of constitutional reform.

Our main goal is to ensure stability in society and the progressive development of our unique country! I call on all our people to unity and solidarity in achieving this great goal, said Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

The meeting continued in the format of an open exchange of views. The members of the Constitutional Commission who spoke expressed their opinion on the proposals of the population and the need for reforms.



# Jordan, Malaysia, Pakistan enjoy cordial diplomatic ties: Gillani

**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister and Senator Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani said Jordan, Malaysia and Pakistan are enjoying cordial diplomatic relations.

He expressed these views while talking to Daily The Spokesman on the occasion of a farewell reception in the honour of Dr Maen Khareasat Deputy Head of Mission/Minister Plenipotentiary Embassy of Jordan hosted by Chargé d Affaires of Malaysia Mr. Deddy Faisal & Mrs. Emilia Deddy at the residential complex of the High Commission of Malaysia.

The farewell reception was attended by Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry President of AJK, Parliamentarians, Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Diplomats, and a large number of businessmen from different chambers of commerce & industries across Pakistan.

The former PM said that Jordan had strong and historic relations with Pakistan based on mutual respect and common values and these bonds would further strengthen during the days to come.

He also said that Pakistan remains an important economic partner for Malaysia and this was demonstrated most prominently by our bilateral economic, trade, and investment relations, which continue to grow from strength to strength despite the global challenges throughout the decades.

On the occasion, Dr Maen Khareasat said "I am moving forward with wonderful memories made here in this beautiful and welcoming country". He added, "I would like to thank Mr. Deddy Faisal & Mrs. Emilia Deddy for hosting this gathering".

Dr Maen further said that the two countries will not reap the benefits unless both sides show interest, he said adding that Pakistani products could be exported to Jordan including fabrics, garments and agricultural seeds, machinery and spare parts, oil, juice, cotton, fiber optics, paper, leather, and many more

items have huge marketing potential.

Deddy Faisal, while welcoming the distinguished guests, said the time has passed so quickly that standing here and looking back it's just a moment of yesterday it seems. He said, "I would like to recollect the moment when I first arrived in Islamabad in August 2019 and the very first diplomatic reception which I attended where I was introduced to the diplomatic corps of Islamabad".

He further said "I still remember that it was Dr Maen who was amongst the first friends that I made in Islamabad, and we always share the good moments of diplomatic cocktails, receptions, and dinner together with other colleagues. He is such a warm friend who made my life in Islamabad an easy transition.

The Chargé d Affaires of Malaysia said I wish to take this opportunity to express my heartiest gratitude and appreciation to the government and particularly the people of Pakistan for their warm hospitality and genuine friendship that we forged throughout our tenure of posting here. The government and people of Pakistan has been very generous with us being the representative of our respective government and I thank all for that

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Faisal said I would like to wish Dr Mean, Hamdan, and Madam Shafikah a bright career and peaceful life.

**Photos By Ghulam Farid**



**"I am moving forward with wonderful memories made here in this beautiful and welcoming country": Dr Maen Khareasat**



