



# Daily The Spokesman

RAWALPINDI

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ  
سرور ضی اللہ عنہ نے بیان کیا کہ نبی کریم ﷺ نے فرمایا آج کی رات میرے پاس (خواب میں) دو فرشتے (جبرائیل و میکائیل علیہما السلام) آئے۔ پھر یہ دونوں فرشتے مجھے ساتھ لے کر ایک لیے قدم کے بڑگ کے پاس گئے، وہ ہاتھ لے کر کہنے لگے کہ ان کا سر میں نہیں دیکھو یا تمہاری قبر پر آئے۔  
(کنگنڈی، حدیث نمبر 3354)  
**Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited**

## World should notice HRs' abuses in IIOJK: Ahsan

Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal says the international community including the US should take notice of the deteriorating human rights situation in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The present government has taken difficult decisions whilst rising above personal and political interests. He said it is utmost endeavor of the government to ensure economic stability.



## Govt cuts PIA fares on int'l routes: Saad

Minister for Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique says government has cut PIA's fares on international routes up to 15% aimed at passing on the benefit of decreased jet fuel prices to air travellers. The Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) had decreased the ticket rates of all flights operating within the country a few days back following the reduction in prices of jet fuel. And now, the PIA management after the due calculation has decided to slash fares on international routes too, the minister said in a video message.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Zilhaj 21, Thursday, July 21, 2022

www.dailyspokesman.net

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Daily Spokesman Vol: 15, Issue: 112 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

### Economic situation

**PM convenes emergency meeting**

### Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has called an emergency meeting on the economic situation of the country, the PM Office said Wednesday. The meeting will be attended by the economic team and top officials related to the economy.

The meeting will evaluate the factors for the recent hike in the value of dollar and the measures to address it. The prime minister's economic team will give a briefing on the country's economic situation and the reasons for devaluation of the rupee against dollar.

### Henley Index

**Pak passport world's 4th worst**

LONDON: The Pakistani passport remained the fourth-worst passport in the world, maintaining its position from last year and providing access to only 32 locations without a visa, according to the Henley Passport Index for 2022. The Henley Passport Index is a ranking of all the world's passports according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa.

As per the latest rankings, Pakistan was ranked fourth, higher than the war-torn countries of Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, which occupies the bottom spot. Japan remained at top in the rankings, with the country's passport providing its holders access to 193 destinations. Next in line are Singapore and South Korea, whose passports provide access to 192 countries, followed by Germany and Spain, with their passports having a visa-free score of 190.

## Food security

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail presided over the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee of the Cabinet at Finance Division.



Photo: PID

### Trade strategy

# Govt plans to level imports, exports & remittances: Miftah

*Says rupee dip against dollar due to political situation*

### Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: As the Pakistani rupee continues to plunge against the US dollar, Finance Minister Miftah Ismail blamed political uncertainty for the massive plunge of local currency against the US greenback — which slumped to an all-time on Wednesday. In a phone interview, Miftah said: "In terms of the real economic fundamentals, we are fine but the political uncertainty screwed us up."

"Fundamentally the rupee is fine, there is not much pressure on rupee in the market and we should be okay, and I think that there may be some reversal," he added. The finance minister told Reuters that the rupee downturn is not due to economic fundamentals.

"The panic is primarily due to political turmoil, which will subside in a few days." Later addressing a press conference, Miftah reiterated that the local currency had depreciated against the dollar whereas it had strengthened against Pound, Euro and Japanese Yen. He said the US dollar has witnessed a 22-year high appreciation against all currencies, however, admitted that the current political situation in the country was one of the reasons for rupee depreciation. While quoting the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Miftah said that in terms of real effective exchange rate the rupee has depreciated by 3% since December keeping in view inflation.

The finance minister revealed that the government had taken result-oriented measures to level imports with exports and remittances. "We are trying to bring imports almost equal to exports and remittances. Because we do not have space in foreign exchange reserves to reduce these and we also do not have other reserves. Therefore, we want to strike a balance between imports, exports and remittances." The minister said that soon after assuming power,

import bills surged by 120% last month. He said, there were imports of \$7.4 billion last month including \$ 3.7 billion in energy and \$3.7 billion in other imports.

Finance Minister said the trade fundamentals have been corrected as a result of measures taken by the present government over the last few months. He said there has been reduction in imports during this period. He said this has helped create a balance between imports and exports and remittances. The Finance Minister pointed out that the trade deficit was forty eight billion dollars and Current Account Deficit stood at seventeen billion dollars during the last fiscal year, which, he stressed, the country cannot afford. Miftah Ismail said an agreement has been signed with the IMF, categorically stating that the government will implement it.

the government-initiated measures to reduce imports and it achieved success in June when the non-energy import bill went down 15%.

However, he added, the energy imports increased due to price-hike in the international market and the

**Miftah thanks SBP for controlling import bill**

## Political instability leading to economic turmoil: Tarin

### Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: Former finance minister Shaukat Tarin has said that political instability causing economic turmoil in the country. Tarin while commenting on free fall of rupee against dollar, said that the State Bank of Pakistan has refused to give dollars, currently the currency has been trading at Rs 227 in inter-bank market. "Despite Miftah Ismail's claims the market not showing trust on him," Shaukat Tarin said. "Devaluation of rupee will result in price hike," he added. The market is jittery and required restoration of confidence so as the situation returns to normal, he said. "The people have to pay the debt they have taken," former finance minister said.

"Political instability resulting in economic turmoil, stocks are falling, while the dollar is gaining more strength," Tarin said. "Only solution of the situation is announcement of the election, so as the market feels the confidence that we are moving towards political stability," he said. After Punjab by-election results former minister had urged the government to announce election and bring a strong caretaker setup in the country adding that the election results have increased political instability in the country.

He called for a strong interim government having understanding of the market, "We have to move forward to end the political instability for economic betterment of the country," he said.

## Power shortfall exceeds 7,000mw

### Bureau Report

KARACHI: Power shortfall in the country is exceeded 7,130 megawatts, power demand in the country is 28,700 megawatts while the production lags at 21,570 megawatts. According to power division sources, the power shortfall in the country exceeded 7,130 megawatts in the country on Wednesday. According to Power Division sources, 6,574 megawatts of electricity are being produced using hydro energy while Thar Mill plants are producing over 1,000 megawatts of electricity. A total of 10,500 megawatts is being produced via power plants while 750 megawatts is being produced using wind energy. Solar plants across the country are producing 100 megawatts, Power Division said. Biogas energy is producing 77 megawatts of electricity while 2,569 megawatts of electric power is generated by nuclear energy.

On July 16, the power shortfall in the country



crossed 4,500 MW increasing load-shedding durations across rural and urban areas of the country. The demand for power in the country on July 16 was 28,500 megawatts while the production lagged at 24,000 megawatts. At the beginning of the month, the power shortfall had reached 7,787 megawatts as production stagnated at 21,213 MW and demand reached 29,000 MW. The power demand in the country is 27,000 while supply has been increased to 24,000 MW. A relief has been provided in load-shedding across rural and urban feeders.

## Pakistan to get IMF's tranche in August

*SBP says lender's confidence dropped after no-trust motion*

### Bureau Report

KARACHI: Pakistan will receive the \$1.17 billion tranche from International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the third week of August under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) programme, the officials of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) said on Wednesday. In a statement, the SBP officials claimed that there was no obstacle in receiving the payment from the global lender. "Pakistan is bound to fulfill all conditions of the IMF," the officials said, adding that work on some conditions was already started before the staff-level agreement was reached.

According to SBP officials, political instability was no longer a problem for the global lender. "The IMF is more concerned about the budget deficit and subsidies given by the government," they added. "The officials pointed out that the year 2022 was more difficult for Pakistan than coronavirus. "Both the US dollar and inflation increased this year," they said, adding that



IMF did not trust Pakistan because the PTI government had gone back on its agreement with the institution.

Meanwhile, the SBP officials ruled out that the country may default, saying that the country's major problem was energy import bill. "The government will reduce the energy import bill so that dollar reserves do not decrease," they added.

SBP said that the country's situation is completely different from Sri Lanka and after the no-confidence motion against the former Prime Minister Imran Khan, the International Monetary Fund's confidence in Pakistan has decreased but there is no option left other than IMF. In this regard, SBP

official said the State Bank is constantly monitoring the economic situation and also taking steps to stabilize the rupee, adding that Pakistan will never default because the country's situation is completely different from Sri Lanka.

"Unnecessary imports have been reduced in Pakistan and the government has made all the difficult decisions now there are no difficult situations, the current financial year 2022-23 is a difficult year for the country's economy," officials added. SBP added that after the no-confidence motion against Imran Khan, the confidence of IMF in Pakistan dropped, but we had no option left other than IMF.

### Azadi March

**PTI forms body for withdrawal of 'false' cases**

ISLAMABAD: PTI general secretary Asad Umar on Wednesday announced that an "Anti Victimisation and Accountability Committee" has been formed in Punjab to get all the cases — filed in connection with the party's "Azadi March" on May 25 — withdrawn through a legal process. Taking to Twitter, Umar said that the committee "will collect the details of all the fake cases registered against PTI members in Punjab and take legal steps to have them withdrawn." It will also work to identify the officials responsible for "illegal/criminal actions against PTI members in Punjab and initiate legal proceedings against them."

"No one should think that we have forgotten May 25 [because] we haven't nor will let [anyone] forget. A committee is being formed which will get all the fake cases withdrawn legally and take action as per the law against the officials who followed illegal orders to torture people and took illegal action," Umar wrote.

## Zardari offering Rs 500m to MPs: Imran

*Claims Lahore seeing repetition of Sindh House horse-trading*

### Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday ahead of the high-stakes Punjab Chief Minister election on July 22 accused that Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari is offering Rs500 million to PTI's Punjab Assembly lawmakers to buy their votes, and he should be jailed over this act. Taking to Twitter, the PTI chairman said that currently, we are experiencing the same situation in Lahore as we saw horse trading in Sindh House, adding that the mastermind behind the current wave of horse trading is Asif Zardari and he is offering MPs Rs500 million to buy their votes.

"Zardari got NRO for his corruption and now buying votes with looted wealth, he should be jailed," the former PM urged. In another statement on Twitter, he penned that "Horse trading is not only an attack on our democracy but also the moral fabric of our society." Imran Khan added that "if the Supreme Court had taken action and banned turncoats for life, such acts could have been stopped." Taking a swipe at the incumbent government, he said that the US government's handlers do not realize how the nation is suffering from the imported government's conspiracy



to change. person Asif Ali Zardari was the "main architect" behind this, adding that the former president has secured an "NRO for his corruption and purchases people with looted wealth."

The former prime minister also demanded the PPP leader be jailed. "This is not only an attack on our democracy but also on the moral fabric of our society. Had Supreme Court taken action and debarred these turncoats for life, it would have acted as a deterrent," claimed the PTI chairman. He also asked the "handlers" of the incumbent government whether they realised the "severe damage being done to the nation."

The PTI chairman further claimed that after his government was "toppled with stolen money from Sindh and NRO 2 achieved, certified criminal Asif Zardari in cahoots with Sharif mafia now seeking to steal Punjab people's mandate by trying to purchase MPAs." "Want to ask Honourable Supreme Court are they not cognizant of the damage being wreaked? Isn't destruction of our democracy, Constitution and nation's morality a fit case for Suo Moto action? Are the 'Neutrals' not realising how our beloved country is literally being destroyed on all fronts by the Imported government brought in through US regime change conspiracy?" asked the former prime minister.

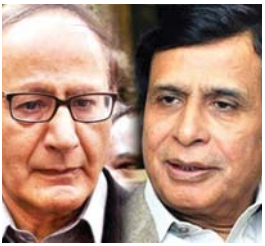
## Provincial setup

LAHORE: Speaker Punjab Assembly Ch Pervaiz Elahi and PTI top leaders are discussing strategy for upcoming chief minister's elections.



Photo PML-Q

**Ch Shujaat supports Elahi for CM Punjab slot**



### Bureau Report

LAHORE: President of Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain on Wednesday said that Parvez Elahi is candidate for the position of Chief Minister of Punjab.

PML-Q President, while clearing the air around CM Punjab election, said that the party that has secured majority in the election should form the government. The veteran politician said that politicians should get out of number game and instead focus on problems being faced by the country and the poor masses.

He urged elected lawmakers to work hard for betterment of the country instead of leg pulling of their fellow lawmakers. A day earlier, former president and Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday met PML-Q chief Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain and took him in confidence over decisions taken in the meeting of ruling alliance.

Asif Zardari met Chaudhry Shujaat at his residence and the meeting continued for over an hour, in which matters pertaining to the political situation in Punjab came under discussion. The family members of the PML-Q chief were also present in the meeting. The PPP co-chairman left Shujaat Hussain's residence making a sign of victory.

### CM Punjab poll

# Govt contacting some PML-Q MPAs: Qureshi

**Criticises govt over rupee devaluation**

### Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Vice-Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi has apprised Pakistan Muslim League Quaid top leader Pervaiz Elahi that some lawmakers of PML-Q were contacted by the coalition government. Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Pervaiz Elahi held an important meeting ahead of the Punjab Chief Minister (CM) elections on July 22. Qureshi apprised Elahi regarding his concerns over the Asif Ali Zardari-Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain meeting. "Some PML-Q lawmakers remained in contact with the coalition government. The leaders should not hold meetings with anyone till July 22. Zardari-Shujaat meeting creates suspicions," said the PTI vice-chairman.

Elahi responded to Qureshi's queries, saying that Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain could not be stopped from meeting anyone. Qureshi said that the unity of the lawmakers of the ally parties was necessary to elect Pervaiz Elahi as the Punjab CM. He insisted that PML-Q should avoid holding meetings with Pakistan

People's Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari during his stay in Lahore. Former Foreign Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Vice-President Shah Mahmood Qureshi has criticised the coalition government over rupee devaluation, saying that the current regime only wants to complete its tenure.

The unity of the lawmakers of the ally parties was necessary to elect Pervaiz Elahi as the Punjab CM: Qureshi

In a statement, the former federal minister claimed that the current rulers want to complete their tenure by force, while the country's economy was deteriorating. "The government doesn't care about the country's economy. The rupee is continuously depreciating, which will bring a new storm of inflation. However,

the government has not taken any step in this regard," he added. The PTI leader further said that the incumbent regime's only agenda was to amend the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) laws. He claimed that Punjab has performed far better than Sindh in the last three-and-a-half-year tenure.

Speaking about the recently-concluded Punjab by-elections, Shah Mahmood Qureshi blamed PPP co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari for the loss of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). He also criticised the government for offering money to PTI lawmakers, saying that the rulers were doing violation of Supreme Court's (SC) orders.

It is pertinent to mention here that the dollar rate reached an all-time high against the Pakistani rupee and was trading at Rs 225 in the interbank market. Political unrest wreaked havoc on the currency market for the second consecutive day. According to details, the greenback spiked sharply by Rs3.01 in the interbank market to settle at Rs 225. The USD was trading at Rs226-227 in the open bank market.

## NEPRA defends power tariff hike

ISLAMABAD: Defending the increasing electricity tariff, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) chairman Tauseef H. Farooqui on Wednesday said fuel cost has increased by eight times as compared to three years earlier. In his statement, the NEPRA chairman said the cost of imported coal in 2018 was \$50 per ton, which has reached \$400 now. He further said the depreciation of the Pakistani rupee against the US dollar is another factor in increasing fuel tariffs in the country.

The cost of producing electricity has increased by 1600pc, Tauseef said and asked if not the consumers, then who will pay the price? The NEPRA chairman said, all of their assumptions went wrong and the dollar has crossed Rs222 mark. NEPRA has no authority to control fuel prices at the international



level and the greenback. Earlier in the day, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) hearing the federal government's petition seeking Rs 7.91 per unit hike in basic power tariff. The electric power regulator will decide on the matter after the hearing and forward its decision to the government for notification. The NEPRA hearing presided over by its chairman Tauseef Farooqui will take decision over the government plea for hike in basic tariff of all power distribution companies including the K-electric, the power utility, which supply electricity to Karachi.

### Regional peace

## Pakistan-Iran discuss border security issues

### Bureau Report

QUETTA: A Pak-Iran delegation on Wednesday discussed the issues pertaining to border security and regional peace and stability. Deputy Commissioner Gwadar Captain retired Jameel Ahmed chaired the meeting attended by 12-member Iranian delegation and Pakistani officials. They exchanged proposals regarding the plans for border trade through pilot projects of joint border markets at Gabad 250 border. Security issues and promotion of common border markets was discussed at length and it was agreed that more

trade centers will be opened in the border areas.

Besides reviewing relations in all sectors including economy, trade, communications, security, energy, education and people-to-people exchanges, regional issues were also discussed in the meeting held between Pakistan and Iran high ups. They also stressed the need for promotion of economic cooperation besides, the events of last year were also discussed.

They were also in consent that relevant officials will remain in constant contact and through consultation, cooperation and joint assistance, obstacles in the way of bilateral rela-

tions will be removed. Addressing the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Captain Retired Jameel Ahmed said that Pakistan-Iran bilateral trade cooperation will increase trade and business activities in Gwadar.

"Trade with neighboring Iran will increase economic activities in the border areas as well as create employment opportunities for local people," Earlier a 12-member high-level government delegation of the Iran reached Gwadar. Deputy Commissioner Gwadar Captain Retired Jameel Ahmad welcomed the delegation at Gubad 250 border and presented them with traditional Balochi veil.

### Horse trading

## PML-N rejects PTI's allegations

**Tarar says no money has been offered to MPAs**

### Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Home Minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Attaullah Tarar has rejected the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) allegations of 'horse-trading' ahead of Punjab chief minister (CM) election. Addressing a press conference here the provincial minister said that the PML-N has not offered any money to Members of Provincial Assembly (MPAs) ahead of Punjab CM elections.

Ata Tarar said that he rejects all the allegations levelled against him by the PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry, challenging the former information minister to testify his claims on oath on the Holy Quran. Speaking about the PTI leader's claims about the Rahim Yar Khan MPA, Ata Tarar said that Chaudhry Masood Ahmed had resigned in April and lambasted the

opposition party for not being aware of its own members.

The Punjab Home Minister further said that the PTI has once again started crying, adding that more resignations could possibly come forward. "Shah Mehmood Qureshi was also present in the parliamentary party meeting of PML-Q and PTI. Why only 100 members out of 188 participated in the meeting," the provincial minister added. Tarar levied his own allegations of PML-N MPAs being allegedly bribed by Punjab Assembly Speaker Pervaiz Elahi and his son Moonis Elahi.

"A PML-N lawmaker was approached with a bribe of Rs100m while he was performing Haj," he alleged, adding that Moonis was "pleading" with the MPAs in Islamabad to switch loyalties while an elderly female PML-N MPA was also approached in Faisalabad.

### Sindh LG-polls

## Security plan finalised

### Bureau Report

KARACHI: More than 40,000 security personnel are being deployed in Karachi ahead of the second phase of LG-polls in Sindh. According to the details, Karachi Police Chief Javed Alam Odho said in the press conference that the plan related to Local Government (LG) polls in Sindh has been released and more than 40,000 personnel are being deployed to ensure law and order during the polling.

The Karachi police chief said that personnel from other districts of Sindh have also been called in, along with the police, and Rangers. Odho said that there are more than 4,000 polling stations in Karachi and all of them are sensitive and highly sensitive. Javed Alam said that 24,968 personnel will be posted at the polling stations, and more than 5,000 QRF personnel will also be on alert.

Earlier, a total of 532 Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) candidates were elected unopposed in the second phase of the local body elections in Sindh. According to data provided by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), at least 532 PPP candidates have been elected unopposed ahead of the LG polls in the remaining 16 districts of Sindh.

### Rs225

## Dollar reaches all time high

### Bureau Report

KARACHI: The downward slide of the Pakistani rupee (PKR) continues as the currency has lost Rs3.01 in the interbank market against US dollar. According to details, the dollar was being traded around Rs225 against the PKR on third day of the week as compared to the previous close of 221.99. A day earlier, dollar also gained whopping Rs6.79 in the interbank amid political uncertainty in the country. In last three trading sessions, the local currency has lost over Rs14 against the greenback. According to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the rupee closed with a fall of RS2.93 or -1.30%. There was no respite from the declining rupee trend on Wednesday as the currency dropped to a new all-time low of Rs224.92 against the US dollar in the interbank market due to renewed political volatility.

The rupee nosedived by a whopping Rs2.99, or 1.30%, in a single day to hit an all-time low at Rs224.92 — surpassing the last historic low of 221.99 recorded a day earlier — the data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) showed. Analysts attribute the fresh depreciation to the political uncertainty arising out of the outcome of the Punjab by-elections and said the currency market came under renewed pressure in the wake of "political and economic uncertainties."

## PTI MPA Masood gets Rs400m from Zardari: Fawad

**Demands arrest of Zardari, Sanaullah & Tarar**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhry on Wednesday said that if Shehbaz Sharif-led government will not announce early polls then it will be sent packing. Talking to Twitter, Fawad said that PTI is worried about the economic situation of the country. While he added that the imposed government has lost control over the situation. He further said that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) ministers are out of their senses and giving weird statements. He also urged the government to form the election framework and new Election Commission teams.

He said Asif Ali Zardari, Rana Sanaullah and Attaullah Tarar should be arrested besides carrying out legal actions for the illegal use of money in the elections. Fawad Chaudhry horse trading has been started ahead of Punjab Chief Minister (CM) elections on July 22. Fawad Chaudhry conducted a press conference in

Islamabad today in which he alleged that the evil play started in Punjab and the loyalty of the Members of the Provincial Assembly (MPAs) was being bought for Rs400 million each.

He said that the Punjab people showed their confidence in Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to rule them and the political party has 188 votes in the Punjab Assembly. Fawad alleged that Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari transported an MPA Masood Majeed to Turkey after paying Rs400 million. He further alleged that Zardari was using the Sindh government's resources for horse trading. "PML-N [Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz] Home Minister Attaullah Tarar is also trying to buy the loyalty of our MPAs and offered them Rs250 to Rs300 million." He said that Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah had also hinted at creating hurdles for PTI to form its government in Punjab after having the majority of PA seats, followed by other PML-N leaders including the



information minister. "The political rivals asked our MPAs to go abroad and they also booked hotels for them. Democracy cannot be strengthened in this way. We are moving to the Supreme Court (SC) which is the only institution to ensure trans-

parency." He demanded the immediate arrest of Asif Ali Zardari, Rana Sanaullah and Attaullah Tarar besides carrying out legal actions for the illegal use of money in the elections.

Fawad expressed hopes that the PTI's PA seats will be increased from 15 to 17 as the court ordered the recounting of votes in Rawalpindi and Muzaffargarh constituencies. He reiterated that PTI has completed its number game to elect Pervaiz Elahi as the Punjab CM. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader and former federal information minister Fawad Chaudhry on Wednesday alleged that PTI MPA Masood Majeed took Rs400 million from Asif Ali Zardari.

While speaking to the media flanked by Zulfi Bukhari, the former Federal Minister of Information claimed, "Our MPA from Rahim Yar Khan Masood Majeed has arrived in Turkey after taking Rs400 mln, as Asif Ali Zardari is behind him." Fawad added, "We hope that

our seats will be increased from 15 to 17 as PTI has 188 members in the Punjab provincial assembly."

"Today we have filed an appeal for contempt in the Supreme Court," said Fawad. He also said the three MPAs have filed affidavits in the Supreme Court. He also claimed that Ata Tarar tells MPAs in the conversation that the government can give Rs20-25 million rupees to each MPA.

Lashing out at the former president Asif Zardari, Fawad said that Zardari and company have degraded morality so much. Fawad further said the state is having no money to open sewers in Karachi, but these people are busy purchasing MPA for Rs400mln. The PTI leader took a jibe at Chief Election Commissioner and said, "We have no trust in the Chief Election Commissioner who has no shame or modesty. The ECP showed impudence in the sale in the Senate, added Fawad.

# Defence Minister lauds defence engagement between Pakistan, Turkiye

*Mehmet Pacaci, Ambassador of Turkiye meets with Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif*

**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif expressed satisfaction over common understanding on regional and global emerging situation.

Khawaja Muhammad Asif expressed these views while speaking to Mehmet Pacaci, Ambassador of Turkiye to Pakistan here on Wednesday.

"Pakistan and Turkiye enjoy exemplary fraternal relations based on common faith, culture, values, civilization and historical linkages, mutual trust and support", said Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif. Minister stressed that Kashmir dispute coupled with water crises has central role in India-Pakistan relations and a just solution is necessary for lasting peace in the region under UN Resolutions.



He reiterated Pakistan's concern on Indian Army cruelties on innocent people of Jammu & Kashmir,

especially after revocation of Articles-370 and 35-A of Indian Constitution in August 2019. Moreover, he also emphasized that Pakistan-Turkiye bilateral relations have been institutionalized under the forum of High Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC) under Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defence relations under High Level Military Dialogue Meetings.

The Minister for Defence also appreciated the fact that defence engagement between Pakistan and Turkiye with focus on building Pakistan's capabilities through defence industrial collaboration and regular exchange of Training, Delegations, Courses and Conducting Joint Exercises. Both sides showed satisfaction on various areas of common interest, including security, counter terrorism and tackling developing situation in the region.

## APBF demands stable exchange rate

*As rupee continues to drop vs dollar*

**Spokesman Report**

LAHORE: The All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) has urged the government to control instability of rupee against the US dollar, as the local currency hit record low against the US dollar in the inter-bank market while the unrest has been creating unstable economic conditions.

APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood, in a statement issued here today said that a steep fall in the value of Pakistani rupee against foreign currencies have been causing an addition of trillions of rupees to the public debt, besides high inflation, as the local currency was being quoted at 223 presently, a massive depreciation of Rs8 or nearly 4% against the greenback.

APBF Chairman Ibrahim Qureshi feared that political climate of the country has become unpredictable due to political uncertainty, reducing the level of investment and affecting the economic growth of the country, suggesting the government as well as the opposition parties to settle issues through talks, which is the right way to resolve the issues.

Ibrahim Qureshi observed that the economic growth and industrialization are not possible without stability of rupee, as the dollar has been appreciating against the rupee for the last several months because of the higher current account deficit and burgeoning import bills.

APBF Chairman observed that the market-based flexible exchange rate system, resilience in remittances and other factors can help contain the current account deficit in a sustainable range of 2-3 percent of GDP in FY23.

Syed Maaz Mahmood added that it seemed that authorities have let the rupee depreciating to discourage rising imports and encourage exports in an attempt to narrow down the widening trade deficit which poses a serious threat for the domestic economy. He expressed the fear that the rupee might be moving down in search for its value fit for resuming the IMF \$6 billion loan program which is on hold for the last more than six months, but it would impact negatively on the country's overall economy.

The APBF President said that for the last couple of months, the dollar has been appreciated by Rs37.15 against the local currency which lifted the cost of imported products and created uncertainty about the exchange rate stability. The dollar was at Rs187 two months back and now again hovering in the range of Rs120-123 in July 2022. Since the beginning of the new financial year the exchange rate looked shaky against the US dollar. The market reacted over the policy-makers' announcement about high current account deficit, while the importers rushed for higher amount.

## Punjab Govt ensuring health facilities equally

**Raza Naqvi**

ATTOCK: Punjab Govt is ensuring health facilities to the people living in villages and remote areas and for the purpose all possible steps are being taken.

Deputy Commissioner Attock Muhammad Zulqarnain said this during his surprise visit to Basic Health Unit Ghourghushti and Rural Health Center Rangoo. He checked the attendance of the staff and visited different portions of the health centers. DC also checked the availability of medicines and distribution of medicines record.

He emphasized upon the staff to serve the ailing humanity with professionalism in a better environment. The DC was briefed about different facilities being provided at both the health centers. Deputy Commissioner said that concerned authorities will be approached to overcome shortage of medical and paramedical staff and directed AC Hazro to take necessary action in this context.

Meanwhile, DC Attock presided over a meeting held in connection with 75th Independence Day celebrations. He said that diamond jubilee celebrations will be held with full zeal and zest.

## Sindh govt working to bring reforms in police dept: CM

SANGHAR: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Wednesday said that the Sindh government was working to bring more reforms in the provincial police department. He was special guest at the 172nd passing out parade of Shahdadpur Police Training College in which 561 youth including 27 women received Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) training. The chief minister said that police grades were upgraded and the upgradation of CTD special branch grades had also been ensured. Murad said that he felt immense pleasure to attend the parade. He congratulated the young officers on completion of their training and receiving outstanding marks and hoped that the youth would fulfill their assigned responsibilities for ensuring law and order, and protection of life and property of people. The chief minister said that the officers were appointed on merit, and the successful completion of their training marked the beginning of their career. Sindh was the land of saints, who always taught lessons of peace, where people of all ethnicities lived, he said. Murad said that in 1980 unrest started in the province as the situation in Karachi worsened, but the situation had improved with the role of the police and rangers who sacrificed their lives to establish peace in Karachi, which was termed 7th most dangerous city in the world. The recruitment in police and other departments should be done on merit, and the young recruits in police should undergo joint training with the army in order to bring further improvement in police performance, the chief minister said. APP

## Impact of Rains

QUETTA: Residents of Aghbarg area busy is preparing their clay houses due to damage monsoon rains in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

# MOL Pakistan's free MHU facilitates over 5,000 patients

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: MOL Pakistan Oil and Gas Co. B.V. in partnership with the JV Consortium of TAL Block has successfully completed another spree of free medical camps around TAL Block which extend health facilities to more than five thousand residents of underprivileged districts of KP including Karak, Kohat and Hangu.

Under this spree, a large number of camps were organized during last eight months at different localities of TAL Block. A dedicated Mobile Health Unit (MHU) consisted of a team of specialist doctors and expert paramedics, after thorough medical checkups, provided free-of-cost medicines to the residents including male and female elders, adults, young, children, and citizens with special needs, who otherwise didn't have easy access to such facilities.

At the completion of this spree, a simple ceremony was held at the location where Thomas Quigley, CEO MOL Pakistan was the chief guest. Syed Fahad Iftikhar-AC Banda Daud Shah, Irfan Khattak-DSP Banda Daud Shah and other dignitaries were also present at the ceremony.

The chief guest Thomas Quigley, CEO MOL Pakistan at the ceremony, said, "As operator of Tal Block, MOL Pakistan is



committed to the social welfare of our local communities residing in our areas of operation. We have a long history of providing free medical camps and free eye camps in KP, and will continue to do so in the future."

Syed Fahad Iftikhar, AC Banda Daud Shah, at the ceremony said, "I am grateful to MOL Pakistan for regularly organizing free medical camps for the local communities in its areas of operations. These kind of initiatives reflects upon the commitment of the company towards the betterment of its communities."

In his message, Ali Murtaza Abbas, MOL Group Regional Vice President for Middle East, Africa & Pakistan, said, "MOL Group is a responsible corporate entity that prioritizes the health and

wellbeing of our local communities in Pakistan thanks to our corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives. These free medical camps are arranged at the request of our local communities and supplement the work of local administrations and the provincial government."

It is pertinent to mention here that MOL Pakistan has always looked forward to bringing positive change to the communities through its unique social welfare programs. The conduct of such camps is an example of this program, and many more are in the pipeline to facilitate the community. The local residents presented turban to the chief guest and appreciated the CSR initiatives done for the wellbeing of the community.

## Ali Chandiyoo releases his melodic new number 'Khwaab'

**Staff Reporter**

KARACHI: Ali Chandiyoo, an electrifying new addition to the pop and rap music industry of Pakistan, has recently released his enthralling new music video as the third installment of his musical journey. The music video, titled 'Khwaab' has been written and sung by Ali Chandiyoo in association with MusicStation Productions, and also features the lovely Anoushey Bilal, rising Pakistani model.

Khwaab, a lyrical masterpiece, is a melodic Punjabi number based on the idea of beautiful memories of love, held onto by endless dream sequences. Claiming to be 'a song for the ones in love', the lyrics of Khwaab express a state of intense affection that ultimately overtakes the lover's subconscious mind until his beloved becomes a part of his entire being, whether with eyes wide open or in deep slumber.

The song is a romantic ballad for the beloved, combined with exciting desi rap and a colorfully enigmatic music video.

Talking about the new release, Ali Chandiyoo stated, "Dreams are the perfect reflection of our innermost thoughts and feelings that are often hidden away from the rest of the world. 'Khwaab' is an expression of the ultimate love for your partner that enables them to consume your dreams."

"Music is the perfect love language and I am excited about introducing this new single to our audiences! Also kudos to the teamwork that went behind the music video production and I am deeply thankful to everyone who played a part in it," he added.

The music video of Khwaab has been directed by Imram Sheraz and Faraz Hassan, while its audio production is done by Zaid Khan. It is being distributed nationwide by Silent Roar Productions.

# ACCA, MANTAQ sign MOU

ISLAMABAD: ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) and MANTAQ Centre for Research have entered an MOU that focuses on building capacity of lawmakers in legislative drafting and research related to finance.

As part of MANTAQ's legislative drafting and research programme 'TADVEEN', both the organisations will collaborate to offer formal mentorship and training to policymakers and researchers to promote policy reforms and progressive regulations that drive good public financial management, enable effective implementation of UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and increase Pakistan's global competitiveness.

Speaking at the MOU signing ceremony held at the National Assembly building in Islamabad, ACCA's head of Pakistan, Assad Hameed Khan, said, "We've built partnerships throughout our history—they're central to our ability to deliver on our mission of upholding the public trust and adding value to the society. We're very happy to be partnering with MANTAQ and play our part in supporting their mission of building capacity of policymakers to enable future-focused policy reforms that drive positive economic change."

Tahir Hussain, Secretary National Assembly, commented, "The legislature translates the aspirations of the nation into law and so projects like TADVEEN are instrumental as they connect qualified finance professionals with legislators."

# Carrefour makes going back to school fun for family

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Carrefour, owned and operated by Majid al Futtaim in Pakistan, has introduced exciting 'Back to School' offers and entertainment throughout July to delight families as they prepare for the start of the new school year in August.

Carrefour has arranged multiple in-store activities to entertain its young customers during their 'Back to School' shopping sprees with musical chairs, singing competitions and goody bags going as a token prize to all activity winners. Children of any age can participate in Carrefour's fun, interactive experiences whilst parents shop to keep spirits high during the remaining days of the summer break.

The campaign will run until July 28 at all ten Carrefour stores across Pakistan, making it more convenient for parents to find all the necessary school supplies under one roof. A wide range of school supplies will be on offer including stationery, school bags, lunch boxes, water bottles and more to extend maximum convenience and choice for the customers.



Umer Lodhi, Country Manager of Carrefour Pakistan at Majid Al Futtaim Retail, said: "We look forward to welcoming our young customers and their parents with special decorations, games and prizes to make their shopping experience unforgettable. We are excited to bring a wide range of school products for our customers to make going back to school easier and more fun for the whole family."









