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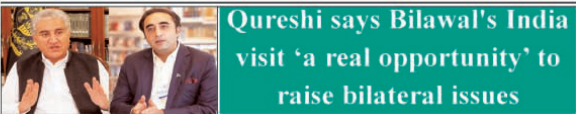


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Qureshi says Bilawal's India visit 'a real opportunity' to raise bilateral issues



'High-level' Afghan delegation to visit Pakistan Today

FM Bilawal meets Russian counterpart Lavrov on sidelines of SCO meeting in India

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari met his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov, on sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Foreign Ministers meeting in the Indian city of Goa on Thursday, the Foreign Office (FO) said.

According to the FO, the two foreign ministers discussed bilateral, regional and international matters of mutual interest and assured each other of working closely to further deepen cooperation between their countries in the areas of food security, energy and people-to-people contact.

FM Bilawal says SCO opened new vistas of cooperation with Russia.

"The SCO opens new vistas of cooperation and coordination with Russia," the FO statement said.

FM Bilawal reached Goa earlier today, primarily to attend the SCO's Council of Foreign Ministers meeting.

In a video message on Twitter, Bilawal — the first foreign minister of Pakistan to head to India in over a decade — confirmed that he had reached Goa. "Salaam, from Goa India," he said.

FMs discuss bilateral, regional, international matters of mutual interest



Pakistan is scheduled to receive 'cheap' Russian oil shipment in May

Bilawal said that he would first hold meetings with his counterparts from Russia and Uzbekistan, which will be followed by a formal dinner for all the foreign ministers at the

SCO "I will give one or two interviews and that is the programme for today," he added.

The SCO's Council of Foreign Ministers meeting in Goa is scheduled to be held today and tomorrow.

Indian news agency ANI shared photos of Bilawal and Chinese counterpart Qin Gang in Goa.

Speaking to the media upon his arrival, the foreign minister said he was "happy" to be arriving in Goa for the SCO. He said

that he expected the meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers to be "successful." Ahead of his departure, Bilawal said he was looking forward to "engaging bilaterally" countries that were part of the SCO.

"On my way to Goa, India, Bilawal said he was looking forward to the charter of SCO," he said on Twitter Web Desk.

PPP launches digital media platform in Quetta

Syed Ali Shah

QUETTA — The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) on Thursday evening launched its first digital media platform in Quetta, the provincial capital of Balochistan.

Sindh Information Minister, Sharjeel Inam Memon, the head of the party's digital media wing was the chief guest in Quetta.

"Today Quetta seems to be Larkana", Sharjeel Inam Memon told the flags-waving party supporters. A large number of PPP workers carrying party flags were present on the occasion. PPP Balochistan President, Mir Changiaz Jamali, Haji Ali Madad Jattak, Razi Khan Kakar, Sardar Sarbuland Ingeezai and others were also present on the occasion.

Charged party supporters chanted full-throated slogans in support of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari

Like in other parts of



the country, the PPP also launched its first digital media platform in Quetta. The charged party workers also chanted full-throated slogans in support of the PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and the party's policies.

"Today is a historic day, the grandson of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto is visiting India", Sharjeel Inam Memon stated. He said Bilawal Bhutto Zardari represented the case of Pakistan in a political and effective way, unlike previous rulers.

Memon lashes out at PTI

He lashed out at the mainstream opposition party i.e. Pakistan Tehnik

e Insaaf (PTI) for what he called inflicting damage to the stability of the motherland. Sharjeel Inam Memon said Pakistan was a strong nation and ready to defend its borders.

He said Quetta sounds like Larkana today because of the party's flags everywhere. You turned Quetta into "Larkana", the Sindh Information Minister remarked. He appreciated the efforts of the PPP Balochistan and urged all workers to effectively use social media platforms.

Changiaz Jamali also stressed the need for using social media in an effective way to shape public opinion. Today, social media shapes public opinion across the globe, Changiaz Jamali said.

5 teachers among 8 killed in Kurram firing incidents: police

UPPER KURRAM: At least eight people, including five teachers, were killed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Upper Kurram Tehsil, the district administration said Thursday, in the latest incident of violence in the northwestern province.

One teacher was killed during firing on a vehicle

Local police said that in the first incident in Parachinar, which falls in Upper Kurram and is the capital of Kurram district, a teacher was killed while in a moving vehicle.

Separately, unidentified gunmen shot seven people, including four teachers, in



the staffroom of Government High School Tari Mangal. All the educators were at the building for performing their exam duties.

The district administration said the three others killed were drivers who brought construction materials to the school.

Following the shootings, the authorities have imposed emergency in all hospitals in the area.

The location of the school where seven teachers were shot dead. The teacher, named Muhammad Sharif, who was killed inside the car also belonged to the same school, said the police. The teacher was shot while he was travelling on Shalozan Road.

The bodies of those killed were sent to their ancestral villages for burial, the administration added. The police are searching for the killers, but have not been able to track them down so far.

President Alvi, PPP's Zardari, others demand justice

Meanwhile, citizens of the area held a protest over the killings in front of the local press club. School shootings are rare in Pakistan. Over 140 people, mostly students, were killed in a gun-and-bomb attack at an army school in Peshawar in December 2016. President Dr Arif Alvi said that the attack on the teachers by those who are the enemies of education is condemnable. Condemning the attack, the head of state expressed grief over the assassination of on-duty teachers. Web Desk

Qureshi says Bilawal's India visit 'a real opportunity' to raise bilateral issues

Former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that his successor Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari's visit to India is important, saying that issues between Islamabad and New Delhi need to be addressed through dialogue.

Qureshi's comments came during an interview with an Indian media outlet following Bilawal's visit to Goa to attend the two-day meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) foreign ministers, scheduled to be held on May 4 and 5.

Ex-FM, who is the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) vice chairman, when asked if his party was opposing the visit, said: "No, we



are not opposing the visit, we do understand that this is a multilateral obligation. As a former foreign minister, who has been with such conclaves, this is an important visit. And by all means, you should go

ahead." Qureshi also said that his party desires peace with India as there are no cultural and trade ties between the two nations. "We need to recognise that we do have outstanding issues. Web Desk

Six soldiers martyred in skirmish with terrorists in North Waziristan

NORTH WAZIRISTAN: At least six Pakistan Army soldiers embraced martyrdom during an exchange of fire with terrorists in Diriduri.

North Waziristan, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) reported on Thursday.

According to the ISPR, the exchange of fire also left three militants dead. The martyred soldiers were identified as 36-year-old Havaladar Saleem Khan, resident of



district Tank, 37-year-old Naik Javed Iqbal, resident

of district Kohat, 26-year-old Sepoy Nazir Khan, resident of district Bannu, 25-year-old Sepoy Hazrat Bilal, resident of district Mardan, 22-year-old sepoy Syed Rajab Hussain, resident of district Orakzai, and Bismillah Jan, resident of district Khyber. The military's media wing stated that the soldiers fought gallantly and embraced martyrdom. A Soldier martyred in North Waziristan skirmish with terrorists. Web Desk

'High-level' Afghan delegation to visit Pakistan Today

Acting Afghan Foreign Minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi will lead a high-level delegation to Pakistan tomorrow (Friday), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Thursday.

The delegation will remain in Pakistan from May 5 to 8, the Foreign Office said in a statement, with the visit coming almost a month after a high-level delegation from Islamabad visited Kabul.

The Kabul delegation will include Acting Afghan Minister for Commerce and Industry Haji Nooruddin Azizi, and senior officials from the Afghan Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Transport, and Trade.

Apart from holding bilateral meetings, the acting Afghan foreign minister will also participate in the 5th China-Pakistan-Afghanistan Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Dialogue on May 6.

State Councilor and Foreign Minister of China Qin Gang will also participate in the Trilateral Foreign Minister's Dialogue



Afghan foreign minister continue political engagement with Pakistan

"The visit of the acting Afghan foreign minister is a continuation of Pakistan's political engagement process with Afghanistan, which, inter alia, included visit of Pakistan's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs to Kabul on 29 November 2022 and visit of a high-level delegation led by the Defence Minister of Pakistan to Kabul on 22 February 2023," the FO said. During the visit, the two sides will review the entire spectrum of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan in the political, economic, trade, connectivity, peace and security, and education domains. The Foreign Office said Pakistan is desirous of a peaceful, prosperous, stable and connected Afghanistan and reiterates its commitment to pursue continuous and practical engagement with the interim Afghan government. Web Desk

Formation of Pakistan Peoples Party, its aims and objectives

Editor Asim Khan

Why not books, if food can be delivered at homes

"Why not books, if food items can be delivered to homes", Shakoor Baloch, a committed young student said...

Sitting in a mud and brick-walled room located in one of the congested poor neighborhoods of Quetta, Shakoor Baloch, Amjad Baloch, and their colleagues are committed to promoting the book reading culture.

Bicycle is economical, we cannot afford petrol: Amjad Baloch "We deliver books by bicycle", Amjad Baloch, another student with a black-bushy beard said...

Reads Club has gathered around 700 books so far. Currently, the club has dropped over 400 books at various homes in various parts of Quetta and Balochistan province.

Volunteers delivering books at homes The number of delivery campaign is around one dozen. Most of them are students and an education lover has temporarily handed over the mud and brick-walled room to ensure the success of the initiative.

No official encouragement or support so far "No contact by any government official or any political party", Shakoor Baloch stated. He said the Readers' Club was in dire need of support since the demand for reading books was growing and they were unable to meet it.

In Balochistan, various organizations have established libraries to promote book reading in an environment where there is lack of information for the students.

Students have already established libraries in the Balochistan district of Kech, Gwadar, and other areas. Daily thousands of students from various parts of the province visit libraries.



Fifty-five years ago, an incredible journey began with the creation of the Pakistan People's Party. The history of the PPP is full of struggles and sacrifices...

The primary manuscript of the party had been completed by Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, J.A. Rahim, and Dr. Mubasher Hussain, and was finalized after a lengthy discussion. The participants in this convention were aware that they would create a new life for the people of this land and this presented the docu-

ments for approval in the same meeting. The aims and objectives of the party formation were to call for a socialist change in Pakistani society.

The ultimate goal of the party was to create a classless society which was possible in our circles only through socialism.

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto met the masses at all corners of the country. While speaking at a public meeting at Lahore Mochi Darwaza, the People's Leader, in his speech of 3 hours and 10 minutes, shed light on Islamic socialism, democracy, capitalism, and feudalism.

At that time, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto convinced the nation with arguments that the society should embrace Islamic socialism, and the foundation stones for a Progressive State.

It was clear that these were the things upon which our future generations would have walked with confidence. These sentences of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto have become a part of our his-

torical politics. Islam or our religion 2. Democracy is our politics.

3. Socialism is our economy. 4. The source of power is the People's strength.

Martyrdom of our wish (Added by Shaheed Benazir Bhutto the fifth month after the death of Bhutto said he had made a public manifesto to impose a socialist change to Pakistani society. He implemented agrarian reforms to take the grip of feudal lords, improve the economic conditions of laborers, and established security system to prevent capital accumulation.

Besides, the acknowledgment of laborers' rights, the respect of the ordinary person, the eradication of social inequality, and the essential honor of vote were the main points in the basic manuscript. People's Leader Zulfikar Ali Bhutto took the leadership of the party after he was defeated nation in 1971. But after only a few months, he gave democ-

cracy to the country by providing an interim constitution. Then the parliament headed by PPP government gave the 1973 constitution, which was the first unified national constitution in the country after its creation. That was the first written pact of the Pakistani nation which remains poignant as a thorn for martial law impostors to advance his party policies today.

"Musawat" to advance his party policies today. The party was formed by Quaid-e-Azam Zulfikar Ali Bhutto has achieved the four corners of the land and will continue to resonate in the atmosphere of Pakistan. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto stood alive in the form of Muratza Bhutto Shaheed, in the character of Shah Nawaz Bhutto, in the silhouette of Benazir Bhutto, the martyred daughter of Quaid-e-Azam Bhutto Zardari.

Bhutto's personality is performed on the world's stage today in the form of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. His achievements as a leader of the opposition in the National Assembly, and as Foreign Minister especially his two year span of 7 months are remarkable. Bhuttoism is still used as a political term even by Bhutto's opponents in this country to gain public support.

In fact, throughout the political history of Pakistan, the Pakistan People's Party is a Party that won 3 to 4 times in general elections and took practical measures for the welfare of the population ever and the progress of Pakistan.

The country has seen long, dark days of dictatorship regimes and tyrants tried to derail democracy again and again to usurp the mandate. This bitter truth must be remembered by the people of Pakistan.

No great leader of South Asia can compete with the review of the political insight. The love for people and democracy given by Quaid-e-Azam Bhutto instilled among the political workers should never be lost. Formation of Pakistan People's Party and its aims and objectives by Bashir Nichari

Gaming out a default Talking like grown-ups

Ammar Habib Khan

Pakistan has been in a precipice of default for the last few months. It has been perched on the edge of default, enacting draconian policies, while refusing to pay its external debt.

About nine months back, when the global commodity cycle was easing out, and interest rates were increasing globally, ample warnings were given for some course correction. An expected increase in interest rates globally was seen as a tailwind in global liquidity, making it difficult to rollover existing debt, or raise fresh debt in a time of global macroeconomic instability.

The warnings that we heard out in the first half of 2022 went unheeded, and the fiscal profligacy of the government continued without any thought of potential unintended consequences. The sovereign continued to default in irresponsible ways, while the central bank continued to encourage the government to pursue stimulative monetary actions, even though the situation called for an immediate reduction in fiscal deficits, and to put the fiscal in order.

The government refused to expand the taxation base, and when someone tried to do the same, they were quickly

shown the door. As the taxation base remains largely unchanged, real growth in tax revenues is negative as inflation far outpaces any growth in tax revenues. Precious time was wasted, and it is still being wasted. The government, and the usual suspects, continue to pretend that they are living in an illusion that the country interest rates globally are zero, and we are flushed with liquidity, and the government is on a bailout yet another time. Such stubborn behaviour has led to an illusion that the country may get yet another lifeline. But it may not be forthcoming anytime soon, as it has been largely with considerable delays in the resumption of the IMF programme - the cost of which, countries have been done about six months back.

Since we did not do any of the above earlier, and continue to default in unbecoming, the chickens are now coming home to roost. The central bank of the State Bank of Pakistan increased the policy rate to its highest ever, and the government is still we are in a deep negative real rate region, significantly reducing the value of interest rate serving debt. As the interest rate increases, so does the cost of borrowing, and the government, the largest borrower in the country.

Government borrowing makes up almost 70 per cent of the country's banking assets. Over the years, the government has increased its borrowing through the banking system through a mix of treasury bills, bonds, sukuk, and other instruments, as well as through its various state-owned entities. Government borrowing through various modes, whether directly, or indirectly is more than Rs22 trillion. The government deficit, often referred to as default. A scenario which is already in play in countries like Sri Lanka, Ghana, and Zambia. The common thread between all is the continued increase in the debt, often referred to as default. A scenario which is already in play in countries like Sri Lanka, Ghana, and Zambia. The common thread between all is the continued increase in the debt, often referred to as default.

As interest rates increase, so will the cost of borrowing, and interest payments on that debt. The government will continue to print more money to pay interest on the accrued debt, and the interest will continue to print more money to pay interest on the accrued debt, and the interest will continue to print more money to pay interest on the accrued debt.

inflation is expected to rise to 20 per cent. There will be a pressure to increase government wages, and pensions. The government will have to increase its expenditure on the side, and lead to further deficits. In the absence of any plan to reduce the deficit, the ability of the sovereign to keep plugging the deficit with debt is not sustainable, the next best option is a move away from the default. A scenario which is already in play in countries like Sri Lanka, Ghana, and Zambia. The common thread between all is the continued increase in the debt, often referred to as default.

If debt becomes unsustainable, a potential restructuring of the debt, and that would be interest deferral of interest payment that the government has to make on its debt, or a potential haircut (reduction in amount) on the debt, or a payable to different debt holders. Such a rapid growth in debt servicing requirements, the biggest of all hard loan government debt, wherein they use deposi-

tion money to lend to the government, and there is a haircut on the debt, the commercial banks will have to take significant losses, and which may affect solvency of many banks, and would shake the entire financial system. This should be avoided at all costs. If a potential restructuring of the debt, and that would be interest deferral of interest payment that the government has to make on its debt, or a potential haircut (reduction in amount) on the debt, or a payable to different debt holders.

There isn't much time left to do course correction. Any further delays in restructuring our financial position, and believing in illusions, will put us in a dire situation. The IMF on Pakistan's economic outlook. Painting a bleak picture of our economy, the three international financial institutions (IFIs) have reiterated their warning, that the IMF on Pakistan's economic outlook. Painting a bleak picture of our economy, the three international financial institutions (IFIs) have reiterated their warning, that the IMF on Pakistan's economic outlook.

growth. These problems include unsustainable debt, weak external position (balance of payments crisis or dollar deficit), and other structural issues such as low productivity, poor governance, weak institutions, energy shortages, and social inequalities. Besides, they have cautioned against the IMF's policy prescriptions in Pakistan's economic revival.

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Dr. Abid Qayyum Suleri

scenarios seem difficult, especially in a existing scenario where Pakistani policy is divided across all or dollar deficit, and other structural issues such as low productivity, poor governance, weak institutions, energy shortages, and social inequalities. Besides, they have cautioned against the IMF's policy prescriptions in Pakistan's economic revival.

Teach the girl child A Country

By Taimur K. Bandyopadhyay

By most accounts, 25 per cent to election year for Pakistan. In this case, all political parties will prepare their manifestos and go into electioneering mode. Media, civil society and even religious parties will scan the manifestos and raise questions on many of their salient features. However, what all political parties must talk about is the idea and plan of educating the girls of Pakistan.

The most important reason for any political party is to focus on the more than 23 million out-of-school children. This is, by no means, a small number at all. This means a catastrophic future if this untapped and wasted human resource is not educated. Girls continue to be out of school in the percentage of the millions of out-of-school children. This requires a gender-specific policy and action.

"Beti Parhaao, Mulk Bachao" Programme across Pakistan is the need of the hour. Such a programme should be the forefront of every political party's manifesto and election campaign. It should be designed to encourage, retain and popularize education on a war footing. Aggressive and in-your-face media campaigns promoting education for the girl child and its benefits to the girl herself, her family, her future and the country itself, should be planned and executed. This campaign has to

be done in local/regional languages and the state party for Pakistan. In this case, all political parties will prepare their manifestos and go into electioneering mode. Media, civil society and even religious parties will scan the manifestos and raise questions on many of their salient features. However, what all political parties must talk about is the idea and plan of educating the girls of Pakistan.

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results of how parents can fight the traditional and social impediments to educating their daughters. Powerful scripts need to be written in short, crisp and large. Strong female characters can also be used to show this. Even films can be made to show the impact of good stories that can leave a lasting impact especially on fathers and brothers and perhaps even mothers who oppose or restrict female education.

Another method of planning the need or following the lead of Bangladesh which has used the electronic and digital media in promoting girls' education through popular celebrities in both the national and regional languages is pertinent to use local success stories as well as home-grown role models of Pakistani girls achieving milestones in various sectors and fields across the country. People's interest in celebrities and men and women who have popular and relatable images is high. This should be used for this national cause.

Pakistan has one of the highest television footprints and it should be utilized if it were not for commercial and bandwidth issues. Improved internet and awareness service needs to be a priority for the government. The Covid-19 pandemic paved up a global digital and data-driven transformation. Digital technologies now being widely used for learning. Digital literacy has

become almost as important as traditional literacy. Empowering entrepreneurs who can create teams to help women/ girls discover their talents and talents even at a basic scale. These incubation centres should be set up and managed through a public-private partnership, inclusion of overseas or diaspora entrepreneurs, venture capital firms and multinationals companies.

However, nothing will replace the need for physical schools for girls in close proximity littered in the landscape of this country. Nothing will match the heavy investment in female teachers to teach these future Pakistanis and make something out of them. These funds, monitoring execution and then reflecting the same in the country's total spending (federal and provincial) of 1.4 per cent of its GDP, compared to India's 2.9 per cent and an average of 1.4 per cent of the GDP in South Asia. Here again the private sector can be used to set their training and best practices can be used to help government school teachers and classroom teachers to meet certain benchmarks of quality.

All of this may look like a lot of money with a determined leadership, women can be used to set their training and best practices can be used to help government school teachers and classroom teachers to meet certain benchmarks of quality. All of this may look like a lot of money with a determined leadership, women can be used to set their training and best practices can be used to help government school teachers and classroom teachers to meet certain benchmarks of quality.

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few real-ly think or consider the possibility of suffering from the economic crisis on the majority in the country. The realization, that the health care, the children being pulled out of school, mothers, going without food so their children can eat - it all makes for a picture that is so hard even to fit it into Dickensian times, or to picture in true relief.

Few of us have seen a child who is literally so undernourished that he or she can barely walk or move around in any fashion. We know the ugly truth that Pakistan hides and refuses to talk about - including the fact that we have failed to invest in our resources - including our women - and have not educated - people leaves us especially vulnerable in the sea of troubles that now heads our way.

Other nations have fared so much better even if they lie at a short distance from us and are located within South Asia. The union of Saarc has been the only one that has formed the centerpiece for developing South Asian countries to come about and the battles between New Delhi and Islamabad have not been a major contributor to it. The government in New Delhi has not done what it makes - it extremely unlikely that there will be any change in the fortune or ability to maneuver a basic point of agreement, even though

By Kamila Hyatt

there is some indication that when people think about the government is how they do so. They do not of course see the real world through the faces of the majority of people who do not actually support it. Pakistan also seems to be a country that has lost all sense of direction and we see being fought between institutions, will not be able to go beyond their doors leave all its wondering as to how the country is to survive. There are already forecasts that it will struggle very hard to do so and that the coming two to three years will be extremely difficult. The fact that we have failed to invest in our resources - including our women - and have not educated - people leaves us especially vulnerable in the sea of troubles that now heads our way.

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## VP FPCCI, Ambassador to Japan discuss bilateral ties, holding of exhibition of Pakistani products

ISLAMABAD: Vice President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) & Chairman of its Office, Islamabad, Mr. Amin Ullah Baig and the Ambassador of Pakistan to Japan Raza Bashir Tarar discussed Pakistan-Japan bilateral trade and the holding of an exhibition of Pakistani products in Japan, highlighting the investment & tourism opportunities in Pakistan.

In his meeting with the ambassador held at Pakistan Embassy in Tokyo, Japan, the Vice President FPCCI said that Pakistan has great poten-

tial for economic growth, strategic location, fertile trade routes and rich natural resources such as copper and coal are also available. He highlighted available resources and favourable conditions, Pakistan has a big potential for development in the future, he added.

Amin Ullah Baig and Raza Bashir Tarar discussed Pakistan-Japan bilateral trade and the holding of an exhibition of Pakistani products in Japan, highlighting the investment & tourism opportunities in Pakistan. He also told that there is huge potential for export of Pakistani rice, textile, seafood, sports goods and agro-based products and

there is a need for direct interaction between the traders of both countries.

Ambassador of Pakistan to Japan Raza Bashir Tarar highlighted the role of the FPCCI in the promotion of trade between the two countries, saying, "There are excellent trade relations between Pakistan and Japan and we hope to further growth. He expressed that the Pakistan Mission in Japan works for the enhancement of trade between the two countries. He highlighted the trade potential and focused on person-to-person interaction INP.



ISLAMABAD: A World Bank delegation headed by Mamtta Murthi, Vice President of the World Bank for Human Development held a meeting with Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, at Finance Division.

## Colleagues 'confess' to shooting fellow dead over 'fake' robbery

KARACHI: The Karachi police claim to have solved a week-old murder case and declared that two men gunned down their fellow at a farmhouse tried to implicate him in fake robbery case and also tried to dispose of the body.

According to details, on April 30, police received a call on their 15 helpline about a 'dacoit' being shot at a farmhouse near the Bakshihar area of Memon Goth, Karachi.

According to the informer, later identified as Anas, the 'suspect' was shot dead while he was stealing gold chains. Memon Goth Station was alerted and Akram Arain claimed that a police party led by him immediately reached the spot after a few minutes of receiving the call.

He said they saw a 20-year-old man lying unconscious in an injured condition at the farmhouse. Moments later, the father

of the injured man and two other men also reached there and shifted him to a hospital in their vehicle where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival. Anas further said the father, Muhammad Yaseen, claimed his son was not a dacoit and had been murdered by Anas and another man, Raheem Baksh, under unknown reasons.

Police took both the suspects into custody and shifted them to the police station. The Memon Goth police registered a case under sections 202 (murder) and 34 (common intention) against the two on the complaint of Yaseen.

In his statement to police, Yaseen claimed he worked at the HR farmhouse as a gatekeeper. He was not feeling well on April 29 and sent his son, Muhammad Zubair, as his replacement for the day.

He said Zubair was performing his security duty at the main gate of the farmhouse, while Anas, a clerk, and another security guard, Raheem Baksh, were present inside.

Yaseen further told the police he received a call from Anas that Zubair had received a bullet wound. Along with his son Jahanzab and nephew Mehmood, he immediately reached the farmhouse. Upon reaching the spot, they saw Anas and Raheem standing near his injured son with each carrying weapons.

Yaseen claimed that on seeing them there, the two suspects fled from the scene. They shifted an injured Zubair to a nearby private healthcare center, where doctors pronounced him dead.

SHO Arain claimed that both Anas and Raheem confessed to the murder. However, they claimed, the bar was shot dead accidentally. INP

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Upon reaching the spot, they saw Anas and Raheem standing near his injured son with each carrying weapons.

Yaseen claimed that on seeing them there, the two suspects fled from the scene. They shifted an injured Zubair to a nearby private healthcare center, where doctors pronounced him dead.

SHO Arain claimed that both Anas and Raheem confessed to the murder. However, they claimed, the bar was shot dead accidentally. INP

## Three killed, 10 injured as passenger van overturns in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD: At least three people were killed and 10 others were wounded when a passenger van turned turtle due to over speeding on Thursday.

According to details, the accident took place on Indus Highway near Marhanda area of Hyderabad where a reckless driven passenger van overturned.

Three passengers were killed on the spot in the accident while 10 others sustained injuries.

The bodies and injured were shifted to hospital where condition of five wounded passengers was stated to be critical and it was feared that death toll could rise further. INP

## Robbers deprive citizen of Rs0.9m during broad day light

BUREWALA: Armed robbers snatched nine lakh rupees cash from a citizen during broad day light, injured him upon resistance and fled the scene here on Thursday.

According to details, a citizen identified as Abdul Karah hailed from Fine City went to National Saving Centre, Allama Iqbal Road, Burewala to deposit cash.

However, on the way, two armed motorcyclists snatched bag with 900,000 rupees cash from him, shot him injured and sped the scene of crime.

The injured was shifted to THQ Hospital for treatment and police after registering a case into the incident started an investigation. INP

## SAPM criticizes superior judiciary over "lopsided judgments"; interference in politics

ISLAMABAD: Special Adviser to the Prime Minister (SAPM) Malik Ahmed Khan on Thursday criticized the superior judiciary for what he called the last six years' "lopsided judgments"; interference in politics.

Speaking to the media, he cited 16 specific cases, including those involving Hanif Abbasi and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, and argued that the decisions delivered in the last six years have had a significant impact on the political history of the country.

He referred to a tweet by senior journalist Talat Hussain INP

## Pakistan's exports to Central Asian countries grow in FY23: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's exports to the Central Asian countries grew by 33 percent during the first nine months (July-March) of the current Fiscal Year FY23-23, reaching \$166.205 million, compared to \$124.774 million during the corresponding period of the previous year, reports WealthPK.

According to the data released by the State Bank of Pakistan, exports to Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan experienced a remarkable surge on year-over-year (YoY) basis. The figures indicate that in March 2023, exports to these countries reached \$35.742 million, reflecting a substantial increase of \$30.30 million in comparison with \$5.440 million recorded in March 2022.

Imports from Central Asian countries amounted to \$22.623 million from July to March in the current fiscal year. Nevertheless, Pakistan managed to maintain a trade surplus, with the surplus reaching \$14.119 million in the same month.

Notably, Pakistan registered a trade surplus at Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan during the first nine months of the

current fiscal year while recording a trade deficit with Turkmenistan.

During the period under review, Pakistan secured a prominent position as the primary exporter of goods to Central Asian countries. Exports to Kazakhstan increased by 413 percent YoY, with an export value of \$12.864 million in March 2023, compared with \$2.508 million during the same month of the previous year.

However, there has been a decline in Pakistan's exports to Kazakhstan during the nine months of the current fiscal year, with total exports amounting to \$72.423 million. This is a significant decrease from the \$88.09 million recorded during the same period in the previous fiscal year, representing a decline of \$15.673 million.

Despite this decline, the trade surplus during the period stood at \$68.074 million with Kazakhstan. Exports to Uzbekistan in March 2023 amounted to \$11.419 million compared to \$1.19 million in the previous fiscal year, where exports stood at \$1.19 million.

However, the overall exports to Uzbekistan during the first nine

months (July-March) of the current fiscal year showed a substantial increase compared to the same period last year.

The total exports to Uzbekistan during this period reached \$64.637 million, marking a significant rise of \$35.087 million from the previous year's figure of \$31.550 million. Moreover, during this nine-month period, the trade surplus amounted to \$52.554 million.

Pakistan experienced a significant surge in exports to Tajikistan in March 2023 compared with the same time frame in the previous year. The recorded exports for March 2023 amounted to \$5.87 million against \$0.298 million in March 2022.

Moreover, exports from Pakistan to Tajikistan from July to March of the current fiscal year demonstrated a remarkable growth of 671 percent, reaching \$19.980 million in comparison to \$2.90 million during the corresponding period of the last year.

Exports to Kyrgyzstan remained at \$5.519 million in March 2023 against \$0.282 million during the same month of the previous fiscal INP.

## Islamabad police warn PTI workers against violating section 144

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police Thursday warned Pakistan Shree-Insaf (PTI) workers against violating section 144 in the federal capital ahead of the upcoming election in Islamabad High Court (IHC) later in the day.

The police spokesperson said section 144 is imposed in the city and any kind of public gathering, rallies, processions, and actions would be illegal and action would be taken.

The statement further said that to ensure law and order situation there would be a diversion at the G-10 project road. Traffic at the area around the project road will also be diverted.

The Islamabad police have advised citizens to follow the route plan and travel at the alternate routes.

The former prime minister and PTI chairman Imran Khan is seen appear before a two-member bench headed by Chief Justice Ameer Farooq, which had granted bail revocation on continuous absence from court, on yesterday's hearing.

Security has been tightened around the Islamabad High Court (IHC) ahead of the upcoming election in Islamabad. The IHC Chairman Imran Khan's appearance has left for the federal capital a secure interim bail in nine different cases.

A heavy contingent of police was deployed around the court while barbed wires and containers are also being placed to ensure law and order in the area. The police have also banned the entry of unrelated persons into the IHC.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman NDMA, Lt. General Inam Haider Malik Presiding Summer Contingencies Conference with Stakeholders at NDMA Main Hall.

## AJK leadership sams hoding G-10 meeting in Srinagar

MUZAFFARABAD: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) leadership has strongly condemned India's decision to hold a meeting of the G-20 Tourism Working Group on May 22-24 in Srinagar, the capital of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

AJK Prime Minister Ch. Anwar-ul-Haq in a statement issued in Muzaaffarabad Thursday, while referring to the disputed nature of the Kashmir issue, said that India's contentious decision to host the G-20 Summit event in the occupied territory was a flagrant violation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions and the United Nations Charter and international law. He made it clear that such actions could not

hide the reality of Jammu and Kashmir. "Kashmir is an internationally recognized conflict that has been pending for decades," the PM said, adding that India cannot hoodwink the world community by using such tactics.

The Prime Minister said that by hosting an international conference in Srinagar, New Delhi cannot deflect the attention of the international community away from Kashmir that has been reeling under relentless Indian aggression for several years. Urging Muslim countries, who are members of the Group 20, to take effective notice of the worsening political and human rights situation in

the region, Anwar ul Haq said that Muslim countries of the G-20 Turkey, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and others should take an upcoming event being hosted in Srinagar.

Referring to the Indian government's nefarious designs in the region, he said that India was trying to mislead the world and hide ground realities by hosting a high profile event in Jammu and Kashmir, the disputed territory which it had occupied illegally against the wishes of people of the territory. He said that the Indian government was illegally changing the special status of Kashmir in August 2019, in violation of the UNSC resolutions. He said that it was high time that the member countries INP.

## FBR may re-impose regulatory duty on imported cars, phones

KARACHI: Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Chairman Asim Ahmed on Thursday hinted at re-imposing regulatory duties on the import of vehicles and mobile phones.

In a statement, the FBR chief said that the regulatory duty on the import of mobile phones and used cars has been imposed on March 31, 2023 and could be resumed by the government at any time.

"The regulatory duties on the import of mobile phones and vehicles were imposed up to the period of March 31, 2023," he said. FBR chief further said that there was no need to issue a notification for re-imposition of the regulatory duty as currently there was a ban on import of cars and mobile phones. He said the decision of imposing taxes was taken by the Ministry of Trade and would be resumed any time after approval from the ministry. It is pertinent to mention here that the government had imposed a ban on import of range of goods INP.

Experts are also of the view that the decision to re-impose regulatory duties on the import of vehicles and mobile phones is a step in the right direction to protect the local industry and to ensure a level playing field for domestic manufacturers.

The government has also been considering the possibility of imposing a regulatory duty on the import of used cars and mobile phones. This move is seen as a way to protect the local market and to ensure that domestic manufacturers are not at a disadvantage.

The FBR chief also mentioned that the government is currently reviewing the impact of the regulatory duties on the import of mobile phones and used cars. He said that the government will take a decision on whether to re-impose the duties based on the findings of the review.

## ICCI to cooperate with PBFI in resolving key issues of traders: Ahsan Zafar

ISLAMABAD: President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar said that he will continue to serve the business community with sincerity and enthusiasm to provide them with maximum facilitation in promoting their business.

This was stated by him while addressing the swearing-in ceremony of newly elected office bearers of Pakistan Business Forum Islamabad (PBFI) here on Thursday. Chaudhry Tahir was elected as President, Raja Imtiaz Abbasi General Secretary, Aziz ur Rehman and Tahir Ayub Senior Vice Presidents, Saeed Khokhar Patron-in-Chief, Zahid Qureshi Chairman, Khalid Abbas Vice Chairman, Imran Bukhari Chief Organizer and Babar Chaudhry Deputy Secretary General of Islamabad Business Forum. Ahsan Zafar said that the business community was his mission and Allah SWT was providing him with new opportunities for this purpose. He hailed the announcement of Chairman CDA to give representation to ICCI in CDA INP.

The Asian Institute of Eco-Civilization Research and Education (AICRE) is in collaboration with PMAS-ARD Agriculture University, Rawalpindi, to conduct a series of Understanding China Fellowship Program 2023 for the Pakistani youth intending and aspiring to understand China.

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The program is supported by the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, Gwadar. The program is supported by the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, Gwadar. The program is supported by the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, Gwadar.

The two-month long program will be divided into two parts. The first part comprises lectures, presentations and discussions. While in the second part, each participant will produce a 2000-word concept paper on his/her understanding of China.

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## Auto industry pins hopes on SBP for relaxation in import curbs: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's auto sector, as promised by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) for issuance of letters of credit (LCs), has been a major concern for the Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts and Manufacturers (PAA-PAM) has already sent a request to Federal Investment Minister Ch. Dar, seeking the removal of import restrictions placed on auto parts and issuance of LCs for auto manufacturers in the country.

According to a report of Pakistan Automotive Manufacturers Association (PAMA), car sales fell 66% during the first nine months (July-March) of the current fiscal year 2022-23. The report said major car manufacturers in the country, including Toyota Motor, Atlas Honda, Suzuki Motors, and bus manufacturers, have shut down their production units owing to feasibility issues and import curbs.

PAPAM Chairman M. Anwar-ul-Haq said that the government has taken the auto sector towards complete closure, which will ultimately leave millions of workers jobless and cause repatriation of foreign investment by auto management professionals, who are now facing layoffs as the auto industry has reached the brink of complete closure if measures were not taken immediately to improve the current state of affairs.

In a letter, the PAA-PAM has asked the State Bank to allow all the auto manufacturers to import auto parts towards complete closure, which will ultimately leave millions of workers jobless and cause repatriation of foreign investment by auto management professionals, who are now facing layoffs as the auto industry has reached the brink of complete closure if measures were not taken immediately to improve the current state of affairs.

The PAA-PAM letter further pointed out that the prevailing draught in the auto industry has been continuing since the last few months, resulting into shutdown of production of all types of vehicles in the country. According to PAMA, the sales of light commercial vehicles, including jeeps and pickups declined by 47% to 199 units during the first nine months of the current fiscal year from 205,452 units during the corresponding period of fiscal year 2021-22. The sales of trucks also declined by 46% to 270 units during March 2023 from 521 units during the same period last year. It stood at 500 units during March 2022. Trucks sales during 9MFY23 dropped by 77% to 199 units against 4,493 units during 9MFY22. Bus sales also witnessed a sharp decline with sales of only 29 units during the same period last year. In 136 during February and 65 during March 2022, the sales of buses during the first nine months (MoM) drop of 79% and 55% on year-on-year (YoY) basis. Despite low monthly sales, the overall 9MFY23 bus sales soared 22% to 557 INP.

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# Disability quota must be implemented in public & private sector jobs: President

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has called for the implementation of the disability quota for persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the public and private sector jobs to make PWDs financially independent. He said that almost 12-14% of Pakistan's population suffered from some form of disability and the government and private sector needed to provide them employment for their financial empowerment.

These views were expressed by him while speaking during a follow-up meeting on the framework for the classification of disabilities, at Awan-e-Sadr on Thursday. The meeting was attended by senior officials of the Ministry of Human Rights and the Government of Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Arif Alvi said that disability quota should be implemented as per its actual spirit, adding that chambers of commerce and industries, banks, multi-national corporations, trade bodies, and other private sector organizations needed to employ differently-abled people (DAPs) as per their skill sets and nature of disabilities. He said that Pakistan must focus on providing DAPs with skill-based education to help them secure jobs and ensure their inclusion in the mainstream of socio-economic activities.

The President highlighted the need to develop close coordination among relevant stakeholders to impart skills to PWDs as per their special needs as well as market requirements. He underscored that training institutes and employment organizations should tailor their efforts to equip PWDs with marketable skills and link them with potential employers in the private sector to provide them suitable jobs in accordance with their skills and quota.

President Alvi also urged the need to provide disability certificates to PWDs in a quick, easy and hassle-free manner enabling them to benefit from different schemes and facilities being offered by the government.

Director General/ Secretary of the Council on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), Mr Abdul Sattar, informed the meeting that CRPD in coordination with different federal ministries was working to ensure the implementation of the disability quota. He apprised that the disability quota was being observed in the government sector whereas efforts were being made to ensure its greater implementation in the private sector. He added that CRPD was working on a programme to provide skills to PWDs as per their disabilities and the needs of the employers. INP

## Strategy 2023-2027 promises IT export boost: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: The software development strategy for 2023-2027 developed by the Pakistan Software House Association and the Ministry of Commerce will help increase the export of IT-related services, said Basim Ahmed, data engineer at Teradata GDC Pakistan, while talking to WealthPK.

The local software market presents substantial business opportunities for companies that provide corporate software products, such as financial management and business forecasting, online IT training portals, e-commerce, e-payment, embedded tools, and other web-based services, he said.

"The strategy builds on the ongoing initiatives to develop the private sector. This will integrate regions, and bring investment in youth's economic empowerment," he said. Pakistan's IT services sector has many fundamentals in place to drive faster growth. The recent rapid increases in export earnings indicate the sector's strong export potential in the medium term, as well as its financial attractiveness, existing market entry to major importing nations, and available talent pool. Butting of this will require tackling some key growth and competitiveness challenges," he added.

"The investment climate in Pakistan is not yet conducive to attracting talent to work and stay in the country. Apart from this, Pakistan has cybercrime laws but cybersecurity is still lacking. Pakistan lags behind a wide range of countries in competitiveness, cybersecurity, and innovation. China and the UAE score high on cybersecurity, while Pakistan has a low score of 64.9. Both countries have invested heavily in cybersecurity. This is the reason for the low growth of the computer industry in Pakistan." The latest data shows that IT and ITES export earnings increased from \$1.8 billion to \$2.3 billion in FY 2021-22. Despite its original target of \$3.5 billion, the industry was expected to reach \$5 billion in 2023. The Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) has registered over 28,604 IT companies, providing services to more than 100 countries. The industry body reports that more than 40,000 IT professionals are employed in the industry, including 4 percent are women. As a result, this industry is an important source of employment for people with knowledge of current and emerging technologies if they are provided with the proper resources. Further, the Software Development Export Strategy is aimed at establishing a program to place university graduates into IT firms, including the expansion of internships, announcing 1,000 internships program and obtaining a commitment from at least 20 software firms to accommodate 10 interns a year. INP

ISLAMABAD: The Parliament's Public Accounts Committee on Thursday sought report from Maritime Affairs ministry over solar panels given by China for Gwadar.

A session of the PAC chaired by Noor Alam Khan reviewed FY 2021-22 audit objections raised with regard to the Ministry of Maritime Affairs.

The session discussed the issue of solar panels gifted by the Chinese government for the people of the port city of Gwadar. "Some elements want to fail Gwadar and cause estrangement of friendly countries," Noor Alam said. "It has been heard that the solar panels gifted by China have been

given to anyone else." PAC chairman said. "The PAC should be informed about those who have been handed over solar panels," he said. "We will welcome if panels delivered to Gwadar's fishermen, otherwise responsible persons will be made accountable," he said. The PAC demanded report from the secretary maritime affairs. The committee members also demanded physical verification of the solar panels. INP



INDIA Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto arrives in Goa, to attend SCO Foreign Ministers' meeting, as Bilawal Bhutto became the first Foreign Minister of Pakistan to arrive in India after a gap of nearly 12 years.

## PTI chief involved in campaign against national institutions: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Marriyum Aurangzeb has criticized Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan for his alleged campaign against martyrs and national institutions. In a statement issued here on Thursday, she said a person who made fun of Shari's family members' illnesses is now lying in a wheelchair.

Marriyum Aurangzeb asked the PTI chief instead of indulging in the blame game he should appear in the courts and provide evidence.

Imran Khan has constantly been changing his get-up and script according to the situation, she added.

The information minister said that first, PTI chief played a dirty game of cyber, then apologized to the US and the US General (retired) James J. Bajwa, Asif Zardari and now Mohsin Naqvi for his ouster from power. INP

## Six soldiers martyred, three terrorists killed in North Waziristan encounter: ISPR

RAWALPINDI: As many as six soldiers of Pakistan Army were martyred and three terrorists were killed in an encounter with militants in North Waziristan district of North Waziristan, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Thursday.

According to military's media wing, the encounter took place in Dir Duni area of the district.

"The Pakistan security personnel effectively targeted the suspected hideouts of militants killing three terrorists and leaving two others injured," the ISPR said.

In exchange of fire, six soldiers including 36-year-old Havaldar Saleem Khan, 37-year-old Naik Javed Iqbal, 26-year-old Sepoy Nazir Khan, 25-year-old Sepoy Hazrat Bilal, 22-year-old Sepoy Syed Rajab Hussain and 22-year-old Sepoy Bismillah Jan were martyred.

"The military's media wing said, 'Sanitized and well-armed militants tried to eliminate any terrorists found in the area. [The] security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve.'"

The attack comes amid a surge in terrorist activities across the country, especially in KP and Balochistan, since the outlawed militant group Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) ended its ceasefire with the government in November.

Director General ISPR Maj Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry in his maiden press briefing said that at least 293 people were martyred and 521 were injured in 436 terrorist incidents over the past year.

As many as 192 people were martyred in 219 terrorist incidents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, while 80 people lost lives in 206 incidents in Balochistan, 14 people in five attacks in Punjab and six in terrorism incidents across Sindh.

He had said that the army and law enforcement agencies used over 8,269 intelligence-based operations during the previous year in which 1,378 suspected terrorists were apprehended and 157 were killed.

The DG ISPR had also said that overall 137 security personnel were martyred and 117 injured in anti-terror operations in the ongoing year. INP

## Gwadar port proves international worth, handles all 9 wheat ships

ISLAMABAD: Proving its international worth, operational competence and high-tech capability, Gwadar Port has meticulously received and administered all successive nine ships loaded with 450,000 metric tons of imported Russian wheat.

Transshipment at Gwadar port is part of strenuous effort to ward off Pakistan from a wheat shortage and food crisis, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro that it received.

All bulky nine vessels docked at 600 meters long berths of Gwadar Port from March 02 till May 03. The handling of the nine wheat ships with precision after urea import at Gwadar Port confirms that the port is fit and capable of handling all forthcoming international shipments.

A Gwadar Shipping Clearance Agents Association (AGSCAA) official told Gwadar Pro that

## FDI from China surged to \$319.2 million in first 9 months, 2022-23

ISLAMABAD: FDI from China surged to \$319.2 million as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from the world's second largest investor in Pakistan in the first nine months of Fiscal Year 2022-23, according to the Board of Investment (BOI) Pakistan's data.

The latest official data shows that during February and March 2023, Pakistan received another \$119 million from China, bringing the total FDI from the friendly neighbouring country to \$319.2 million from July to November 2022. FDI from China was recorded as \$102 million, however, during the next four months (between December 2022 and March 2023) China poured another \$217.2 million into different sectors in Pakistan.

According to Gwadar Pro, during the first nine months of Fiscal Year 2022-23, Pakistan has received \$1,048.4 million (around \$1.05 billion) FDI from different countries of the world. China is the top investor in Pakistan with a 30.44% share.

As per BOI's statistics, in the current fiscal year, Japan is the second largest investor in Pakistan with \$157.3 million followed by Switzerland with \$123.1 million, the U.A.E with \$116.6 million, the U.S. with \$59.9 million, Netherlands with \$53.8 million, UK with \$45.6 million, Turkey with \$16 million and Italy with \$16.6 million while \$94 million have been invested by other countries of the world. INP

## Pakistan to celebrate 10th anniversary of CPEC in July

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is gearing up to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in July.

Last Thursday, Pakistani Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, chaired a meeting to review the progress made on CPEC projects and issued directives to celebrate the significant economic progress in underdeveloped areas of Pakistan as a result of CPEC.

Mr Iqbal also directed all ministries and divisions to submit proposals of development projects to be presented in an upcoming Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) scheduled to be held in July, according to Gwadar Pro.

Each ministry was asked to submit reports on its project, emphasizing the economic and social benefits they bring to Pakistan and rejected negative propaganda against CPEC.

The meeting was attended by several government officials and stakeholders representing different ministries, divisions, the Pakistani embassy in China, Chinese embassy in Pakistan, and was apprised of the significant progress made in CPEC projects, particularly after work on special economic zones (SEZs) to attract Chinese industrial relocation to Pakistan with low-cost production and to finalise proposals with concrete agendas. INP

## LG by-polls on 56 seats of Sindh to be held on Sunday

KARACHI: The local government by-elections on 56 seats of Sindh province will be held Sunday (May 07, 2023).

Sindh Chief Secretary Dr Mohammad Shaukat Rajput informed this while presiding over a meeting in Karachi on Thursday.

The Provincial Election Commissioner said polling will be held at 449 polling stations in Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Shaheed Benazirabad and Larkana. INP

## Karachi's first monkeypox case takes country's overall tally to four

KARACHI: The first monkeypox (mpox) case reported in Karachi on Thursday has taken the overall tally in the country to four.

According to Sindh Health Department, medical tests of a man serving as driver in Jeddah who returned back to Pakistan through Oman having monkeypox symptoms were conducted and found affected of this disease.

After being detected with monkeypox, the affected was isolated and further investigation in this connection was underway.

It should be mentioned here that monkeypox is a rare viral zoonotic disease that is caused by infection with the monkeypox virus. Although the natural reservoir of monkeypox remains unknown, African rodents and non-human primates like monkeys may harbour the virus and infect people. INP

## Tarar terms Khan's medical report 'fake'

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Interior Attaullah Tarar on Thursday termed medical report of infection in leg as 'fake' and has urged all courts to reject it.

Why's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan preparing medical reports from his own medical institution 'Shaukat Khanum' and why didn't he go to proper medical checkup from government hospitals or other well reputed private medical labs," he said in a press conference here.

He said that Imran Khan was playing different types of tactics on medical grounds from a long time to get relief from courts without appearing before them and which is totally against the law and constitution, he said. INP



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi chairing a follow-up meeting on the framework for the classification of disabilities, at Awan-e-Sadr.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Saadiq Sarfari exchanging views with Fowzia Siddiqui Sister of Dr. Aafia Siddiqui at Parliament House.

## Saghar urges G-20 nations to skip events of forum being hosted by India in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference-Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter Convener, Mehmood Ahmed Saghar, has appealed to the G-20 countries to skip the upcoming events of the forum being hosted by Narendra Modi-led fascist Indian government on May 22-24 in G20 summit in the southern capital of India illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The APHC-AJK Convener in a letter addressed the G-20 nations of the Kashmiri people's deep concern and apprehensions vis-a-vis the Indian government's move to attempt to legitimize behind holding the high-profile meeting in the disputed territory. He underscored the importance of the G-20 nations' role in ensuring necessary steps to help address the dire situation, restore peace, and facilitate a just resolution of the Kashmir dispute. He said, the G-20

nations can play a significant role to address the long-pending dispute by forging a united stance supporting the cause of Kashmir and protecting the hapless Kashmiris from indiscriminate and excessive use of force against them by India Mehmood Ahmed Saghar while referring to Modi government's nefarious design to legitimize the region and the move to host the G-20 events in the UN-recognised disputed territory was a part of a multifaceted and multi-front campaign New Delhi has since long been waging to dilute international and legal status of Kashmir. He said, the world's attention away from the real issue and to whitewash its crimes in Kashmir. The APHC-AJK Convener pointed out that the Modi regime, which in brazen violation of the UN Security Council's resolutions changed the special status of J&K unilaterally. INP

## Standard energy-efficient fans to save energy, boost exports: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: The government's initiative of banning the conventional fans is expected to boost the manufacturing of international standard energy-efficient fans which will pave way for enhancing exports.

Director Strategy Management Office National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (NEECA) has expressed these views while talking to WealthPK.

"By binding the local manufacturers to produce energy-efficient fans as per international standards, we will be able to save electricity. This initiative will also boost fan exports to the international market," he added.

As per NEECA, the production and purchase of traditional fans will stop from July this year in order to save electricity under the energy conservation plan. NEECA has been tasked with ensuring the production of low energy-consuming fans requiring 40 to 60 watts.

Presently, 21 manufacturers with a total of 37 models have qualified for 3-Star Pakistan Energy Label.

Talking to WealthPK, Sales Officer at the Pak Fans Sohail Saied said, "Our company has been producing energy efficient fans for the last two years. The resurgence of load-shedding [power cuts] has also increased the need for manufacture of energy-efficient inverter fans."

"Currently, the energy-efficient fans constitute a small portion of the total production. However, the industry is gradually increasing. The government's plan to ban the production of high electricity consuming fans has also contributed towards boosting the production of energy-efficient fans."

Sohail further said, "Initially, the production of energy-efficient inverter fans was slow but now it has picked up, as they are more in demand compared with the conventional fans." INP