

# PM Imran hopeful of 'peaceful resolution' to Ukraine crisis

## CM Balochistan kicks off plant for Pakistan drive in Quetta

**Staff Reporter**

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo kicked off the plant for Pakistan drive in Quetta, the provincial capital on Tuesday. The CM launched a plan for Pakistan tree campaign at the CM Secretariat. Provincial ministers, officials of the forest and wildlife department were also present on the occasion. Under the plant for Pakistan drive, 10 million trees would be planted in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan to mitigate the impacts of global warming and climate change. The forest officials while briefing the CM informed that mangoes would be planted in the coastal belt of Balochistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Bizenjo directed the concerned authorities to take strict measures against the impacts of global warming and climate change in Balochistan.

Chief Secretary Balochistan, Mithar Niaz Rana also kicked off the plant for Pakistan drive at the civil secretariat. Provincial secretaries and other high-ranking officials were present on the occasion. "Plant for Pakistan drive to mitigate the impacts of global warming", Mr Rana said.

The tree plantation campaign was also launched in Sibi, Jaffarabad, Naseerabad, Pishin, and other district headquarters of the province.

# PM Imran hopeful of 'peaceful resolution' to Ukraine crisis

Prime Minister Imran Khan has expressed hope for a "peaceful solution" to the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine as he emphasized that military conflicts would never solve problems.

He made these remarks during an interview with Russia's state-owned television network RT released by the outlet on Tuesday.

"I am not a believer in military conflicts. I believe the civilized societies resolve the difference through dialogues and countries that rely on military conflicts have not studied history properly," the PM told the interviewers.

PM Imran said he was sure that people in Ukraine and Russia were aware of the consequences of an impending conflict.

The premier said Pakistan wanted to strengthen bilateral relations with Russia and that he looks forward to his Moscow visit.

The Foreign Office had on Monday announced the prime minister's trip, saying PM Imran will visit Russia on Feb 23-24 at the invitation of Russian President Vladimir Putin. He will be accompanied by a high-level delegation, including members of the cabinet.

The prime minister, in his interview to the Russian network, pointed out that Pakistan had suffered in the past because of the "poitics of blocs".

"Pakistan does not want to become part of any bloc... rather we desire trading relations with all the countries to lift the people out of poverty," he added.

When asked whether it was too precarious of a time for Pakistan to expand its geopolitical horizon, PM Imran responded, "It doesn't concern us, we have bilateral relations with Russia and we really want to strengthen it." Web Desk.

# Ready to deploy more Rangers in Karachi if Sindh gov requests: Sheikh Rashid

## Police arrest killer of senior journalist Athar Mateen in Khuzdar Balochistan

**Staff Reporter**

Police claimed to have arrested the killer of senior journalist Athar Mateen in Khuzdar, Balochistan on Tuesday evening. Police conducted a raid in a civil colony Khuzdar, police sources said. During the raid, the killer of senior journalist Athar Mateen was arrested. Three other accused were picked up from the colony. The main culprit was trying to flee in women's dress when arrested by police. Athar Mateen was working as a producer in Sarhad TV. Police said the body was shifted to Karachi for interrogation. Armed accused had opened fire and killed Athar Mateen in the North Nazimabad area of Karachi. Journalists across the country had demanded the arrest of culprits involved in the murder of Athar Mateen.

# Quetta: accused arrested for blackmailing, sexual abuse of a minor boy

**Staff Reporter**

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has arrested an accused involved in blackmailing, harassment, and sexual abuse of a minor boy in Quetta, the provincial capital of Balochistan province. Cyber Crime Circle (CCC) of the agency conducted a raid in Quetta's Poshdarabad area and arrested an accused of his involvement in the sexual abuse, well-placed sources in the FIA told Quetta Voice.

The accused was identified as Muhammad Anwar, a resident of Mulla Sultan Road Poshdarabad. The accused was involved in blackmailing a minor and asking for sexual favours for himself and his friends using an obscene video of the complainant, sources said.

FIA registered FIR against the accused under PECA.

FIA has registered an FIR against the accused under the Protection of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) 2018. The agency also seized all digital equipment and sent them to the forensic laboratory for detailed analysis. The accused was shifted to the agency's regional headquarters for further interrogation, the sources concluded. This arrest has come after the recovery of the dead body of a 12-year-old minor girl in Quetta. Police said the accused had brutally murdered the girl after subjecting her to sexual abuse.

Violence against women and children is on the constant rise in Balochistan. However, reports have increased in the year 2022. Cases of child abuse continue to rise in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan. However, honour-killing has also claimed eight previous human lives during the first one and half months of 2022. Although, rights groups put the figure much higher than what is being quoted by the officials since many few people contact people in such cases. Recently, a couple was brutally murdered in Balochistan's Mastuj district. The couple had married three years back and left a minor son and two daughters. The culprit is at large.

# Operation RuF: We salute supreme sacrifices of martyrs: COAS

**RAWALPINDI:** Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Tuesday paid tribute to the supreme sacrifices of Operation Radd-ul-Fasad (RuF) martyrs and spirit of the great people of Pakistan in a message on Twitter handle of Director General of military media wing Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

"Operations continue successfully as the country transitioned from uncertainty to peace. The achievements of RuF have only been possible due to blood of martyrs and resilience of our people. We salute the supreme sacrifices of our martyrs and spirit of our great nation" COAS said. "The achievements of RuF have only been possible due to blood of martyrs and resilience of our people." DG ISPR stated and urged that from Karachi to Khyber restored as Radd-ul-Fasad completes five years. The spirit has been restored from Karachi to Khyber as the Operation Radd-ul-Fasad completed its five years INP.

# Sardar Rind accuses government of supporting 'murderers'

**Manan Mandokhal, News Desk:**

Leader of Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI), Sardar Yousaf Rind has accused the present provincial government of supporting 'murderers' in district Kachi. "Five men murdered and the government continues to harbor murderers", Sardar Rind lamented during the Balochistan Assembly session.

"The government is least bothered", Sardar Rind who also remained as the minister for education in former Chief Minister Jam Kamal's cabinet complained. He said the "murderers" belong to the ruling Balochistan Awami Party (BAP).

Chief Minister secretary is also trying to protect the "murderers", he said. He warned that it would be the responsibility of the government if the situation

# Pakistan's agro exports grow substantially during the first half of FY22

**ISLAMABAD:** With a substantial growth of 25% during the first half (July-December) of the fiscal year (2021-22), Pakistan's exports of the agriculture sector were recorded at \$2.818 billion, WealthPK reported on Tuesday.

Exports of the agro sector were recorded \$2.246 billion during July-December last fiscal year (2020-21), the Ministry of Commerce data showed. Pakistan is currently negotiating with China on mutual recognition agreements (MRAs) for exports of meat, potatoes, melons, bananas, strawberries, and cherries.

Once these MRAs are concluded, Pakistan is expecting market access of hundreds of million dollars within a few years.

Cereals remained the top exported commodity during the first six months of the current fiscal year. Exports of cereals rose to \$1.1704 billion during the first six months of the current fiscal year from \$976.18 million during the same period of the last fiscal year, showing a growth of 20%.

Exports of seeds, oleaginous fruits, and miscellaneous grains grew by 205% as the exports volume was recorded \$197.85 million during the said period against \$65.28 in corresponding months of last fiscal year, the Ministry of Commerce data are seen by WealthPK showed.

With an addition of 3%, exports of meat and edible meat offal rose to \$165.62 million in July-December 2021-22 from \$161.1 million during the same months of 2020-21.

Exports of edible fruits and nuts, including peel of citrus fruit and melons, were recorded \$236.71 million during the period under review against \$214.54 million in the corresponding period of last fiscal year, registering an increase of 10%.

Significant growth of 20% was registered in exports of vegetables, roots, and tubers, and the export volume rose to \$125 million in the first six months of the current fiscal year from \$104 million during the corresponding period of the last fiscal year. Continued on page 3

# Pakistan keen to enhance to bilateral cooperation with Sri Lanka: President Avri

**ISLAMABAD:** President Dr Arif Alvi has said that Pakistan high values its relations with Sri Lanka and wants to further improve bilateral cooperation with Sri Lanka in all areas of mutual interests. He emphasized the need for increasing cooperation in the areas of tourism, culture and defence between the two friendly countries.

These views were expressed by him during a meeting with the Commander of the Sri Lankan Navy, Vice Admiral Nishantha Ulaganathan, who called on him, at Aitane-Sadr, on Tuesday.

Welcoming the Commander of the Sri Lankan Navy, Dr Arif Alvi stated that Pakistan and Sri Lanka enjoyed excellent relations, which needed to be further strengthened for the advantages of the two countries. He mentioned that both countries had great potential to promote cultural cooperation and tourism as well as Buddhist sites and Buddhist monks from the island were encouraged to visit the religious sites.

While condemning the Salkot incident, the President expressed grief over the unfortunate occurrence in which a Sri Lankan national was brutally killed. He said that the government took prompt action against the accused involved in the incident. The President highlighted the importance of CPEC and Gwadar Port which would promote regional connectivity as well as enhance trade and economic cooperation between Pakistan and Central Asian States besides bringing economic prosperity to the region.

President Alvi also highlighted the fraternal ties being cultivated in India against the people of Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir. INP

# Ready to deploy more Rangers in Karachi if Sindh gov requests: Sheikh Rashid

Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid offered on Tuesday to deploy more Rangers paramilitary in Karachi to curb the rising incidents of street crime in the metropolis.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, he said "If the Sindh government asks, we are ready to increase [the deployment of] our Rangers forces. We are even ready to deploy them at police stations".

"If [Sindh] Chief Minister Miran Ali Shah asks us for any assistance, we are willing to provide it," he added.

In response to a question, he further said the situation in Karachi was not good.

"The situation that I saw in Karachi yesterday cannot be expressed in words. It seems as if there is no law [or order] in Karachi and this could have adverse consequences".

Rashid's offer for increasing Rangers' troops in Karachi comes after Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in the Sindh Assembly, Khairan Sheer Zaman, wrote a letter to the interior minister, urging federal authorities to look into the important issue of rising street crime in Karachi and "take whatever appropriate measures are available to you as per the Constitution and law".

In the letter, which he shared on his Twitter, Zaman cited data by the Citizens-Police Liaison Committee, highlighting that 80,661 incidents of street crime were reported in Karachi in 2021, a surge of 27.2 per cent from 2020.

"Predictably, the people of Karachi have lost confidence and hope in the Sindh government and Karachi police," he wrote. "We are looking towards you, the crime minister and the federal government, for crucial help to improve the law-and-order situation in Karachi, as the prevailing law of the jungle is unacceptable".

Over the past few days, there has been a surge in killing during armed robberies and other street crimes in the city, with growing concern from all segments of society that have also called out the security administration and provincial government for its failure to curb such incidents.

The recent violent incidents included the murder of a journalist associated with Sarhad TV. After Mateen, which renewed criticism over the provincial authorities' failure to control the rise in street crime in Karachi.

On Monday, Sindh Chief Minister Miran Ali Shah presided over a meeting to work out a strategy for curbing street crime in the city.

It was decided in the meeting that targeted operations would be launched against criminals in the city, and there would be legislation on strengthening of habitual criminals.

During the meeting, the chief minister also rebuked police and the Rangers for the surge in street crime, saying, "I usually visit the city secretly but hardly have seen the police and Rangers on the roads or on patrolling in areas." Web Desk.



Unsustainable use of toxic chemicals, sprays, fertilizers causing land pollution: Dr. Robina

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Pakistan optimistic about retaining GSP-Plus status for another decade

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NEW YORK: Ambassador Munir Akram Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN, with Bilal Lakhani, Express Tribune in New York.

Haleem Adil says Sindh LG Act 2013 acceptable only if revamped in accordance with the Constitution

KARACHI: Leader of the Opposition in Sindh Assembly Haleem Adil Sheikh rejected provincial cabinet's proposed amendments in Sindh LG Act 2013 and said that the law would be acceptable only if it is completely revamped in accordance with the Constitution of Pakistan.

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Sanjrani, WFP's Country head discuss ongoing projects of agency in Pakistan

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Pakistan's agro exports

Continued From page 01

Among vegetables, exports of potatoes and onions grew significantly by 6% and 33% respectively.

Exports of annual fruits and vegetables were valued at \$33.48 million during the period under review against \$29.51 million in the same months of last year with an increase of 81%.

Among the processed and prepared food items, exports of beverages, spirits, and vinegar grew by 56% and the export volume was recorded at \$219.5 million in July-December 2021 against \$140.9 million during the same months of last fiscal year.

Export of sugar and confectionery rose to \$84.89 million during the said period from \$55.04 million in the corresponding period of last year, registering a growth of 54%.

Export of rice to Russia and Indonesia will start soon, while arrangements for export to Iran on the latter system are being finalized.

PECA Amendment in IHC, LHC

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) on Tuesday challenged Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) Amendment Bill in Islamabad High Court (IHC).

According to details, the plaintiff said that the Constitution allows everyone to speak freely.

Media is being closed in the tenure of incumbent government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) as unannounced restrictions were imposed on the journalists, the plea stated.

On the other hand, the PECA Amendment Bill was also challenged in LHC. The applicant adopted the stance that PECA A bill was approved to silence the voices of media personnel.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi exchanging view with Commander of the Sri Lankan Navy Vice Admiral Nishantha Ulugutenna at Naval Headquarters.

Govt tightens noose around non-filers to broaden tax net

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PM's visit to Russia to bolster trade between two countries: Mian Kashif

LAHORE: Chairman UK Pakistan Business Council Mian Kashif Ashraf has said the visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to Russia will bolster trade besides further cementing ties between the two countries on sound footing.

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Beijing Winter Olympics becomes a window to China's latest innovation

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India look so desperate to demean CPEC: Says a media report

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Albania wants enhanced trade relations with Pakistan: Envoy

ISLAMABAD: The Non Resident Ambassador/Deputy of the Republic of Albania Mr. Kasriot Rilo said that his country wanted to enhance trade relations with Pakistan as there were great opportunities for increasing the volume of trade between the two countries that should be exploited for mutual benefits.

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ISLAMABAD: Vice Admiral Nishantha Ulugutenna, Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy presents a souvenir to Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Alibaba Group presents a souvenir to the Executive Director of UNICEF Catherine Russell at Federal Education Ministry.



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