



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ  
مجھ سے زیادہ میں ایسے ہی نہیں کیا کہہ سکتا ہوں  
بشمیلے بریائی کیا کہہ سکتا ہوں کہ وہاں (جہان برائی) میں  
و حشر) نے خبر دی، اے میں سید بن حشر نے  
اور ان سے ان تمام اس رضی اللہ عنہما نے کہا کہ  
وہاں کتابی تو ہیں جنہوں نے آج ہی کتاب  
کو گزرتے گزرتے کر ڈالا، بعض باتوں پر ایمان  
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(تفسیر: حدیث نمبر 3945)

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**'Serious negotiations' can only be held with PM Shehbaz Sharif, says Rana Sanullah**  
Interior Minister Rana Sanullah said on Friday that "serious negotiation" can only be held with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The interior minister's statement came after the PTI chairman made an offer of holding political dialogue and constituted a seven-member "negotiation committee". (Details on Page 8)



**OGRA determines 50pc hike in natural gas prices**  
The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) on Friday determined up to 50 percent increase in the prescribed prices of natural gas for the fiscal year 2023-24 to meet revenue requirements of the two gas utilities — SNGPL and SSGC. According to a notification, the regulatory authority determined the revenue requirements of Sui gas companies for fiscal year 2023-24, increasing the average per MMBTU price for SNGPL and SSGC by 50% and 45% respectively.

## Meeting



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on PSDP proposals for 2023-24 on Friday.

# PM directs for preparing export-oriented development budget 2023-24

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday issued clear directions to include on priority, such projects in the upcoming development budget that help in ensuring import substitutions, expanding export volume, and bringing innovation in various sectors. The prime minister also directed to allocate special funds in the development programme for the welfare and development of the country's youth.

projects relating to higher education, professional training and job creation for the youth must be added in the programme. He also asked for the establishment of Pakistan Endowment Fund to provide higher education to the youth. The laptop programme should also be included in the upcoming PSDP to distribute free laptops among the top performing students to equip them with the modern technology skills, he added. He said through the endowment fund, the youth should be given professional and higher education besides skilled based training in IT sector. The prime minister also stressed the need to give special

importance to merit and transparency while providing scholarships and education to the youth. PM Shehbaz directed to continue the projects initiated under the Kissan Package while renewable energy projects should also be made part of the development budget. The prime minister also directed to allocate special funds in the upcoming budget for projects to bring innovation in the energy sector. He said all the slow moving ongoing projects under the PSDP that had lost their importance should be removed from the development budget. All stakeholders of the relevant sectors and the allied parties should be consulted before

including any development project in the budget and their proposals should also be considered, the prime minister directed. Earlier the meeting was briefed in detail about the proposals for adding new projects in the upcoming fiscal year and progress on the ongoing projects. It was informed that as per the direction of the prime minister, projects related to the agriculture sector, renewable energy, higher education for youth, professional training and job raising schemes would be important part of the development budget. The meeting was further told that the IT sector development and export boosting projects would also be part of the development budget.

Shehbaz Sharif was informed that the Prime Minister Kissan Package and Youth Empowerment Programme that were included in the budget 2022-23 were yielding fruits now as over 60,000 youth were being provided internship in various government development projects whereas the production of wheat broke the 10-year record this year. The meeting was attended by federal ministers Ishaq Dar, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Ahsan Iqbal, Rana Sanullah, Rana Tanvir Hussain, Advisor Ahad Khan Cheema, Special Assistants to Prime Minister Malik Ahmad Khan, Ataullah Tarrar, Jehanzeb Khan and other relevant officials.

## Xi's special envoy to attend President Erdogan's inauguration in Ankara



### Spokesman Report

BELJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping's special envoy, Ding Zhongli will attend President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's inauguration ceremony in Ankara on June 3, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Mao Ning said on Friday. Addressing a regular briefing held here, she said that Ding Zhongli, also Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) would participate in the ceremony at the invitation of the government of the Republic of Turkey. Erdogan, the 69-year-old head of the Islamist-rooted AK Party, won re-election with 52.1 percent of the vote and challenger Kemal Kilicdaroglu had 47.9 percent, Reuters reported.

## Govt approves Rs 1,100 bln development budget for next fiscal year: Ahsan Iqbal

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday said the government had approved Rs 1,100 billion development budget for the upcoming fiscal year aimed at achieving the required goals of economic growth. Addressing a news conference here, he said out of the total budget, Rs 950 billion would be utilized under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP 2023-24) and Rs 150 billion under the public-private partnership to execute different development schemes. Initially, he said, the Finance Ministry had proposed Rs 700 billion for the PSDP 2023-24 which were extremely insufficient. "So we made a written request to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to increase the amount of development budget to achieve the economic growth, and the PM has approved Rs 1,100 billion development budget." In 2018, the minister said, he had presented a development budget of Rs 1,000 billion, and when the incumbent



government came into power last year its size came down to Rs 550 billion. "Now after a period of five years there will be a development budget of Rs 1,100 billion, which reflects our priority for the national development." Today, he said, the country was facing economic difficulties all because of the failed policies of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, which during its last year allowed \$ 84 billion import of luxury items and obliged friends for showing artificial growth, but the trade deficit mounted to \$ 50 billion. "It was the turning point that pushed the country into the severe economic crisis that has eaten away all the foreign exchange reserves," he added.

## Pakistan rejects int'l media reports about 'mistreatment of May 9 culprits'

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday rejected the international media reports about human rights violations with regard to the arrests of miscreants involved in the May 9 violence, wherein military installations including Jinnah House in Lahore came under attack. In a statement, Federal Minister for Human Rights Riaz Hussain Pirzada said that like every civilized country in the world, action against the May 9 culprits was a legal requirement and also a matter of national security for Pakistan. He said that on May 9, the "PTI [Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf] goons attacked national and private properties, sensitive military installations and state symbols; set ambulances on fire after unloading patients, and burnt schools, hospitals and memorials of the martyrs." "For the desecration of the monuments and burning of the Jinnah House, and Radio Pakistan and its rare historical heritage, these goons are under investigation and will be punished according to the law of land," he stated. The minister said such a crime was unpardonable not only in Pakistan but across the globe, citing the elements involved in the attacks on Capitol Hill in the United States and the London riots were punished which was not termed human rights violations by the Western media.

## Justice Isa refutes reports of grouping in Supreme Court



### Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court senior justice judge Justice Qazi Faez Isa on Friday said factually incorrect news should not be propagated after it was claimed that he had made a group within the apex court. His statement comes after netizens started claiming that he had ignored CJP Bandial at the newly-appointed Federal Shariat Court chief justice Iqbal Hameedur Rehman's oath-taking ceremony after a video surfaced on the social media. Justice Isa said he had not formed a faction inside the top court, adding that he had been a victim of fabricated stories in the past. "Erroneous interpretations came forward on the media, and false news should not be spread as they caused unnecessary misunderstandings," he added. He went on to say that he met CJP Bandial and greeted him. "I congratulated Justice Rehman with him," he added. An impression was given that he ignored the CJP. He was obliged to his post, he said, to safeguard and defend the constitution, adding that he could not endorse anything in contrast to his oath. "Creating a controversial narrative by torturing facts is damaging for the institution," he added. Both the judges reportedly had a pleasant exchange on the occasion. CJP Bandial said, "May Allah bless the institution of judiciary and all other institutions too." The plantation drive also saw the participation of other SC judges including Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Athar Minallah.

## Parvez Elahi arrested again despite getting bail in graft case



### Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) rearrested PTI President Parvez Elahi from outside a Lahore court moments after he got discharged in the graft case, sources said on Friday. Sources said the anti-corruption watchdog would shift the PTI leader to Gujranwala directorate as he had been wanted in another case lodged in the city. Meanwhile, ACE Director General Suhail Zafar Chatha said the department would move the court against the verdict announced by the Lahore court. "The verdict has been announced in contrast to the merit," he added. Earlier, the court had ordered the release of the PTI leader if he had not been wanted in any other case. Judicial magistrate Ghulam Murtaza Virk announced the verdict which was reserved earlier. Mr Elahi was brought to court in an armoured vehicle amid tight security while his family members, including son Rasikh Elahi, were present in the court. The anti-corruption team has sought 14-day physical remand of the senior politician in order to interrogate him in the case. The judge announced the decision after hearing arguments from both sides.

## Zardari, Shujaat discuss political situation

### Bureau Report

LAHORE: Former president Asif Ali Zardari and Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) supreme Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain discussed the country's political situation on Friday. Mr Zardari called on Mr Hussain, during which both the leaders underscored the matters in line with the country. The former president inquired about Mr Hussain's health. During the meeting, Chaudhry Salik Hussain, Chaudhry Shafay Hussain, Chaudhry Sarwar, and PML-Q Sindh President Tariq Hasan were also present. On Wednesday, the PML-Q proposed to convene an All Parties Conference (APC).



## Moot

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a meeting with a delegation of All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajiran headed by Mr. Mohammad Naem Mir at FBR (HQs) on Friday.



Photo: Online

## Mariyum, German Ambassador agree on bilateral cooperation in film, art, culture

Tooba Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Germany have agreed on bilateral cooperation in the fields of film, art and culture.

The agreement was reached in a meeting of German Ambassador to Pakistan Alfred Grannas with Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb, said a press release issued here on Friday.

During the meeting, a discussion was also held on a proposal for cooperation with the University of Babelsberg and the University of Television and Film Munich.

Mariyum Aurangzeb apprised the German Ambassador about the Film and Culture Policy of the Govern-



ment of Pakistan and the incentives given under the policy.

She said that the government was desirous of showing the beauty, culture and civilization of Pakistan to the whole world through screen tourism. Foreign filmmakers should benefit from special conces-

sions given for filmmaking in Pakistan, she said.

The minister sought support from German institutions for technical training in film, art, and culture for Pakistani students.

"Film, art and culture can be promoted by cooperation

between German and Pakistani private educational institutions," she said. The minister appreciated the services of German NGOs GIZ and Hans Seidel Foundation in Pakistan.

She also expressed her gratitude for the German assistance of 18.4 million Euros to the flood victims in Pakistan.

Germany's promise to provide 84 million euros in aid to the International Conference on Climate Change was another proof of Germany's friendship with Pakistan, the minister maintained.

The volume of bilateral trade is 4 billion dollars which needs to be increased, said the minister.

She opined and Allama Iqbal and Goethe were common assets between the two coun-

tries and with the establishment of Iqbal-Goethe Art and Culture Center in Berlin, the people of the two countries will come closer to each other.

She appreciated the German media for reporting the situation in Pakistan in an objective and impartial manner which was commendable.

A delegation of the German Journalists Association was expected to visit Pakistan next month, the minister told the German Ambassador.

In the meeting, matters of mutual interests and increasing bilateral cooperation were discussed.

The German Ambassador appreciated the efforts of the Information Minister for the promotion of film and culture.

## PRCS Chairman visits NDMA, briefs about relief activities

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari held a meeting with Chairman National Disaster Management Authority Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik wherein the two discussed areas of mutual cooperation and collaboration.

In the meeting, the similarities between the two institutions were discussed, emphasizing their shared goal of serving humanity without any bias or discrimination. Both organizations agreed to boost mutual cooperation and efforts regard-

ing preparedness, mitigation, risk reduction and relief and rehabilitation in the wake of any calamity or disasters.

Chairman NDMA Lt. Gen Inam Haider Malik said that PRCS has been providing outstanding services to the victims of natural disasters, tragedies, and accidents and NDMA would fully support the rehabilitation of flood victims and the reconstruction of infrastructure.

On this occasion, Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari highlighted the initiatives undertaken by the PRCS, such as Disaster Management, First Aid, Climate Change Adapta-



tion, as well as projects like the Road Safety, Mobile Health facilities, provision of clean drinking water, promotion of voluntary spirit, and Cash Transfer Program.

Chairman NDMA suggest-

ing conducting gap analysis, developing a scientific database mechanism, and implementing a geotag mechanism.

Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik emphasized the need for increased cooperation between the NDMA and PRCS to provide maximum support to flood victims during the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase. He acknowledged the tradition of both organizations in supporting the nation during difficult times and praised the PRCS for its commendable efforts in providing relief goods and rations to flood victims during Ramadan.

Security forces killed two terrorists in an exchange of fire in Doshi general area

Adam Khan Wazir

NORTH WAZIRISTAN: According to the ISPR on 01 June 2023, fire exchange took place between terrorists and security forces in general area Dossali, North Waziristan District.

Own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location and sealed all possible escape routes. During the ensuing fire exchange, two terrorists were sent to hell.

Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed terrorists who remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces and killing of innocent citizens.

## Pakistan to kick off barter trade with Iran, Russia and Afghanistan

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The federal government on Friday notified a 'Business-to-Business (B2B) Barter Trade Mechanism' for trade with Iran, Afghanistan, and Russia, ARY News reported.

In this connection, a notification was also issued by the Ministry of Commerce, allowing state-owned enterprises and private sector entities to engage both in the import and export of goods.

The development comes two months after the federal Cabinet approved a policy to promote barter trade for increasing Pakistan's regional trade.

"Application for authoriza-

tion of import and export of goods under the B2B barter trade facility shall be submitted online by the trader or their authorized agent through the online system to the regulatory collector," the notification said.

The trade of goods under a B2B Barter Trade arrangement will be allowed on the principle of "import followed by export" and export would meet the value of imported goods.

The ministry has identified some 26 goods that can be exported to Afghanistan, Iran and Russia including milk, cream, eggs and cereal, meat and fish products, fruits and vegetables, rice, salt, pharmaceutical products, finished leath-

er and leather apparel, footwear, steel, and sports goods.

The government has notified the products to be imported from Afghanistan, which include fruits and nuts, vegetables and pulses, spices, minerals and metals, coal and its products, raw rubber items, raw hides and skins, cotton, and iron and steel.

From Iran, Pakistani importers are allowed to import fruits, nuts, vegetables, spices, minerals and metals, coal and related products, petroleum crude oil, LNG and LPG, chemical products, fertilizers, article of plastics and rubber, raw hides and skins, raw wool and articles of iron and steel.

Three PTI leaders served call-up notices in corruption cases

Bureau Report

FAISALABAD: Three Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders have been served call-up notices by the Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) in corruption cases.

The ACE Punjab issued call-up notices to three PTI leaders including former provincial minister Khayal Castro, former Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) vice chairman Sheikh Shahid and market committee chairman Abrar Rasheed Dhillon.

The ACE sought records from the WASA MD regarding the contracts signed during the ex-vice chairman Sheikh Shahid's tenure. Moreover, records related to transfers and postings in WASA during Shahid's tenure were also sought.

## 'Serious negotiations' can only be held with PM Shehbaz Sharif, says Rana Sanaullah

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said on Friday that "serious negotiation" can only be held with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The interior minister's statement came after the PTI chairman made an offer of holding political dialogue and constituted a seven-member "negotiation committee".

Meanwhile, Sanaullah, in an interview with a foreign media outlet yesterday, urged Imran Khan to call Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif directly and engage in productive discussion instead of focusing on forming committees if he truly desired dialogue.

"Imran Khan is still not prepared

to talk to politicians and is only creating committees. If he really wants negotiations, he should call the prime minister and sit down for a conversation," Sanaullah said during an interview.

He went on to say that during the attack on Jinnah House, the miscreants took away laptops and other important items containing sensitive information.

The interior minister rejected holding dialogues with PTI and said that negotiations are always held with politicians but not those who promote violence. He added that Imran Khan made fake cases to pronounce death penalties on his political opponents during his government.

## PM leaves for Turkiye to attend Erdogan's inauguration



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday departed here for Turkiye on a two-day official visit to attend the inauguration of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday.

In the second round of elections held on May 28, Erdogan received 52.14 percent of the votes, beating his challenger, Kemal Kilicdaroglu, who won 47.86 percent.

"Leaving for Turkiye today at the invitation of my brother, H.E. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, to attend his inauguration ceremony. I will convey our warmest greetings to the

President on behalf of the government and people of Pakistan on his re-election," Prime Minister Shehbaz wrote on Twitter before embarking for Ankara. At the airport, the Turkish Ambassador in Islamabad Dr Mehmet Paçacı saw off the prime minister.

In his tweet, the prime minister said the fraternal ties between Pakistan and Turkiye were set to deepen further in line with their shared resolve and common destiny.

He said the upcoming 7th Meeting of the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council in Islamabad would provide the right avenue to take the momentum of our strategic partnership forward.

## Former Punjab CM Usman Buzdar quits politics

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Former Punjab chief minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Usman Buzdar on Friday announced that he is quitting politics in the aftermath of the May 9 events.

Addressing a press conference, the PTI leader condemned May 9 events and asserted that he was and will always stand with the Pakistan Army.

Usman Buzdar called on all stakeholders to set aside their egos, exit their parties and reach a consensus. He also asked the authorities to release all those who were innocent from jail.

"I request all stakeholders to exit their parties and think for the better future of Pakistan," said Buzdar said in a press conference.

It is pertinent to mention here that several PTI leaders and lawmakers — including Fawad Chaudhry, Shireen Mazari, Imran Ismail, Ali Zaidi, Aamir Mehmood Kiani, Malik Amin Aslam, Mahmood Moulvi,



Aftab Siddiqui, Fayyazul Hassan Chohan among others — have left the former ruling party following the May 9 vandalism.

In a similar political happening last night, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa president and former chief minister resigned from party positions.

Addressing a presser, PTI leader said that he had already condemned the attacks on military instalments on May 9 after the arrest of former prime minister Imran Khan.

Pervez Khattak said that he will decide on his future plans after consultation with colleagues. "What happened on May 9 was not good for the country and it should not be repeated," he said.

Another group of Pakistani pilgrims welcomed in Makkah

News Desk

MAKKAH MUKARMA: Durat ul Mashair hotel in Makkah extended a warm welcome to yet another group of over 330 Pakistani pilgrims, who were greeted with the captivating display of traditional Arabic culture accompanied by the mesmerising beats of the daff.

Director Hajj Faheem Khan Afridi, along with Director Moavineen e Hujjaj Sajjad Yildirim and other esteemed officials, orchestrated a memorable reception, immersing the pilgrims in the vibrant ambience of Arabic culture through an enchanting display of Arabic culture.

Jibran Nasir returns home, confirms family

News Desk

KARACHI: Prominent lawyer and activist Jibran Nasir returned home after almost a day-long "absence", said police on Friday night.

Police said his family confirmed his return, adding that a team of police would call on Mr Nasir shortly. "They will get information on where he had been taken [after absence]," police added. Talking to Twitter, he wrote, "I am back safe owing to prayers and efforts of friends and colleagues especially journalists, lawyers and bar councils, civil society, and politicians. The struggle that kept you stand by me will continue."

# Pak government arrange the safe return of Aafia Siddiqui: Dr Safdar Hashmi

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Jamaat-e-Islami protested in Multan on the appeal of Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Siraj-ul-Haq for the release of Dr. Aafia Siddiqui. Dr. Aafia's crime is love for Islam and Pakistan.

Today, her six-month-old child is missing, she herself is imprisoned in the American jail. Senator Mushtaq Ahmed's efforts for her release are commendable. Because of Mushtaq Ahmed Khan, Fauzia Siddiqui has met her sister after twenty years in American Jail. These views were expressed by Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Multan Dr.



Safdar Hashmi in his address at the protest demonstration in Multan. He further said that the black night

of oppression is about to end. The Pakistani government should arrange the return of Aafia Siddiqui to

solve this problem. It has become clear from Mushtaq Ahmed Khan's statement that Pakistan government has to play its role for her release.

A large number of workers of Jamaat-e-Islami, Jamiat-e-Talabe-Islami and Jamiat-e-Talabe Arabia participated in the demonstration. Addressing the demonstration, Nazim Islami Jamiat Talaba Multan Abuzar Ghafari said that Dr. Aafia is the honor of Pakistan and we will not remain silent until she returns to Pakistan.

The protestors also raised slogans of America's friend, is a traitor, also chant slogans of release Aafia.

# Ethiopia appreciated the efforts of President ICCI for improving relations between two countries

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Ethiopia has appreciated the efforts of President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce for improving relations between the two countries and for starting direct flight operations. Ambassador of Ethiopia to Pakistan Jamal Baker Abdullah presented the shield of honor on behalf of his government during his visit to Islamabad Chamber yesterday. On this occasion, the Ambassador of Ethiopia said that his government appreciates the efforts of President Islamabad Chamber.

President Islamabad Chamber has rendered valuable services for the strengthening of relations between Pakistan and Ethiopia and especially for the improvement of trade relations. This year, the delegation's visit to Ethiopia under the leadership of



President Islamabad Chamber laid the foundation for efforts to take the relations between the two countries to new heights. He said that steps are being taken by both sides to further improve trade relations between Pakistan and Ethiopia.

Speaking on this occasion, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that I am deeply grateful to the Ethiopian government, and ambassador for acknowledging our efforts to improve the relations between the two coun-

tries. In fact, it is an honor for the entire Islamabad Chamber and the business community that our efforts have been recognized at the government level. He said that Ethiopia is very important for Pakistan in Africa. In the last one year, due to the efforts of Islamabad Chamber, the relations between the two countries and the interest of the business community in each other have increased enormously.

On this occasion, the Ethiopian Ambassador acknowledged United Business Group Pakistan Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari for his valuable services for the improvement of Pakistan-Ethiopia relations. On this occasion, Zafar Bakhtawari said that Ethiopia is the most important country in Africa with one and a half billion population. Ethiopian Airlines direct flights will give Pakistan access to the whole Africa.

# Sardar Attique chaired A high level meeting on political situation of Azad Kashmir

Abdul Majeed Tahir

GHAZIABAD: All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference President and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan to Mujahid Awal House in Ghaziabad, Muslim League-Nawaz Azad Kashmir President Shah Ghulam Qadir, Senior Vice President Raja Mushtaq Ahmad Minhas and former Assembly candidate Raja Ifkhar Ayub at Mujahid Awal House.

A detailed meeting and consultation was held



regarding the political situation of Azad Kashmir, the latest situation of Occupied Kashmir, and the by-election of Central Bagh constituency. President Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan asked for time

for the future action plan. This meeting will be of great importance for the election of Central Bagh Constituency. After the meeting, Shah Ghulam Qadir visited the Mazar of Mujahid e Awal late Sardar Muham-

mad Abdul Qayyum Khan. Major Sardar Nasrullah Khan, Raja Muhammad Munir Khan, Sardar Abdul Wahid Khan, Raja Tabarak Ali Khan and others were also present on the occasion.

# District Admin started crackdown against curb high street vendors and hoarding: Umar Jahangir

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir has said that the district administration has started a crackdown across the district to curb high street vendors and hoarding. They are imposing heavy fines by inspecting and ensuring the implementation of official rates. The Deputy Commissioner said that in the month of May, 23 cases were registered against the wholesalers and 12 accused were arrested while a fine of more than 12 lakhs was imposed. He issued orders that all shopkeepers should be required to display the rates of government rates and heavy fines would be levied for violation.

# Flour getting expensive, size of roti shrinking

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt said on Wednesday that flour is getting more expensive across the country while the size of roti sold in ovens and hotels is getting smaller.

If the private sector is allowed to import cheap wheat, it will reduce the price of flour in the market, providing relief to the masses facing merciless inflation, he said. Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a state-

ment issued here today that food items are up to 70 percent cheaper in India and imports from neighbouring country can substantially reduce food inflation and provide relief to the people.

He said that imports from India should be allowed, and the ban should be imposed again when inflation is controlled in the country.

He demanded that the government should import food from India to overcome the food security problem and end all taxes until the country's agricultural production situation improves and

returns to normalcy.

The business leader said that since the Russian attack on Ukraine, European and other countries have been imposing sanctions on Russia, providing financial support and military hardware to Ukraine, but at the same time, they are also doing business with Russia.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that due to record inflation in the country, millions of people have given up one meal and put other important issues like health and education on the back burner.

The prices of food items are increas-

ing, but instead of giving any relief to the people, the rulers remain stubborn, which is unfortunate, he observed.

In the last ten months, the government has spent one billion dollars on the import of wheat and 818 million dollars on the import of pulses, but the price of these items could not be reduced in the market because the mafia is controlling the whole system.

He said that if the private sector is allowed to import at least one million tonnes of wheat from Ukraine, its price can be reduced on the open market.

# UAJK fosters entrepreneurship with Apiculture Training Workshop

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The Office of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization (ORIC) and the Department of Zoology at the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) joined hands to organize a two-day Apiculture Training workshop, which concluded on Friday (today). This workshop aimed to equip participants with the necessary theoretical and practical knowledge of mug making, offering



them a potential occupation that fosters self-sufficiency.

Renowned apiculture expert, Raja Shakeel Ahmed, graced the event with his presence and shared his extensive experience with the eager participants. Emphasizing the importance of adopting apiculture, Ahmed highlighted its potential to not only reduce unemployment in the country but also significantly increase honey production. Participants were enthralled by his expertise and gained valuable insights into the various aspects of apiculture under

his guidance.

The Chairperson of the Department of Zoology, Prof. Dr. Nuzah Shafi, the Director of ORIC, Prof. Dr. Abdul Rauf Janjua, and the Director of Finance, Dr. Bilal Ahmed Abbasi, attended the event and delivered motivational speeches. They encouraged participants to apply the skills they acquired during the training to generate their own revenue, emphasizing the importance of personal growth and financial stability.

# Malik Ibrar demanded increase the education budget in the upcoming budget 2023

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: All Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association Central President Malik Ibrar Hussain has demanded a substantial increase in the education budget in the upcoming budget 2023-24. And he said that the private education sector should also be facilitated in the budget, where more than 65% of the children are under education.

In his statement issued here yesterday, Malik Ibrar Hussain said that every year the budget is presented in the month of June, in which the important sector like education is always neglected. It is important that the government increases the education budget significantly this time.

He said that in these situations, the government should bring the private education sector together and support them to bring out-of-school children to school. Currently, 65% of children are studying only in the private sector. But the entire budget is spent only for the children of government educational institutions, there is no science lab or other facilities in the private sector, which is creating discrimination in the nation.



# Complete Project of Nadirabad Flyover will be completed by 30 June 2024

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Aamir Khattak has ordered the early completion of development projects and said that the construction of Nadirabad flyover should be accelerated. The Punjab government has released funds for several projects in view of public convenience. Transparency should be made a standard in the completion of projects. On this occasion, XEN Highways Ghulam Nabi, while briefing Commissioner Aamir Khattak about the projects, said that more than 3 billion Work on Nadirabad flyover is progressing rapidly.

The process of land acquisition of phase 1 is going on at a cost of one and a half billion rupees. The work of the first bridge has been allotted in Phase 1. The first phase will cost Rs 1 billion and will be completed by August 31. After this, the process of land purchase for phase two will be started. The complete project of Nadirabad flyover will be completed by 30 June 2024.



# Good governance the hallmark of our government: says Chaudhry Anwar Haq

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Parliamentary party meeting of the members of like-minded group was held here today with Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq in chair. The group, comprising of 19 members, expressed its full confidence in the leadership of the Prime Minister. The participants of the meeting were unanimous on the issue of the expansion of the cabinet and increasing number of ministers. Addressing the meeting, Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar Haq said that good governance was the hallmark of our government.

He said that timely completion of the ongoing development projects and resolving the problems being faced by the ordinary citizens at their doorsteps were his government's top most priorities.

The government is keen to improve education and health sectors", the PM said, adding that concrete steps would be taken to ensure quality education in schools, colleges and universities. "Funds will be allocated to ensure quality treatment facilities to people in all state owned health care facilities at district and Tehsil level", he said.

# Sajida Fayaz passed away after a short illness

Sohail Anjum Malik

ISLAMABAD: Every living thing has tasted the bitter taste of life and death. Among the creatures created by Allah, how many people are there who have made their name in charitable works by following the path given by the Lord of the Universe for the welfare of God's creation. They say that even after the soul is gone, her name lives on, such a brave, fearless and pioneer of women's rights. Wife of late former Member Punjab Assembly Haji Muhammad Afzal Malik-Mother of Muhammad Faisal alias Batu, former Chief Councilor Azarar Afzal Malik, maternal grandmother of Birmingham entrepreneur Fawad Afzal Ms. Sajida Fayyaz met Khaliq Haqiqi after a short illness.

# Ethad Group organizes a Grand 2nd Balloting & Early Possession Event

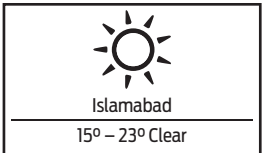
LAHORE: The Ethad Group recently organized a 2nd Balloting and Early Possession Event for its Ethad Town Phase 2 project (Technically Approved as Arcos Housing Scheme), one of the most prestigious real estate developments in the region. The event took place on Saturday (May 27), and provided an unforgettable evening filled with excitement, esteemed guests, and captivating performances.

The first balloting process took place in March 2023 and the recent event was a fulfillment of the Ethad Group's belief in making dreams a reality by delivering the Ethad Town Phase 2 project, and conducting the balloting and possession process, within the predetermined timeline. Managing Director & Main Sponsor Chaudhry Munir, Group Directors & Sponsors Raheel Munir, Sohail Munir and Faisal Munir acknowledged the efforts of Ethad's management for pulling off a flawless event. Hosted by the charismatic and renowned actor, Vasay Chaudhry, the event commenced with inspiring speeches from distinguished stakeholders of the group. Project Sponsors of Ethad Town

Phase 2, Faisal Khokhar & Nabeel Khokhar, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Chaudhry Muhammad Shakil, Chief Operating Officer (COO) Sheikh ShujaUllah Khan, Head of Project Sales Asim Bhatti, Head of Development Taimur Khan and other Ethad Group's Management team graced the event with their presence. Their valuable insights provided attendees with an in-depth understanding of the project's vision, progress, and prospects.

Following the speeches of the above-mentioned dignitaries, guests were treated to a sumptuous dinner, and the evening culminated in a mesmerizing musical performance by the talented singer, Falak Shabir. Project Sponsor Faisal Khokhar stated that the event was an exclusive opportunity for investors, buyers, and stakeholders to witness the remarkable progress of the exceptional Ethad Town Phase 2 project. In addition,

On the occasion, COO Sheikh ShujaUllah Khan expressed his hope that the event served as a testament to the commitment and dedication of the Ethad Group in delivering a world-class development that exceeds expectations.



**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**  
 Fajr ..... 3:17 am  
 Zohr ..... 12:06 pm  
 Asr ..... 5:04 pm  
 Maghrib ..... 7:13 pm  
 Isha ..... 8:55 pm

**EMERGENCY**

Rescue (Police) ..... 15  
 Bomb Disposal ..... 15  
 Fire Services Rawalpindi/  
 Islamabad ..... 1122 & 16  
 Emergency Ambulance ..... 1122 &  
 & Rescue Services ..... 4451122  
 Motorway Police ..... 9266044  
 Motorway Police ..... 9270601-20

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad ..... 9222596  
 Rawalpindi ..... 9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

Edhi Ambulance ..... 115  
 PIA Flight Info ..... 114  
 PIA Cargo ..... 9280979  
 Railway Inquiry ..... 117  
 Railway Exchange ..... 9270831-5  
 WASA Rawalpindi ..... 5555489  
 CAA ..... 9281092

**HOSPITALS**

CMH ..... 561111  
 MH ..... 561116  
 MH ..... 561116  
 Cantt Hospital ..... 9270907-11  
 DHQ ..... 5556311-4  
 RGH ..... 9290301-7  
 Holy Family ..... 9290322-7  
 PIMS ..... 9261170-79  
 Polyclinic ..... 9218300-09  
 Shifa International ..... 4603666

**DEPARTMENTS**

CDA ..... 9221334-43  
 CDA ..... 9208301-04  
 Met Office ..... 9250360-6  
 RDA ..... 5555864  
 TMA ..... 5770886  
 Cantonment Board ..... 9270151-3  
 Islamabad Metropolitan  
 Corporation ..... 9209224  
 Potohar Town ..... 9209224  
 Rawal Town ..... 5773343

**COMPLAINTS**

Water Tanker Service  
 E-7, F-10 & F-11 ..... 9204654  
 G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 ..... 9203883  
 G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..... 9266316  
 Wapda Islamabad ..... 9217579-80  
 Sui Gas Complaint ..... 119, 9272249  
 Wasa Water Tank  
 Rawalpindi ..... 0331-5022125

# Workers are the backbone of country's economy: says Turi

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Minister for Overseas Pakistani & Human Resource Development Sajid Turi chaired the "Performance Review Meeting of WWF" on 1st of June, 2023. Workers Welfare Fund officials attended the meeting. Turi emphasised on expediting the development projects currently in the pipeline spread all over Pakistan.

"Waseem Warraich Director other welfare informed that the Management of WWF is focusing on Workers Welfare activities especially with reference to scholarships, death & marriage grants besides creation of better facilities for workers facilitation in terms of their living and access to basic facilities of life," he directed.

The Minister was of the view that the time was ripe Workers Welfare Fund

emphasised on projecting the major accomplishments made for ease of workers by Workers Welfare Fund through better use of both electronic and print media. The Minister was of the view that performance review of Workers Welfare Fund developmental projects, education and other welfare would be a regular feature so that improvement in these areas could be made for better facilitation of the workers.

## Hashoo Foundation Committed to Strengthen Academia-Industry Linkages



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: To foster academia-industry linkages and strengthen the concept of using knowledge as resource, Hashoo Foundation has signed an MoU with Iqra National University. Through this partnership both organizations will be working closely to benefit students, enhancing their professional skills and knowledge.

Ms. Ayesha Khan, Country Director, Hashoo Foundation and Prof. Dr. Shah Jahan, Vice Chancellor Iqra National University signed the agreement in the presence of senior officials from both organizations.

Ms. Ayesha Khan, Country Director Hashoo Foundation, said that we believe in the power of learning and using knowledge to produce actionable input for the betterment of individuals and communities. Hashoo Foundation has always impacted the lives of youth by providing them with opportunities of capacity building, career development, and education.

Prof. Dr. Shah Jahan, Vice Chancellor Iqra National University said that this partnership will help students in capacity building, hands-on trainings and capacity building. They will get to understand the trends and requirements of industry and upscale their skill set and knowledge. On the other hand Hashoo Foundation will get to benefit from the vibrant energies, commitment and contemporary knowledge of students.

## 'Role of FETPs in Disease Surveillance and Prevention / Control of Diseases' online session held at NIH

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan-Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP), National Institutes of Health (NIH) Islamabad in collaboration with Japan-FETP, organized a special online session on the "Role of FETPs in Disease Surveillance and Prevention / Control of Diseases".



This session was originally initiated with the good communication and collaboration between Pakistan Center for Disease Control (CDC) of NIH and Embassy of Japan in Islamabad during the challenging time of COVID-19.

The main aim of the session was to highlight the crucial role of Field Epidemiology Training Programs (FETPs) in disease surveillance, prevention, and control. As FETPs are designed to train public health professionals in the field of epidemiology and enabling them to support the development and enhancement of surveillance systems for timely detection and reporting of diseases.

Mr. Hitoshi Kikawada, a member of the House of Representatives of Japan and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, former State Minister of Cabinet office in charge of Policies against COVID-19, was the chief guest of the session. Fellows from the FETPs, health experts, partners also attended.

In his video message, Mr. Kikawada, stated that we have faced pandemic of COVID-19 for more than three years and have understood that infectious diseases have changed our economies and societies dramatically and overcoming infectious diseases has become one of the most important issue of the human beings. He also said that Japan has dealt with COVID-19 successfully. Japan has contributed in the universal healthcare with ODA for a long time and through these experiences, Japan can play more active role in medical areas in Asia. In this sense it is wonderful that Japan and Pakistan have been working in these medical areas, he mentioned.

During the session, representative from CDC Pakistan and Dr. Tomimasa Sunagawa, MD Director, Center of Field Epidemic Intelligence, Research and Professional Development, National Institute of Infectious Diseases in Japan gave lectures, focusing on disease outbreak investigation and the strengthening of the surveillance system for the timely detection and reporting of infections. They also emphasised the significance of tracking disease trends and implementing prompt interventions and preventative measures.

## Entrepreneur Program for Students



Report by Sultan Bashir

ISLAMABAD: A ceremony to launch the entrepreneurship program for students in collaboration with ICCI (Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry) was held at ICG, F-6/2 to create awareness among the students about entrepreneurship and career building.

The chief guest of the occasion was Mr. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad chamber of commerce and Industry.

Mr. Bakhtawari has been a student of ICG, F-6/2 as well during his early education.

Also present on the occasion was Director Model Colleges, Prof. Aftab Tariq.

The ceremony started with the recitation of the Holy Quran followed by a Naat. The ceremony was conducted by Ms. Anosha Khan from the English department.

The Principal ICG, F-6/2 Prof. Sabah Faisal presented a welcome address in which she highlighted the importance of entrepreneurship opportunities for students especially females. She thanked the chief guest to guide and enlighten the students about new ventures for employment.

The chief guest, Mr. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari addressed the students and expressed his pleasure to visit his alma mater and his wish to give something back to the institution that played a vital role in his success. He announced the establishment of a new computer lab for ICG F-6/2 in collaboration with Chamber of Commerce.

Entrepreneurship is the process of developing, organizing, and running a new business to generate income and bring a positive contribution towards society.

At the end, the vote of thanks was given by Director Colleges, Prof. Aftab Tariq, highlighting the importance of education and entrepreneurship.

As a token of appreciation, the chief guest was presented with the college crest and a bouquet of flowers by the principal. The ceremony ended with the National Anthem.

## Solidarity

ISLAMABAD: Activists of Civil Society are shouting slogans during Takreem-e-Shuhada-e-Pakistan rally at Jinnah Avenue to show solidarity with Pak Army.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

## Man killed brother, injured his wife over domestic dispute

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: A man has shot and dead his elder brother while injured his wife over domestic dispute in village Peersahai in Bhatar Police station remits in Fatehjang town of Attock on Friday.

Police while quoting the family members of the deceased has said Danyial has strained relation with his elder brother Shan over domestic issues as they live in the same house.

On Friday after brief exchange of hot words, Danyial has took out his pistol and shot his elder brother dead. As his wife come to save her husband, he also opened firing at her resultantly she was critically injured.

The accused managed to escape from the scene after bloodbath. Police registered a case against the nominated accused and launched further investigation.

## Completed the under construction Mother and Child Hospital in a Specified Time: Capt Saqib

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Capt.(Retd) Saqib Zafar has instructed to completed the under construction Mother and Child Hospital Bahawalnagar in a specified time and has termed it as a project of great public importance which is being completed at a cost of Rs. 6385 million . He has also directed to remove the obstacles in the construction of Bahalagar Medical College and to complete the rehabilitation work of highways from Chishtian to Haroonabad to Fort Abbas and from Bahalagar to Arifwala and from Manchanabad to Dhakpatan soon. Capt.(Retd) Saqib Zafar has said

Deputy Commissioner Bahawalnagar Zulfikar Ahmed Bhawan briefed the meeting. Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Capt.(Retd) Saqib Zafar said hundred percent utilization



of the funds released for the projects be ensured and action will be taken against officers who are negligent in timely completion of projects. He directed authorities to improve service delivery in health centers and government offices and asked the officers to monitor the process. Capt. (Retd) Saqib Zafar stress to emphasized on the success of the "Grow More Cotton" campaign and called it a national cause. He said success of this campaign will yield more cotton and in this way

will help to make the country economically prosperous.

Later, Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Capt. (Retd) Saqib Zafar inspected DHQ Hospital, under construction Mother and Child Hospital and Bahawalnagar Medical College along with Secretary Primary and Secondary Health Care Mehr Muhammad Hayat and Secretary Specialized Health Care South Punjab Afzal Nasir Khan and Deputy Commissioner. The Additional Chief Secretary reviewed the service

delivery process including the availability of medicines, sanitation situation in DHQ. He inquired after the health of patients under treatment and also asked about the facilities provided to them. The Additional Chief Secretary directed to improve the service delivery and cleanliness situation in the Hospital.

Speaking on this occasion, Capt.(Retd) Saqib Zafar said that development projects of Health Department of Bahawalnagar are being completed on priority basis and all available resources and manpower is being utilized to ensure round the clock provision of medical facilities to the public. No negligence will be tolerated in provision of health facilities, he added.

Earlier, when Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Capt.(Retd) Saqib Zafar reached the DC office, a smart squad of the police presented him with a guard of honour.

## Nutrition International, Federal, and Punjab governments launch NourishMaa Campaign

City Desk

LAHORE: Nutrition International joined hands with the Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination (MoNHSR&C) and Punjab Health Department to launch a campaign - NourishMaa. This collaborative effort aims to promote maternal nutrition in the province by enhancing the knowledge and skills of health-care providers (HCPs) and frontline health workers (FHWs) in two selected districts of Punjab.

"Maternal malnutrition's impact extends across generations, making it crucial for Pakistan to urgently address this issue," emphasized Dr. Muhammad Ilyas, Director General Health, Government of the Punjab. Dr. Ilyas praised the NourishMaa Campaign for its collaborative efforts, forming valuable partnerships with the Department of Health and professional medical associations to reach public and private healthcare



providers.

The latest National Nutrition Survey 2018 (NNS-2018) indicates that the macronutrient and micronutrient deficiencies are alarming amongst women of reproductive age (WRA, 15-49 years). 14.4% are underweight while 24% are overweight. There is a very high prevalence of anemia (42%) in this age group. Similarly, the nutritional status of adolescent girls (10-19 years) is also worrisome. The NNS-2018 highlighted more than 55% suffered from

anemia. The high rate of malnutrition among WRA as well as adolescent girls, combined with underlying complications emerging from early marriages, closely spaced pregnancies, and maternal malnutrition aggravate a vicious cycle of high morbidity and mortality, leading to adverse maternal and child health outcomes. The NourishMaa campaign initiated to complement the Pakistan Maternal Nutrition Strategy 2022-27, aims to help address these issues by leveraging the critical role of

HCPs and FHWs.

Speaking at the occasion, Asim Shahzad Qureshi, National Program Manager, Maternal Newborn Health and Nutrition, Nutrition International stressed the crucial role of HCPs and FHWs in improving maternal nutrition, especially through improved nutrition counseling. "Over the past 20 years, Nutrition International has successfully worked in partnership with the Government of Pakistan on various programs to improve the health and nutrition status of the country's women, adolescent girls, and children", he added.

Representing the MoNHSR&C, Dr. Khawaja Masood Ahmed, National Coordinator Nutrition and National Fortification Alliance said that Pakistan Maternal Nutrition Strategy Pakistan 2022-27 was developed to support optimal nutrition, health, and well-being of all women in Pakistan, as well as prevent all forms of malnutrition among WRA.





## Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

### Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
41,352.98	41,266.77
Day's High	Day's Low:
41,403.43	41,237.41
Index Value	Change
3,024,677,337	+86.21
Percentage	Time
+0.21%	2 Jun, 2023 5:00 pm

### Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
7,607.28	+117.01
Percentage	Time
+1.56%	2 Jun, 4:35 pm GMT+1

### USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
33,728.84	+667.27
Percentage	Time
+2.02%	2 Jun, 12:59 pm GMT-4

### Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
31,524.22	+376.21
Percentage	Time
+1.21%	2 Jun, 3:15 pm GMT+9

### Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	202	204
Bahrain Dinar	758.24	766.24
Canadian Dollar	228	230
China Yuan	40.18	40.58
Danish Krone	41.16	41.56
Euro	321	325
Hong Kong Dollar	36.39	36.74
Indian Rupee	3.45	3.56
Japanese Yen	2	2.08
Kuwaiti Dinar	927.05	936.05
Malaysian Ringgit	61.94	62.54
New Zealand \$	173.16	175.16
Norwegians Krone	25.67	25.97
Omani Riyal	740.5	748.5
Qatari Riyal	78.37	79.07
Saudi Riyal	80	81.2
Singapore Dollar	220	222
Swedish Korona	26.36	26.66
Swiss Franc	314.07	316.57
Thai Bhat	8.21	8.36
U.A.E Dirham	82	83
UK Pound Sterling	375.5	380
US Dollar	299	302

# Fall in value of dollar in open market is temporary: Mian Zahid

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Friday that a reduction of 18 rupees in the value of the dollar in the open market is temporary.

According to government instructions, credit card payments will now be made from interbank instead of open market, as a result of which the demand for dollars will be transferred from open market to interbank and due to the increase in payment pressure, the rate of dollar will increase in interbank.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the new directions will reduce the rate difference between the two markets, which had reached to around Rs30.



Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that increased interbank dollar value will benefit exporters,

while overseas Pakistanis will also incentivize to send money through banking channels and the government will have more dollars than before.

The business leader said that in the next six months, the government also has to pay about 10 billion dollars of imports by the private sector on a 365 days loan, which is a serious problem.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the drastic reduction in the prices of petroleum products, cooking oil, flour and LPG will reduce inflation which has crossed 38 percent. The government is making plans to provide relief to the public and the business community in the coming budget, which are welcome, but in the current financial year, the FBR is facing a revenue shortfall of Rs440 billion.

The success of the IMF's latest review and chances of a tranche are slim, which raises the question that how will the government give

relief to the people in this situation.

The lender is not happy with the breach of the agreement and has stopped paying the loan instalments. The current government has accepted all the strict conditions of the international organization for the revival of the program, but IMF is not satisfied.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that due to the ongoing political unrest in the country, the economy is being negatively impacted, and record inflation has made life difficult for the people. In these circumstances, the present government is trying to manage the economy and provide relief to the people.

The Prime Minister is also trying to give all possible relief to the people. Instead of selling cheap goods through utility stores, the government should increase the purchasing power of the poor by providing targeted subsidies in the form of cash through banks.

## Korean delegation calls on Secretary BOI

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: A South Korean delegation, headed by Mr. I-jae Jang, Secretary Ministry of Environment, Korea held a meeting with Mr. Asad Rehman Gilani, Secretary, Board of Investment (BOI) and discussed ways to enhance Korean investment in Pakistan.

Talking to the delegation, Mr. Asad Rehman Gilani emphasized the importance of boosting foreign investment to overcome Pakistan's current economic challenges.

He said that there is a need to attract more foreign direct investment from Korea for which the BOI would facilitate the Korean side for producing an investment friendly environment.

Secretary BOI said, "We value the friendship of Korean people and government. We welcome their participation in Pakistan's economy," adding that it was



the duty of BOI to mitigate the sufferings of investors, especially the foreign investors.

Appreciating the continued support by the BOI, the Korean Secretary Environment Mr. I-jae Jang vowed to work in close collaboration with the Pakistani side to resolve Korean investors issues on

priority basis.

He said that the Korean companies were not only investing in Pakistan but also contributing in the Pakistan's economy.

Director General BOI (Investment Promotion) Nadeem Basheer was also present on the occasion.

## Budget Proposals

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Industrial Association Muhammad Ahmed presenting shield to Finance Minister Ishaq Dar after a meeting in which budget proposals were given to the government.



Photo: Online

## Nuclear power is not as important as economic power

**T Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Brig. (R) Aslam Khan, Chairman of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW), said on Friday that the world has changed. Now, becoming an economic power has become more important than becoming a nuclear power.

We also have to use all our

abilities to promote the economy; otherwise, the country will end up bankrupt, he said.

In a statement issued here today, Aslam Khan said that we have always tried to compete with the military power of enemy countries. We also tested nuclear bombs despite international pressure when India carried out nuclear explosions.

Pakistan has always focused on competing with India in military capabilities, but we have never tried to compete with them in economic or human development, he observed.

Now, India has become the fifth-largest economic power in the world, while Pakistan has been running around the world



for eight months for a billion dollars to avoid bankruptcy.

He said that the neighbouring countries are developing at an amazing speed, while the condition of the people in Pakistan is getting worse day by day.

# New study reveals Track and Trace system kept illegal trade of tobacco products at 15%

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Health activists have appreciated Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's directives to curb down illegal trade of tobacco products in Pakistan. In a press release shared by Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC), the health activists mentioned that Federal Board of Revenue's Track and Trace system has kept illicit trade from going above 15%. This system should be implemented in all companies to achieve further benefits. The activists also mentioned that during pre-budget seasons, tobacco industry uses blown up percentage of illicit trade to influence the policymakers from raising

taxation according to the rate of inflation.

Malik Imran, country head, Campaign for tobacco-free kids (CTFK), mentioned that tobacco induced disease causes an annual economic burden of 615 billion which is 1.6% of Pakistan's GDP. He said that an industry which is causing such unprecedented level of damage to public health and economy, brazenly claims that any damage control move is against Pakistan's interest. Imran mentioned that every budget season, tobacco industry uses the illicit trade excuse to ensure that tobacco taxes are not increased.

Imran mentioned that tobacco industry should not have any prob-



lems paying the additional taxes because it never pays them from its own coffers. Tobacco companies have increased their net-of-tax prices. Due to over-shifting, the excise tax share in retail price remains at 51.6%, lower than the widely-accepted benchmark of 70%.

Dr. Ziauddin Islam, Former Technical Head, Tobacco Control Cell, Ministry of Health, said that tobacco is the largest silent killer in Pakistan as above 170,000 people die due to tobacco use each year. He explained that increased prices bring a decrease to production and consumption which decrease the health cost burden. Although there has been 31.7% decline in production declared by TI in fiscal year 2022-23 compared to the previous year which is win win condition, keeping in view of aim of tobacco control to decrease consumption coupled with increase in revenue generation.

Khalil Ahmed Dogar, Program Manager (SPARC) said that the

tobacco industry claims that it does state-of-the-art research to present solutions to Pakistan's economic woes. In reality, the only state-of-the-art thing the tobacco industry produces is the killer products that are jeopardizing Pakistan's health and economy. It is a fallacy to think that Pakistan can prosper while tobacco products are at large.

Khalil mentioned that the Track & Trace System of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) provides an excellent opportunity for the government to tackle the issue of whatsoever ever of taxes and illicit trade, which needs to be extended to all other cigarette manufacturing companies currently not integrated.

## Rehmat Ali Hasnie honored as CEO of the Year by CEO Club Pakistan



**Commerce Report**

KARACHI: Rehmat Ali Hasnie, President and CEO (A) of National Bank of Pakistan (NBP), has been recognized as the CEO of the Year by the CEO Club Pakistan. The prestigious award was presented to Mr. Rehmat Ali Hasnie by Mr. Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman, Governor Punjab during a grand ceremony held at the Governor House in Lahore on 31st May 2023. Mr. Ijaz Nisar, President and Founder of CEO Club Pakistan was also present at the occasion.

With over 25 years of diversified experience in economics research, capital

markets, investment banking, treasury, and credit markets, Mr. Rehmat Ali Hasnie has been an instrumental figure within the banking sector in Pakistan. Since assuming the role of President and CEO (A) NBP in May 2022, he has exhibited exceptional leadership and strategic vision, propelling NBP to new heights to become Pakistan's largest bank in terms of balance sheet.

The growth of the bank's balance sheet has also been coupled with marked growth in the various profitability indicators and at the same time the continued efforts of the bank to serve the nation.

## Andrew Schofer appreciates CBD Punjab's economic development initiatives

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: US Deputy Chief of Mission for Pakistan, Andrew Schofer visited Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA) on Friday, in a bid to learn about the projects and development plans initiated by the authority.

The U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission was accompanied by a delegation from the U.S. Consulate General Lahore, including U.S. Consul General William K. Makaneole, Political and Economic Chief Kathleen Gibilisco, and Cultural Affairs Officer Paul Garr.

The distinguished envoy was warmly welcomed by the CEO of PCBDDA, Imran Amin and other senior officials of the authority, including COO, Brigadier (R) Mansoor Janjua, Executive Director Commercial,

Mohammed Omer, Director Business Development, Ali Waqar Shah and Director Architecture, Sameer Aftab. The delegation led by the U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission was comprehensively briefed about the projects of PCBDDA Punjab.

CEO of PCBDDA, Imran Amin expressed his gratitude for the appreciation from the U.S. Embassy. He highlighted the achievements of the authority in transforming Punjab into a vibrant hub for commercial activities and emphasized the importance of international collaborations to further accelerate this economic growth.

The visit of U.S. officials will serve as a platform for a constructive dialogue between PCBDDA and the U.S. Embassy, facilitating an exchange of ideas and best practices to enhance the business ecosystem in Punjab.

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has expressed his profound satisfaction that FPCCI's years of relentless policy advocacy initiatives for the barter trade with Russia, Iran and Afghanistan has borne fruits.

It is pertinent to note that the implementation date of the SRO. 642 dated June 1, 2023 of the ministry of commerce has been set with an immediate effect; i.e. June 1, 2023 - enabling the traders to start utilizing the mechanism right way.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh acknowledged the efforts of his predecessors and industry leaders in this giant stride; namely, Mian Nasser Hyatt Maggo, immediate past President FPCCI and Mian Anjum Nisar, former President FPCCI and currently VP, SAARC Chamber (SCCI).

## Panah's important letter to Chairman Finance Committee Salim Mandviwala

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Panah wrote a letter to Chairman Finance Committee in the Senate Saleem Mandviwala that Panah's team briefed him in the finance committee about the health and economic harms of sugary drinks, saying that sugary drinks are linked to many fatal diseases, including heart disease. At present, Pakistan has come to the third place in the world in diabetes patients and the speed with which this disease is increasing, Pakistan is number one with fastest growth of diabetes worldwide.

Pakistan is spending 2.6 billion US dollars on the treatment of this disease. This situation is very alarming and the health as well as the economy of Pakistan is being badly affected. We have told you that World Bank and WHO suggests to increase taxes on sugary drinks to reduce their consumption. You had agreed with

## FPCCI's years of relentless policy advocacy paid off: Irfan Sheikh

**Commerce Desk**

