

# QUETTA VOICE

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**Abrarul Haq, Saifullah Nyazee jump ship as PTI exodus continues**



**Corruption in Gwadar municipality to be eradicated: Maulana Hidayat**

## A giant blue whale found dead on Gwadar beach

**Mir Salam Jogezi**

GWADAR: A giant blue whale was found dead in the sea of Jewni tehsil of Gwadar district of Balochistan on Friday. The dead whale was swept away by the waves of the sea and came close to the shore of Bandri (Jewni). According to World Wild Life senior researcher Sudhir Baloch, a native of Gwadar, this blue whale is 36 feet long.

The weight can be more than 20 tons, Mr. Baloch informed. While the relevant authorities will find out the reasons for the blue whale's death, he mentioned. Rare species of fish are seen from time to time in the coastal areas of Balochistan.

**GDA plans to reserve the remains of the dead whale**

The Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) plans to preserve the remains and structures of the dead blue whale found at Bandri, a coastal settlement in Balochistan. Director General GDA, Mujeeb Rahman Qambrani has directed Deputy Director Environment



GDA and Aquatic Specialist Abdul Rahim Baloch to take necessary steps in this regard. Marine biologist Abdul Rahim

Baloch said the blue whale is a marine mammal that has been frequently sighted off the coast of Makran, with a maximum con-

firmed length of 29.9 meters (98 feet) and a weight of up to 199 tons. Due to its unique size, it is the largest animal ever known and

its species faces various threats.

**IUCN has listed the blue whale as an endangered as of 2018**

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has listed the blue whale as endangered as of 2018. It faces a number of man-made threats such as ship strikes, pollution, marine noise and climate change.

**GDA plans to preserve animal for exhibition to create more awareness**

The Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) has planned to preserve the animal for exhibition to create more awareness among the general public to protect it from the threats it faces. He said that he himself will soon reach the spot and examine the remains of the whale on scientific basis to preserve it. A whale structure has previously been preserved at the Giuni site.

## Balochistan police launch awareness campaign about road safety

**Syed Ali Shah**

QUETTA: For the first time in the province, Balochistan Police has launched an awareness campaign about road safety and traffic rules with a regular theme. In this regard, Inspector General of Police Balochistan, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh launched this campaign from the wall of Police Grammar School.

**Negligence, haste and carelessness main causes of road accidents**

On this occasion, IG Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh said that haste, negligence and carelessness are the main causes of road accidents. Due to which thousands of people lose their lives every year across Balochistan, Mr. Sheikh mentioned.



If you prefer to lose while avoiding competition, superiority, high speed on national highways, then this will be your real victory, he said. The Police Chief said that the scope of the special road safety campaign will be extended to other educational insti-

tutions of Balochistan.

**A wall has been dedicated for self analysis through questions and answers**

This special theme Not only has road safety and traffic awareness been taken into consideration, a wall has been dedicated for "self-analysis through questions and answers". Where every student can analyze themselves how much they have learned so far. Additional Inspector General of Police Admin Jawad Ahmad Dogar, DIG Police Quetta Azfar Mehsar, Deputy Inspector General of Police Headquarters Quetta, AIG Finance Sohail Ahmed Shaikh, AIG Training Sher Ali, AIG Welfare Dost Mohammad Bugti were present at the ceremony. SSP Traffic Police Bahram Khan Mandukhel, SP Headquarters Balochistan

Constabulary Kamal Shah, SP Headquarters Syed Naseer Shah Kazmi and other police officers besides Principal Police Grammar School Principal Shahida Parveen, a large number of teachers, students participated.

**Young reckless drivers causing more accidents**

On this occasion, DSP Mahmood Ali Khokhar, while giving a briefing, said that most of the human lives are lost in traffic accidents because of young driver's reckless driving. They go or the disease of life-long disability becomes the fate of the victims. Due to lack of road safety awareness and inexperience, traffic accidents often occur on highways, Mr. Khokhar noted. Not wearing a seat belt while driving and not using a helmet while riding a motorcycle can cause a lot of damage, he mentioned.

## Corruption in Gwadar municipality to be eradicated: Maulana Hidayat

**Behram Baloch**

GWADAR: Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman Baloch, the head of the Haq Do Tehreek (HDT) Balochistan, visited Gwadar Municipal Committee and Mullah Fazil Chowk for the first time after his release. The Chairman Municipal Committee announced an increase of Rs.3000 for daily wages workers.

Municipality will eliminate corruption in Gwadar and spend the resources on the people. Measures to eliminate corruption and reduce costs have been started, the Maulana said.

**Maulana vows to eliminate corruption**

Municipal Chairman Muhammad Sharif Miah Dad, Acting Vice Chairman Akram Fida and councilors



warmly welcomed him and showered him with flowers. Haq Do Tehreek Chairman Wajah Hussain Wadela, Spokesperson Hafeez Kiazai, Deputy Organizer Babar Shehzad and other officials were also present on this occasion. Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman Baloch visited different sections of Gwadar municipality and met the

municipality employees individually and informed them about their situation. In his visit, Maulana Hidayat Ur Rehman Baloch, on behalf of Municipal Committee Chairman Sharif Miandad, announced an increase of Rs. 3000.

**Resources will be spent on people**

He said in his speech that while defending the mandate of the people of Gwadar, the available resources will be spent on the people, corruption will be eradicated and wasteful expenditure will be avoided. We are ready to face this kind of challenge. All over the world local government is responsible for cleanliness of the city, elimination and prevention of encroachments but here the municipal committee has been a bastion of corruption and has the status of treasury and zakat office. Our team will spend the available resources in a systematic manner for the welfare of the people, he said.

## Abrarul Haq, Saifullah Nyazee jump ship as PTI exodus continues

**News Desk**

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders — Abrarul Haq and Saifullah Nyazee — announced their decision on Friday to leave the party, adding their name to the long list of members who have deserted the former ruling party post-May 9.

During a press conference, Haq stated that his upbringing was rooted in both political and military households, where reciting the Quran and studying Iqbal's "Bang-e-Dara" and "Bal-e-Jibrail" were essential. He mentioned that Rashid Minhas Shaheed and Major Aziz Bhatti Shaheed were his heroes. He emphasized the emotional connection he has with the armed forces and martyrs. "When I went to the Kaaba for Hajj, instead of praying for something else, I prayed for martyrdom. The passion to do something for Pakistan has always been with me," he added.

## SC suspends operation of govt notification on formation of judicial commission probing audio leaks

The Supreme Court on Friday suspended the operation of the federal government's notification on the constitution of a judicial panel — formed last week to probe audio leaks which have surfaced on social media over the last few months — and stayed the commission's proceedings.

"In the circumstances, till the next date of hearing, the operation of the impugned notification No.SRO.596(I)/2023 dated 19.05.2023 issued by the Federal Government is suspended as is the order dated 22.05.2023 made by the Commission and in consequence thereof proceedings of the Commission are stayed," the top court said.

On May 19, the government formed a judicial commission, headed by Justice Qazi Faez Isa, under Section 3 of the Pakistan Commission of Inquiry Act 2017.

According to it, Balochistan High Court Chief Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan and Islamabad High Court Chief Justice Aamer Farooq were also included in the commission which had "all the power to fix responsibility against the delinquents for their alleged role behind phone tapping and could exercise authority to constitute special teams consisting of experts, or form an international team and seek international cooperation or exercise powers" under the Criminal Code of Procedure.

Earlier in the day, the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority



(Pemra) sent transcripts of nine alleged audio leaks to the judicial commission for investigation. The next session of the commission will be held on May 27 (tomorrow). The reserved verdict was issued by a five-member bench comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi and Justice Shahid Waheed.

The order was passed on a set of petitions moved by Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) President Abid Shahid Zuberi, SCBA Secretary Muqtedir Akhtar Shabbir, PTI Chairman Imran Khan and Advocate Riaz Hanif Rahi seeking to declare the constitution of the audio commission illegal.

During the hearing today, CJP Bandial observed that the formation of the government-appointed judicial commission "interfered in the judiciary's internal matters" and noted that there were errors in the notification issued by the government for the formation of the commission.

"The Constitution gives complete freedom to the judiciary," he remarked. "The investigation that was supposed to be conducted by the institutions was entrusted to judges."

Justice Bandial further said, "We have no other structure but the power of morality and justice." Web Desk



Modi can't defeat Kashmiris' spirit for freedom by resorting to brutal actions, sinister plots

ISLAMABAD: New Delhi is using every brutal tactic as well as hatching sinister designs to muzzle the freedom voice of people in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir but the Kashmiris are determined to defeat every Indian plan and carry on their struggle against all odds.

arrests in the occupied territory. The Modi regime is also holding international events and arranging guided tours to IIOJK to weaken the Kashmiris' resolve for freedom and latest in this series was the G20 Tourism Working Group meeting in Srinagar. However, Modi and his henchmen must remember that popular movements like the one going on in IIOJK can't be defeated by military oppression. India must also know that by staging international events and arranging guided tours to IIOJK, it

can neither hide the reality nor make the Kashmiris relent in their pursuit for freedom. The Kashmiri people are well aware that such moves are just a farce and aimed at spreading mere propaganda. India can't stop the IIOJK people's march for freedom by gagging their voices of dissent and resorting to nefarious tactics as they are united to defeat every Hindutva design in the occupied territory. They are demanding their right to self-determination as guaranteed by the UN resolutions and the day is not far off when INP



ISLAMABAD: First Lady Begum Samina Alvi being apprised about the mandate and services of the Council on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), at CRPD Secretariat Chak Shehzad.

Gwadar Port desilting operation geared up on PM's directions

ISLAMABAD: Gwadar port desilting operation has picked robust momentum after ministry of planning urged to accelerate the work on the special directives of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif.

Desilting mega process has been galvanized in order to restore original depth of navigational channel at Gwadar Port offering heavyweights ships to float well. It will ensure seamless movement of all type of vessels, facilitating them to dock at ease.

China Harbor Engineering Company Ltd (CHEC), dredging operation has moved into high gear. "We plan to reclaim 14.5 meters natural and original operational depth at Gwadar Port at a cost of Rs 4.7 billion," he added. He expressed satisfaction on the pace of operation. "Under title of 'the maintenance dredging of a navigational channel of Gwadar Port', Project will complete in 12 months as per agreement signed between CHEC and Gwadar Port Authority (GPA)," he added. Another GPA official told Gwadar Pro that since earlier they planned to kickstart only one part of dredging process in two or three phases at Gwadar Port, so around Rs 1 billion was

allocated in 2022-2023 budget for a partial dredging. Later, he said, it was finalized to do complete dredging at one fell swoop. Hence, now cost of the project stands at Rs 4.7 billion. On a query, he noted that having gone through bidding process officially launched by GPA last year, CHEC won the contract of maintenance dredging construction on the forward swing waters, approach channel of the Gwadar Port Terminal. He added that GPA awarded the contract to CHEC after gauging technical assessment on the basis of international experience and financial worth of all participant companies in a bidding process. INP

Pakistani rupee keeps up its upward trajectory against US dollar

ISLAMABAD: The value of Pakistani rupee has appreciated by 49 paisas against the US dollar in the interbank on Friday. According to the data provided by the money dealers, the local currency again kept up its upward trajectory, making the US dollar to lose 49 paisas in the interbank trade. The American currency was being traded at Rs285.25.

ninth review. Moreover, Pakistan is also expected more than \$2 billion roll over from China. Pakistan needs to pay around \$3.7 billion in foreign debt obligations scheduled for payment in May and June. The Financial Times reported yesterday that two senior Pakistani officials said Beijing had committed to help the country meet two crucial debt repayments in June worth a total of \$2.3bn by providing fresh funds immediately after Pakistan makes the payments.

The Pakistan foreign exchange reserves are drying up quickly. The foreign exchange reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) decreased by \$118.9 million to \$4.19 billion during the week ended on May 19, 2023, according to the data released by the central bank on Thursday. However, the reserves held by commercial banks moved up by \$87.5mn to \$5.53bn. On Thursday, the local currency was edged up by Rs1.39 against the greenback which ended the day at Rs285.74.

The rupee upsurge for the past two trading sessions can be attributed to the statement made by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Wednesday in which he asserted that "country will absolutely not default". During a gathering at the Federal Board of Revenue in Islamabad the other day, Dar said his team had completed all the technical work and prior actions required for the completion of the

The refinancing of the commercial loans worth \$1.3bn and a Chinese government loan of \$1bn would help Pakistan avert immediate default, the Pakistani official said. China earlier this year already rolled over some loans to Pakistan. Chinese foreign minister Qin Gang also reiterated Beijing's financial support for the country on a visit to Pakistan earlier this month.

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Pakistan Cultural Week concluded in Chengdu with fruitful results

BEIJING: The 2023 Pakistan Week, started from May 18 came to a successful close in Duijiangyan, Chengdu, Sichuan region, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Friday.

atives and discuss Pakistan-China relations," said Agha Hunain Abbas Khan, Acting Consul General of the Consulate General of Pakistan in Chengdu, expressing his excitement to communicate with local children and representatives to know more about the long-lasting friendship between both countries. During the event, the Chinese city of Duijiangyan and the Pakistani city of Murree signed a Letter of Intent for the establishment of a sister-city relationship to cement people-to-people exchanges and enhance practical cooperation. Also the military action-romance film "Parwaaz Hai Junoon" was screened for local

residents to enjoy the charm of the friendly country on their doorsteps. According to Sichuan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, this cultural week will promote the understanding of Sichuan people on Pakistan, and effectively boost the exchanges and cooperation between the two sides in fields of culture, tourism, economy, trade, and education. Hosted by Sichuan People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Duijiangyan Municipal Government, and the Consulate General of Pakistan in Chengdu, the event is an important part of the 2023 China-Pakistan Year of Tourism and Exchanges. INP



ISLAMABAD: Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki called on Minister for Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique at Ministry of Aviation.

Lahore police fail to arrest Parvez Elahi; house siege lasts

LAHORE: Police failed to arrest Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) president Parvez Elahi on Thursday but keeping up their siege around the PTI leader's house at the Zahoor Elahi Road till filing this report. A heavy police contingent reached Parvez Elahi's residence after the cancellation of his bail by an anti-corruption court. A case was lodged against PTI president at the Ghalib Market police station for interfering in the affairs of the state, while he is also accused of misusing power and irregularities in the development funds. Sources said DIG Operations Sadiq Ali

Dogar, SP Operations Model Town Ammara Sherazi, and SSP Operations Sohaib Ashraf along with a heavy contingent of police reached the residence of Parvez Elahi. The legal team of Parvez Elahi informed the police that he is not present in the house and they will cooperate with the police to search the house after showing the arrest warrant. Meanwhile, the spokesperson of the PTI president said that the police searched the entire house and left empty-handed as Elahi was not present at home. Sources said all roads leading to Mr Elahi's house were blocked. "Police also searched houses and a

private school adjacent to Mr Elahi's residence," sources added. Earlier, an anti-corruption court of Lahore rejected Mr Elahi's bail petition in a case of alleged corruption in development projects. Mr Elahi's lawyer told the court that the former chief minister was suffering from chest pain and could not appear in the court. The prosecution argued that the medical certificate submitted by Parvez Elahi's counsel in court is fake. The court dismissed the interim bail plea of Parvez Elahi on the ground of non-compliance and also rejected the PTI leaders' request for a day attendance waiver. INP

Requirements for Grievance Handling Mechanisms for Insurance Sector issued

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) Friday issued requirements for Grievance Handling Mechanism for the Insurance Sector to ensure effectiveness, robustness, and uniformity in the grievance handling function with the objective of protecting policyholders. The Code of Corporate Governance for Insurers 2016 requires insurers to establish a grievance function. Giving due consideration to the importance of detailed requirements for effective functionality of the grievance function in light of the historical trend of policyholder complaints, minimum requirements for the establishment and functioning of a grievance management process have been prescribed. Accordingly, the issued requirements cover areas of formulation of grievance handling policy, maintenance of a centralised grievance handling system, acceptable modes for lodging complaints, bifurcation of complaints on the basis of criticality, timelines for resolution of complaints on the basis of criticality, communication with policyholders during the process of complaint resolution, etc., imparting awareness relating to the existence. INP

Nation never forgets sacrifices of martyrs for country: President ICCI

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that entire nation is indebted to the sacrifices of the martyrs rendered for defence and sovereignty of the country. He was speaking a ceremony organized by ICCI and CDA in connection with the Martyrs Day at Pakistan Monument. During the event, tribute was paid to martyrs of the country. The ceremony was also attended by Chairman CDA Captain Noor Ul Amin, ICCI members, senior officials of the administration and a large number of citizens. INP

ANF seizes over 700kg narcotics, arrests 4 suspects

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) seized more than 700 kilograms of drugs in separate raids across the country on Friday. A major operation was conducted near Attock Interchange, resulting in the arrest of three suspects and the seizure of over two kilograms of heroin. In Peshawar, near Charsadda Road, a vehicle was intercepted, leading to the discovery of 24 kilograms of heroin and 18 kilograms of charas. Similarly, in Quetta, near Sabzi Road, the ANF team seized a staggering 700 kilograms of charas from a vehicle and apprehended one suspect from the scene. Meanwhile, cases have been registered against the arrested individuals under the Anti-Narcotics Act. Earlier this, the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) has recovered 90kg of hashish hidden in a house near Jiwan Gwadar. As per details, the narcotic force has registered FIRs against the accused under the anti-drug act in a separate case, a smuggling attempt was foiled by the ANF and 13kg of Hashish was recovered from the smugglers. The ANF also seized 42 thousand of intoxicated tablets concealed in a plastic bag near the Turkham border in Peshawar, near Charsadda Road, a vehicle was intercepted, leading to the discovery of 24 kilograms of heroin and 18 kilograms of charas. Similarly, in Quetta, near Sabzi Road, the ANF team seized a staggering 700 kilograms of charas from a vehicle and apprehended one suspect from the scene. Meanwhile, cases have been registered against the arrested individuals under the anti-drug act. INP

Marriyum grieved over demise of journalist Ashraf Mumtaz

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Friday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the sad demise of senior journalist Ashraf Mumtaz. In a statement issued here, she said that the services of Ashraf Mumtaz in the field of journalism will always be remembered. Marriyum Aurangzeb prayed for the departed soul to rest in eternal peace and courage for the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss with fortitude. INP

Woman set on fire for honour, expires in hospital

JHANG: Pitiless brothers set their divorced sister on fire for honour in Ahmadpur Sial area of Jhang. The lady expired during treatment in hospital on Friday, police said. According to details, Zareena Bibi alias Masooma was divorced by her husband Irfan over domestic issues and was staying at parent's home. Zareena Bibi left the house of parents and gone away with Muzamil s/o Ghulam Rasool at her own choice. The scorched lady was shifted to Nishtar Hospital Multan where she succumbed to her wounds. Police arrested the culprits involved in the crime and after registering a case started investigation. DPO Jhang said that the accused would be awarded exemplary punishment and no one will be spared. INP

Three shot dead over agricultural land in premises of court

DADU: Three under custody people were shot dead over agricultural land in premises of court here on Friday. The culprits handed them over to police. The police had brought three under custody accused of Khonhara community to produce them in district court in tehsil Mehar of district Dadu. Armed men of rival group who were in dispute with them over ownership of agricultural land shot dead all three people. The culprits handed them over to police after committing triple murder. INP

8 Pakistani peacekeepers honoured with UN medals posthumously

UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations has honoured at a solemn ceremony 103 military, police and civilian personnel from around the world, including eight Pakistani peacekeepers, who lost their lives serving under the UN flag last year. The special ceremony, presided over by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, marked the 75th anniversary of UN Peacekeeping at which the Dag Hammarskjold Medal was awarded posthumously to the peacekeepers, who made the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of peace, during the preceding year. Pakistan's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Aamir Khan, accepted the awards on behalf of the families of the fallen Pakistani peacekeepers. Havildar Muhammad Ismail, Major Faizan

Ali, Lt-Col Asif Ali Awan, Naib Subedar Sami Ullah Khan, Major Muhammad Saad Nomani, and Lance Havildar Muhammad Jamil Khan — the six martyred while serving with the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) when their helicopter crashed on March 29, 2022. In addition, Havildar Babar Siddique lost his life while also serving in MONUSCO and Corporal Rana Muhammad Tahir Islam, who was working with the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA). Pakistan is currently the 5th largest contributor to UN peacekeeping with nearly 4,200 military and police personnel serving in Abyei, the Central African Republic,

Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, South Sudan and Western Sahara. At the ceremony held on Thursday at United Nations, the Secretary-General also presented the 2022 Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award to Captain Cecilia Erzuah, a military officer from Ghana who served with the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). Created in 2016, the Award "recognizes the dedication and effort of an individual peacekeeper in promoting the principles of UN Security Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security". In 1948 the historic decision was made to deploy military observers to the Middle East to supervise the implementation of Israel-Arab Armistice Agreements. INP

NOTICE INVITING TENDER. The Executive Engineer (Building) CW, PP&H Department District Gwadar invites sealed percentage tender based on composite schedule of rates, 2018 G.O.B amended up to date from interested contractors/firms for the work listed below: Earnest Money 2%, Tender Fee Rs.1000/- (In shape of green challan from deposited in head of Account C-02716) and Time limit 30th June 2023. S.No Name of work E/Cost 1 CONSTT. OF FOOTBALL GROUND FOR CHURBANDAR AND GUNZ (PSDP 6571/ Z202.1355). ADDITIONAL WORKS FOR GUNZ GROUND. TSE-222305328763 3310775/- 2 RE-CONSTRUCTION/REHABILITATION OF GOVERNMENT GIRLS MIDDLE SCHOOL DOR GHATTIAS MODEL SCHOOL GWADAR (PSDP 6381/Z2021.3138) TSE-222305328763 19809448/-

# Exporters need to devise ingenious ideas to boost exports: PM

KARACHI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has urged the exporters of the country to devise innovative and unique ideas for exports which will be helpful in earning foreign exchanges.

Addressing an event at Textile Expo in Karachi on Friday, he said that despite various challenges, we have very robust, very futuristic, and extremely hardworking entrepreneurs that have gradually built Pakistan's export culture.

Shehbaz Sharif said that with the joint support of the government and entrepreneurs' extraordinary intellect and hard work, the provision of quality export goods to foreign customers would be ensured.

Welcoming the foreign delegates, the PM said he was happy to learn that over 400 foreign delegates from 60 countries were visiting on the occasion showed Pakistan was a valuable destination for foreign guests, buyers, and traders.

The prime minister also appreciated the industrialists, exporters, and experts who had contributed immensely to promoting Pakistan's textile and leather exports. He said Pakistan's industry had now been transformed and converted to air jet looms, ginning, spinning, and weaving.

He said that Commerce Minister, Secretary Commerce, and Zubair Motiwala had done a commendable job by

arranging this expo which would help promote the country's exports.

The textile sector constituted 60% of total exports while 40% labour force was absorbed in this sector, he said adding that no doubt it was one of the largest sectors of Pakistan's economy.

Shehbaz Sharif pointed out that despite financial challenges and other difficulties, the government was committed to providing genuine support to all the export sectors including textile, leather, and sports to help increase the country's export volume.

He recalled that a few decades ago, Pakistan was ahead of its neighbors in textile exports, however unfortunately it lost the grounds. "But I have no doubt in mind that we can still recover from these setbacks and take hands off the clock back to 1990s and excel in our exports," he said adding that Naveed Qamar, its team, and the finance minister combined could turn the table.

The prime minister said Naveed Qamar had put in place the national compliance cell which was the need of the hour and "we are obviously grateful to the European Union for GSP plus status and again I am aware of the fact that all reviews have been done, and we... respect all international requirements in this behalf whether it is good governance, human rights or any other requirement".INP



KARACHI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses the ground breaking ceremony of Greater Karachi Bulk Water Supply Scheme (K-IV Project).

# Medical report says Imran Khan not mentally stable: Health Minister

KARACHI: Federal Minister for National Health Services Abdul Qadir Patel has asserted that the mental stability of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan 'is questionable' as he cited the former prime minister's medical reports.

Addressing a press conference, the federal minister said that the former prime minister's samples were taken at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) in Islamabad after he was arrested in the Al-Qadir Trust case on May 9.

However, Abdul Qadir Patel said, Imran Khan was released before the medical report was submitted to the court. "The PTI chief was given an exemplary justice by higher judiciary," he added.

The health minister said that the report will be shown to the nation, stressing that it was a "public document".

Citing the medical report, he claimed Imran Khan's 'mental stability is questionable'. "This is your prime minister about whom a five-member panel of senior doctors is saying that his mental stability is questionable," he added.

"The medical report is saying that when we talked to the former premier for a long time, his actions were not that of a fit man," Patel alleged.

He further claimed that there was no mention of any fracture in PTI chief's medical reports while he had a plaster on his leg for five to six months. "Have you ever seen anyone having himself plastered for a wound on the skin or muscle?" he asked.

The minister also said that the PTI chairman's urine sample was also taken during the interrogation.

He pointed out that the initial report shows the presence of toxic elements and the excessive usage of alcohol and cocaine.INP

## Pervaiz Elahi's non-bailable arrest warrant issued

LAHORE: An anti-corruption court issued non-bailable arrest warrant for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) President Pervaiz Elahi on Friday.

The non-bailable arrest warrant of Pervaiz Elahi has been issued by an anti-corruption court and directed concerned authorities to produce the PTI president by June 2.

Two arrest warrants have been issued against Pervaiz Elahi so far. The first warrant was issued on May 25 after the cancellation of Pervaiz Elahi's bail and the second warrant was issued today.

An Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) team reached the politician's residence after receiving the arrest warrant. Earlier, Pervaiz's bail was cancelled in Gujranwala case.INP

## Ishaq Dar, US ambassador discuss 'matters of mutual interest'

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the United States (US) to Pakistan Donald Blome called on Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and discussed matters of mutual interest and enhancing the existing bilateral relations between both countries.

According to a statement, Ishaq Dar welcomed Donald Blome and shared deep-rooted historic and durable bilateral relations with the United States on economic and trade fronts. He shared economic policies and priorities of the government to address the challenging economic environment and set the economy to stability and growth. Dar informed Ambassador Blome about the government's pragmatic plans related to revenues and expenditures for meeting its national as well as international financial obligations.

The finance minister shared various economic avenues in which both countries can further deepen their economic relations.

He also informed the envoy about the ongoing IMF programme and assured the dedication of the government to complete the programme. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Donald Blome underscored that both countries enjoy good relations and expressed confidence in the policies and programmes of the government for economic sustainability and socio-economic uplift of the masses. He extended his support to further promote bilateral economic, investment and trade relations between both countries.

Ishaq Dar thanked the US Ambassador and reiterated the desire of the government to further deepen bilateral trade and investment ties with the USA.INP

## Punjab Food Authority seizes 5000kg meat of dead chicken

FAISALABAD: Punjab Food Authority (PFA) seized 5000 kilogram meat of dead chicken during operation in main Fish Market of Faisalabad on Friday.

Taking notice of reports of sale of meat of dead chicken, the PFA team launched crackdown against elements involved in the illegal practice.

During operation, about 5000 kilogram meat of dead chicken was recovered. Director General Punjab Food Authority, Raja Jehangir Anwar was said that the dead chicken meat was hidden in drums, bags and boxes and was being sold as normal chicken meat.

The PFA lodged FIRs against the elements involved in sale of dead chicken meat.

DG PFA Raja Jehangir Anwar urged the citizens to point out the shops if they notice sale of dead chicken meat and vowed for strict action against the culprits. INP

## Murtaza Mughal declares ongoing operation a national security requirement

ISLAMABAD: President of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) Dr. Murtaza Mughal has declared the current operation in the country is necessary and a national security requirement.

In a statement issued on Friday, he said that Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Asim Munir has not only saved the country from civil war but also frustrated unholy designs on India, Israel and the US.

Murtaza Mughal was of the view that the dream of the enemies of Pakistan to ruin our country has been shattered by the timely action, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President of PEW.

Not a single friendly country has raised any objection against the ongoing operation in Pakistan, but America is criticising it, he added.

The plan of the international establishment to make Pakistan a satellite state of India and use it against China has been ruined, he observed.

Dr. Murtaza said that the current operation is not against any political party but a successful attempt to save the country. The process of damaging CPEC and Gwadar, the plot to divide the army, rolling back the nuclear program and recognizing Israel have been dealt with effectively. China is saving Pakistan from default but it will not invest heavily in our country until it is sure that Pakistan will not damage CPEC again, Chinese projects will not be rolled back, and the government which likes to dance to the tunes of the US and Goldsmith family will not return to power.INP

## Two killed in Haripur truck-bike collision

HARIPUR: Two people were killed in collision between over speeding truck and a motorcycle in Khanpur area of Haripur on Friday.

Rescue sources said that a reckless driven truck knocked down a motorcycle carrying two people.

Both motorcycle riders stated to be hailing from Kashmir died on the spot in the accident. The bodies were shifted to Trauma Center Haripur.

The police arrested the driver, impounded the truck and after registering a case into the incident started an investigation.INP

## More than 13,000 people in England denied vote due to new ID law: Survey

LONDON: More than 13,000 people were denied a vote in English local elections this month because of the government's new identification law, with those in poorer areas most impacted, according to a survey of local authorities.

Voters in England were legally required to produce photo ID for the first time at the May 4 elections, with the government saying it was essential to combat election fraud.

But the overhaul was criticised by many opposition politicians and campaigners who said it was intended to suppress turnout and was disproportionate to the historically low levels of in-person electoral fraud in Britain.

Furthermore, Jacob Rees-Mogg - a government minister when the law was passed - said last week that the move had affected elderly voters who traditionally voted for the governing Conservative Party, indicating that it had also hoped for a different outcome.

"Parties that try and gerrymander end up finding their clever scheme comes back to bite them, as dare I say we found by insisting on voter ID for elections," he told the National Conservatism conference.

Reuters collected data from 202 of the 230 authorities in England that held elections, in which the governing Conservative Party suffered heavy losses. The remaining 28 were either still compiling the figures or did not respond to Reuters' request.

Out of the top 20 councils that turned away voters, 15 were among the most deprived areas in England as measured by the government's deprivation index, the survey found.INP

## Senate Body discusses Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023, revenue generated by telecom companies

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication Friday discussed the matters pertaining to the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023 and details regarding revenue generated by telecom companies in the past ten years.

The question raised by Senator Kamran Murtaza regarding year-wise details of funds available to USF since its inception and those lying with the Ministry of Finance was disposed of.

The Senate Body meeting held at Parliament House under the chair of Senator Kauda Babar was attended by Senator Naseema Ehsan, Senator Sania Nishtar, Senator Rubina Khalid, Senator Sana Jamali, Senator Afhanullah Khan, Senator Shahdat Awan and senior officers from Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications, along with all concerned including PTA and PTCL. Representatives of the Ministry of Law were also present on the occasion. While discussing the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023 the Committee was informed of the technicalities involved.INP

## PTA takes action against illegal internet service providers

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) in coordination with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has successfully conducted multiple raids against illegal internet service providers.

The raids were conducted in Daharki, District Ghotki and Johar Town, Lahore, said a news release issued here on Friday.

The raid targeted an illegal internet service provider located at Zafar Bazar Road in Daharki during which equipment of illegal ISP was confiscated. While in Lahore, operational internet setup was found, being operated without valid license. Two persons were taken into custody and relevant equipment (switches/routers etc) were confiscated.

The office was sealed and FIA is probing further enquiry as per law.

This achievement can be attributed to PTA's unwavering commitment, continuous monitoring, and persistent efforts to curb illegal internet services. These actions are crucial in preventing tax evasion and revenue misreporting, thus curtailing loss to the national exchequer.

PTA continues its determined efforts to eliminate illegal provision of internet services. The public is advised to avail telecom services from only PTA licensed operators to avoid sudden discontinuation of service. The list of licensed operators is available at: <https://pta.gov.pk/en/industry-support/home/list-of-operators>.INP

## President Alvi phones families of martyred soldiers, express sympathies with them

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday telephoned the families of the Pakistan Army soldiers who embraced martyrdom in South Waziristan and Balochistan on May 20, paid tribute to the martyrs and expressed sympathies with them.

He made telephonic contact with family members of martyred Naek Muhammad Attique and Rajab Ali and prayed to Allah Almighty to grant courage to them to bear this irreparable loss with fortitude.

Arif Alvi also talked to the families of Sepoy Mudassir, Abdul Qadir and Zaheer Ahmed who embraced martyrdom in Gulab Post and Zarghoon areas of Balochistan.

He lauded the martyrs for their utmost love for their country and devotion to their duties.

Paying tributes to the services and sacrifices of the martyrs for their country, President Alvi thanked the families of the martyrs on behalf of the nation.

He also prayed to Almighty Allah for the elevation of ranks of the departed souls in paradise.INP



QUETTA: Activists of Balochistan Anam Jirga and MQM hold sit-in outside Balochistan assembly.

## Samina Alvi visits Council on Rights of Persons with Disabilities

ISLAMABAD: First Lady Begum Samina Alvi on Friday visited the Council on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) where she was informed about the mandate of the Council besides the services being imparted to special persons.

Termining the issuance of a special national identity card and disability certificate by NADRA through one window operation to the persons with disabilities a welcome sign, she said the disabled persons must have the NADRA's special identity card and disability certificates.

The disability certificate and NADRA card would help taking benefit from the facilities and schemes announced by the government, she said adding that the persons with disabilities could get the government jobs as per their quota.

Samina Alvi stressed the need for taking measures to facilitate the movement of special persons across the country, saying that access of the special persons to public places, markets and shopping centers should be increased. She also urged the business community to cooperate the government in increasing the representation of special persons in the private sector. The officials from Capital Development Authority (CDA), NADRA, Health Ministry and Human Rights Ministry informed the first lady about the services being provided to the special persons. She was informed that the meeting of the medical board for persons with disabilities was being held fortnightly.INP

## Murad Raas becomes latest to quit PTI

LAHORE: Former Punjab education minister Murad Raas on Friday announced that he is parting ways with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and former prime minister Imran Khan.

Addressing a press conference in Lahore, he said: "We do not believe in the PTI's politics of violence."

Murad Raas further said that he never expected to see a day when he would be quitting PTI. "We never thought we would part ways with the party," he said. Earlier in the day, former INP

## Political turmoil adversely damaged country's economy: Shahid Rasheed

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Friday said the prevailing political turmoil and other factors have adversely damaged the economy of the country.

In a statement issued here, he said that the IMF's program was on hold, foreign exchange reserves were at around \$4 billion and Pakistan was due to pay \$3.7 billion next month, with the risk of default looming.

In these circumstances, it will be difficult to provide relief to the public and the business community in the forthcoming budget, he added.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that Pakistan will somehow manage payments of three billion and seventy million dollars, but next year, Pakistan will need thirty-four billion dollars to repay foreign loans and interest.

It will be difficult for Pakistan to manage 34 billion dollars without the IMF programme, he added.

The business leader noted that the stock market has decreased by one thousand and forty-six points in two weeks, while exports have decreased by 11.7% in ten months. Textile exports have decreased by two billion dollars and a decrease of six billion dollars is expected in the year's exports.

He said that a decrease of four hundred billion rupees has been recorded in tax revenue and there has been a thirteen percent decrease in remittances during the last ten months.

Production of major industries has fallen by 25% leaving millions jobless while interest rates are at 21% which is ruining businesses.

Presently, banks are not lending to the private sector because they are getting 22% interest from the government which has been affecting the economic system.INP



QUETTA: Awami National Party Secretary General Mian Iftikhar Hussain addressing a press conference.