

# QUETTA VOICE

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### FIA arrests accused involved in blackmailing women in Quetta

### Balochistan High Court Issues Notice to Govt about Wadh Issue

## Nawab Raisani succeeds to convince both sides in Wadh for cease fire

From Our Correspondent

**KHUZDAR:** The former Chief Minister of Balochistan and chief of Sarawan Nawab Muhammad Aslam Raisani succeeded to convince both armed groups for a cease fire. Both sides agreed to announce a cease fire after Nawab Aslam Raisani's appeals, local journalists confirmed in Khuzdar.

**Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani and other tribal elders also accompanied the chief of Sarawan**

Earlier in the day, Nawab Raisani arrived in the Wadh area of Khuzdar to bring an end to clashes between two armed groups. Nawab Raisani reached Wadh amid tight security and held meetings with Sardar Asad Jan Mengal and Mir Shafiq Mengal, the chief of Jhalawan Ittehad. Sources said a breakthrough with respect to cease fire was also



**Commissioner Kalat Division briefs Nawab Raisani about Wadh Situation**

Earlier Commissioner Kalat Division Dawood Khilji and senior police and administration officials received the former chief minister and briefed him about the ongoing situation in Wadh. "I urge both sides to exercise patience

and avoid conflict", Nawab Raisani said. He said he would try to find a negotiated settlement of the Wadh issue. Nawab Raisani's visit has come after armed clashes and the use of heavy weapons by two armed groups in Wadh Khuzdar.

## Dealers defer nationwide petrol pumps shutdown for two days

The Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association (PPDA) has deferred strike to shut fuel pumps across the country for two days. The development came after the association members held negotiations with State Minister for Petroleum Musadik Malik, who arrived in Karachi earlier today (Friday) in a bid to convince the PPDA to call off the nationwide strike.

### State minister arrives in Karachi to convince PPDA to call off strike

In a statement, the PPDA said they might hold another round of negotiations with the government after two days. A day earlier, the PPDA announced shutting down fuel pumps across the country from July 22, demanding an increase in profit margins amid an inflation crisis. "We will shut down all petrol pumps across Pakistan on July 22, 2023," said the association, which further says it has more than 10,000 members.

### Malik held talks with petroleum dealers to address their grievances



In a statement, the association said the petroleum minister was informed about their concerns but to no avail.

The official communicate said interest rates and inflation have hit operators' businesses and called for the dealership margin to be increased. Fuel dealers demand increase in profit margins amid inflation crisis. It said sales have slumped by 30% due to Iranian fuel being smuggled into the country. "Around 8,000-9,000 (operators) represented by us, will be shut on July 22," Abdul Sami Khan, chair-

man of the association, told Reuters.

The association said the supply of petrol will remain suspended until the demands are met. Pakistan is dealing with a weakening currency and a prolonged period of inflation with the national rate hitting 29.4% in June, down from a record high of 38% in May. Earlier in May, Pakistan's oil industry had sought Rs12/litre margin on high-speed diesel (HSD) and Mogas (petrol) for oil marketing companies (OMCs) in view of the high cost of doing business, which has created financial hardships Web Desk.

## Project launched to strengthen anti corruption efforts in Balochistan

Islamabad - A five-day training workshop aimed at improving the investigation and prosecution skills of senior investigators and prosecutors from the Anti-Corruption Establishment and Prosecution Departments of Balochistan concluded in Islamabad.

### Participants of the training workshop

In an effort to enhance anti-corruption measures in the province, improve accountability, and restore public trust in state institutions, the Anti-Corruption Establishment Balochistan (ACEB) developed a comprehensive strategy and launched a capacity-building initiative



funded by U.S. Embassy, Islamabad's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) and implemented by Accountability Lab. Mr. Sohail Anwar Hashmi, the Director General of ACEB, praised the training at the conclusion of the five-day training workshop for investigators and prosecutors.

Accountability Lab is building the institutional capacity of ACEB through a series of training workshops on anti-corruption legislation and rules, techniques for combating white-collar crimes, finance and asset investigation methods, and intelligence gathering strategies, in an effort to improve the department's processes based on global best practices, said Mr. Asif Farooqui, Deputy Director Programs, Accountability Lab.



As part of this initiative, a specialized Financial Investigation Unit will be established, along with strengthening institutional collaboration between ACEB and other anti-corruption agencies at the national and sub-national levels, to facilitate better inter-agency coordination and knowledge sharing.

Mr. Qasim Shahid, the lead trainer of the workshop and an expert in anti-money laundering, white-collar crimes, and financial investigations, stated that these trainings will enhance the capacity of anti-corruption and prosecution officials and promote accountability and good governance in the province. PR

## FIA arrests accused involved in blackmailing women in Quetta

Manan Mandokhail

QUETTA: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) arrested two accused involved in sexual harassment of two women in Quetta on Friday.

Sources in the investigation agency said, the Cyber Crime Branch conducted a raid and arrested two accused in the Askari Park area of Quetta. The FIA recovered mobile phones and other devices from the possession of both accused. The devices were sent to the forensic



laboratory, sources said. The accused were involved in sexual harassment of women in Quetta.

Defense Minister Khawaja Asif has said that former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan can be disqualified from holding a public office in cypher gate.

Speaking to Geo News on Friday, the federal minister said the former PM used a diplomatic cypher for political purposes and he could be charged with treason for using the classified document for vested interest.

## Cypher conspiracy can lead to Imran Khan's disqualification, says defence minister

### Adds Imran Khan violated secret act, compromised national security

"Article 6 can be imposed on the PTI chief," he said while referring to the law that deals with high treason under which an accused



can be sentenced to death and imprisonment. He termed the former principal secretary to the ex-PM Azam Khan's



confessional statement "important", saying the former premier's aide has validated his opponents' allegations.

Imran's top aide had revealed in the confessional statement that the then-prime minister last year used the diplomatic cypher sent by Pakistan's envoy to Washington to concoct a narrative against the establishment and opposition.

In a similar statement a day earlier, Law Minister Azam Khan said that the PTI chief can be sentenced to up to 14 years for using diplomatic cypher for political purposes. Web Desk.

## CJP accepts govt's plea seeking withdrawal of curative review against Justice Isa

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial has approved the federal government's petition seeking the withdrawal of a curative review filed by previous Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)-led government against Senior Puisne Judge Qazi Faiz Isa.

### PDM govt filed plea for withdrawal of petition against Justice Isa

CJP Bandial had reserved the verdict on the federal government's plea earlier in April this year. The CJP disposed of the



petition on the basis of withdrawal, according to the verdict

announced today (Friday).

The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM)-led government had requested the apex court to withdraw the curative review petition filed against Justice Isa. President Dr Anif Alvi had approved the withdrawal of the curative review petition and Civil Miscellaneous Application against Justice Isa, on the advice of PM Shehbaz, through Article 48 of the Constitution. President Alvi had also signed his Power of Attorney in favour of Advocate-on-Record (AOR) in 2021, then government of Imran Khan filed a curative review petition against the order of the majority in the review petitions of Justice Isa passed on April 26, 2021. Web Desk.

## Balochistan High Court Issues Notice to Govt about Wadh Issue

Staff Reporter

QUETTA: Balochistan High Court on Friday issued a notice to the government about the prevailing tense situation in Wadh Tehsil of district Khuzdar. A division bench of BHC comprising Chief Justice, Mr Justice Naem Akhtar Alghani, and Mr Justice Muhammad Amir Rana directed the issuance of notice to the govt on a petition filed by Muhammad Amin Magsi Advocate.



Advocate Magsi in his petition said that human rights were being violated in Wadh Khuzdar. Mr Magsi claimed the govt

has failed to restore order in Wadh. The court adjourned the hearing till the 1st of August.



# Barter trade reality

By Dr Hafiz Muhammad Usman Rana

## AI and Climate Change completely missing in Balochistan budget

The future is all about the Artificial Intelligence (AI). The AI has the potential to significantly impact education and transform the learning experience for students across the globe.

AI-powered tutoring systems can provide interactive and adaptive support to students. These systems can assess students' knowledge, identify areas of weakness, and offer targeted guidance and resources, helping them improve.

Experts say the AI has so far taken mere baby steps. Still a lot needs to be done. The AI is going to dominate education, politics, economy etc. in the future.

### Use of AI in the Balochistan Budget

Despite its need and importance, the Balochistan government has not allocated a single penny for the AI in its financial budget for the year 2023-24. The provincial government allocated more than Rs.100 billions for primary, middle and higher education sector. The finance minister Balochistan, Zamarak Achakzai did not utter a single word about the AI.

Besides AI, the government has not focused on the looming threat of climate change. Balochistan, the country's raweas largest province is prone to all natural disasters because of its vulnerability to the global warming and climate change.

### Rs. 71 crore allocated for Climate Change and more than Rs.73 billions for C&W department

The government allocated Rs.71 crore rupees to tackle the climate change, whereas, more than 71 billion rupees was allocated for the communication and works department. The department is known for chronic corruption and most of the amount is likely to go into some narrow pockets.

Promotion of AI education provides an opportunity to our students to compete with national and international levels. Its promotion can open new vistas of opportunities for our students.

However, investment in the climate change department is extremely necessary in view of the province's vulnerability to the global warming. Devastating floods last year played havoc across Balochistan and life was completely paralyzed for a month.

The provincial government needs to change its priorities when it comes to AI and climate change since the former offers opportunities and the latter poses a serious threat to human life.

Pakistan's economy is under immense pressure due to low foreign reserves, a falling currency, political unrest, and stagflation. The GDP growth forecast has dropped to 2.9 per cent for 2022-23. Slowdowns in the agricultural, industrial, and service sectors all negatively impacted the country's total growth. The government is placing the growth of those sectors at 1.5 per cent, 2.94 per cent, and 0.86 per cent, respectively, stated by the National Accounts Committee last month. Pakistan's current \$6.5 billion IMF programme was disrupted, and the seven-month revival effort failed to bear fruit. To keep heading towards economic stability, the government needs help in formulating its economic policy.

In response, the government of Pakistan has recently announced a barter trading arrangement with Iran, Iraq, Jordan, and Russia, allowing qualifying Pakistani firms to trade goods without using dollars. They also intend to have a similar kind of arrangement with China. We take any vice - China or the US - we must

comprehend dollarization, its origins, and its implications for Pakistan's economy. In Russia, the government has prioritized dollarization in response to Western economic sanctions. Banks' access to Western markets as part of its growing economic cooperation. Moscow found an early ally in Beijing to help it diversify away from its dollarization initiative. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang visited Moscow the same year and inked 38 agreements, including a 150-billion-dollar currency swap deal and energy cooperation. This agreement is extended for an additional three years in 2017. The US imposition of significant tariffs on Chinese goods has further driven away from utilizing the dollar in their bilateral trade. Chinese and Russian presidents announced a similar arrangement for their currencies for bilateral trade settlement. Even though Russia and China are not working together on dollarization trade, the fact remains that they are aligned is likely to cause further dollarization to be slower. Russia is aggressively launching new measures with the goal of dollarization in international transactions, but China is reluctant to do so for several reasons. The government of Russia is being compelled to explore new avenues to get paid for its exports and imports. In 2022, authorities and enterprises tried converting transactions using the national currency, cashing in barter deals, making payments in gold, and using various other systems. However, they were still looking for a comprehensive solution. Since it is now abundantly evident that the work is being redone towards cryptocurrencies and payments in gold, the Russian economy will become increasingly dependent on things like the national currency. As a result of the divergent objectives of the two nations, the dollar will continue to deteriorate, and Russia will continue to reserve holdings and problems in its payment system. We can learn from these two nations' trade ambitions and create its own currency to fit its unique circumstances. Pakistan's relationship with the US and the US has been well-managed. So,

Pakistan is not in a place to choose a side now because we are still dealing with the fallout from the recent visit of former prime minister Imran Khan to Russia. At this crucial juncture in Pakistan's history, those in positions of power are being called upon to make astute economic and foreign policy decisions so that we can prevent Pakistan from becoming entangled in the war between China and the US.

Policy-makers need to understand that the trade volume with our neighboring countries is too small, approximately less than \$5 billion per annum compared to the Western trade partners. Barter trade agreements have the potential to reduce reliance on the US dollar. However, complete dollarization is not achievable through this means. Before engaging in barter trade deals, Pakistan needs to broaden and diversify its export base, invest in its infrastructure, strengthen its transportation network and ports and construction infrastructure that is both more dependable and more cost-effective. This will result in lower production costs for products destined for export. Increasing the country's competitiveness in global markets.

# the fall of the pieopper?

Let us be clear about one thing: Imran Khan as a sportsman and cricketer for Pakistan was a formidable hero and quite naturally a hero for millions. These fans existed in Pakistan and abroad. His leadership style - a mix of aggression and clever strategies in some places and inspired others and turned him into a major hero in the cricket world. This was his identification as a winner - and as a leader which helped him begin his political success. Of course, there were many other factors behind the events which brought him to power in 2018, and he himself has accepted his links with state institutions this time. Unfortunately for Pakistan - indeed tragically for the country - Imran's style of leadership did not work in politics. His aggression turned into something so different that was rarely seen before.

From politicians we need diplomacy, tact, and an ability to think beyond the single idea of corruption in a corrupt opposition. It is obvious that Imran and his team did not have these skills. He was essentially a cult figure in other parts of the world. We have historically seen a few questions - what will become of the cult Imran? What will be determined by the courts, and by time. He could be disgraced, jailed, or he could be left to continue

'Kool-Aid' laced with poisonous substance which killed 900 or so innocent people - and other well-known cult leaders like Charles Manson and his 'family' who engaged in murder and other heinous events in the late 1960s.

Pakistan has over the years had great politicians - it would be a disservice to compare Imran here in the cricket world. Some of these people include brave figures such as Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan who spent 37 years of his life in jail but remained firm on his ideology. His son Wali Khan followed essentially in the same tradition, spending a long period of time in jail. In Balochistan, the Abdul Sattar Khan spent the entire period of the Ayub Khan regime in jail. He was a man who changed his views or ideology. There are other figures such as GM Syed who engaged in politics for over 30 years in jail not because of any political activity but because he did not like their stance and found it best to incarcerate them instead of allowing democracy with true differences of opinion within it to grow and develop.

We have historically seen a few questions - what will become of the cult Imran? What will be determined by the courts, and by time. He could be disgraced, jailed, or he could be left to continue

whatever remains of his career. But the way May 9 was orchestrated - pre-emptive, and very dangerous. In Punjab, a majority of people have high respect for the armed forces and recognize it as a major defence force. The men in uniform stand tall in their eyes. We wonder how Imran stands now that he has been defeated and some of these people - in fact many of them - remain behind bars for stealing all kinds of things from the people. Their families have nowhere to go and nothing to show for what they did. Certainly, no ideological belief or any kind of principle was followed. They simply thought they were following a man who acted bravely and bravely followed themselves in an extremely difficult position: children and young people who had never been taught history or politics or creative thinking at school.

In the future, these people will most likely think a little harder. We already have some thinking taking place even now. There are those who ask whether the May 9 can be justified. Even some who had a public role in the May 9 who knew people who participated, have condemned the assault on public buildings and the burning of an ambulance

and the other violent events which took place. They see the attack on the parliament as very dangerous. In Punjab, a majority of people have high respect for the armed forces and recognize it as a major defence force. The men in uniform stand tall in their eyes. We wonder how Imran stands now that he has been defeated and some of these people - in fact many of them - remain behind bars for stealing all kinds of things from the people. Their families have nowhere to go and nothing to show for what they did. Certainly, no ideological belief or any kind of principle was followed. They simply thought they were following a man who acted bravely and bravely followed themselves in an extremely difficult position: children and young people who had never been taught history or politics or creative thinking at school.

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after year and decade after decade. There is still too much movement of money out of the country to determine precisely what has to happen next and how. We know that it is unlikely to play a major role in Pakistan's politics again. Already, people are criticizing how he put the lives of other people at risk while protecting his own. How he asked his supporters to protect him in Zaman Park, allowing that their goal was not what he remained within his home protected by his supporters who had come to him on May 9 in hundreds. These "hundreds of people" will not be enough to bring Khan back to power. The more people did not come out shows that people are not following him. Wrong and know that what happened on that day is wrong and should not be repeated. This is something for which all political parties can learn and gain wisdom from. The chances should match that of men from outside Punjab such as Baba Jan who has protected for the rights of people in the region despite a long history of being a political hero. We need to recognize them and put them aside from mere cult figures such as Imran and others like him who we have seen throughout our political history.

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## Pakistan's skills report card

By Dr Aysha Bazzaz

In the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) skills category, Pakistan ranked 122nd out of 125 countries. For its global analysis, the report rated skill levels in the business or technology or data science skills categories in the top 100 countries. For its global analysis, the report rated skill levels in the business or technology or data science skills categories in the top 100 countries. For its global analysis, the report rated skill levels in the business or technology or data science skills categories in the top 100 countries.

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# Financial inequality breeds contempt that dikpakians get from vilnius?

By Iftekhhar A Khan

Our society essentially consists of three social classes. The elite class comprises the top bureaucrats both civil and military, business executives, and politicians. They follow two classes - the middle and upper middle class, which lives below the poverty line. Instead of widening the gap, the graph is rapidly escalating.

The politicians - in every government that comes to power by winning the election - promise to uplift the masses and the poor. Their campaigning slogans assure the wretched living from hand to mouth that their pathetic living conditions will improve, and they will get health and education.

The severe disparity between the two classes proves the fact that wealth is unevenly distributed. It is not the suffering segments of society unhappy and angry against the system that creates hostility among them. As a nation, however, we can change our approach towards the state of poverty and illiteracy if we single-mindedly follow the nations that have progressed within a few years from being poor to world countries. Singapore was typically a third-world country like ours but without any natural resources that we luckily have. The turnaround came in Singapore when Chinese

leader Deng Xiaoping successfully divided the middle class. The elite class comprises the top bureaucrats both civil and military, business executives, and politicians. They follow two classes - the middle and upper middle class, which lives below the poverty line. Instead of widening the gap, the graph is rapidly escalating.

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## Pakistan can enhance exports by integrating into global value chains: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD Pakistan's successful integration into the global value chains (GVCs) requires a multi-faceted approach, which includes reducing trade costs, streamlining border processes, digitising operations, tariff rationalisation, intellectual property rights and upgrading logistics infrastructure, experts say.

Pakistan should prioritise policies that reduce trade costs and streamline processes at the borders. He also emphasised that digitalisation at the border can hinder global integration and trade less competitive. He said introducing customs reforms and modernising transport infrastructure are crucial to facilitate the flow of goods across borders.

Shoab maintained that delays at border crossings have severe implications for the logistics sector. "If trucks are stuck in queues, it not only affects their earning potential, but also hampers overall trade efficiency," he explained. He said Pakistan should prioritise the provisions of the World Trade Organisation's Trade Facilitation Agreement, digitise processes, and ensure transparency and streamline border points. He said Pakistan needs to enhance its market access.



QUETTA: A man selecting & purchasing Muharram related stuff from roadside vendor stall.

## Digital Skills Training Program helping youth get online jobs: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD The Digital Skills Training Program initiative by the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecom provides a platform to the youth to employ themselves with cutting-edge digital skills required to pursue online employment opportunities. Program Coordinator Umar Akbar said while talking to WealthPK that the COVID era was characterised by increased global interconnectedness through internet networks. "Against this backdrop, there is a significant demand for digital skills from global firms. The Digital Skills Program aims to create ample employment prospects for young individuals," he said.

According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), the country achieved a revenue of \$1,523 billion through the provision of various IT services to different nations during the first seven months of the fiscal year 2022-23. This statistic signifies a growth rate of 2.38% in comparison to FY22. Umar said the program focuses on skills such as digital marketing, virtual assistance, ghostwriting, WordPress, affiliate marketing, data analytics, QuickBooks, business intelligence, graphic designing, and search engine optimisation (SEO). "With a substantial youth bulge accounting for nearly 60% of the overall population, the primary objective of the program is to not only generate employment opportunities, but also to foster digital literacy throughout the nation," he asserted. According to a report

by the Ministry of Science, the digital services sector is fast growing through its contribution of almost 1% to the gross domestic product (GDP), which stands at \$3.5 billion in absolute terms. "By providing complimentary online training to the youth, the initiative aims to equip them with in-demand digital skills, enabling them to flourish as accomplished freelancers and entrepreneurs. This will foster a culture of startups, further promoting entrepreneurship endeavours in the nation," Umar said. The program coordinator said the government needs to ensure widespread availability of internet facilities throughout the country to bring effectiveness to the program. "Digital training programs of this nature have the potential to make a positive impact on the labour market, drive innovation, and significantly contribute to INP

## Bodies of three sisters found from empty plot

MUZAFFARGARH: Bodies of three sisters who went missing the other day were found from an empty plot here on Tuesday. According to details, three girls stated to be real sisters went missing from Thermal College of Muzaaffargarh on Monday. The bodies of missing girl were found from an empty plot of the area very next morning. The bodies were shifted to hospital for postmortem and police was investing into the incident after registering a case. INP

## US urges Taliban to prevent Afghanistan from becoming 'safe haven' for terrorists

WASHINGTON: Amid Islamabad's calls for Afghanistan to rein in militants responsible for escalating militancy within Pakistan, the United States (US) on Tuesday also asked the Afghan Taliban to prevent their country from becoming a 'safe haven' for terrorists.

The statement from US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller comes a day after Pakistan Army blamed Kabul for the uptick in militancy, saying that 'safe havens and a library of access, along with the latest weapons available to militants from Afghanistan, have enabled them to carry out attacks inside Pakistan. Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said on Saturday also strongly rebuffed Afghanistan for neglecting its duties as a neighbouring and fraternal country, and for disregarding vital obligations made in the Doha peace agreement, specifically its commitment to prevent the use of Afghan soil for terrorist activities. At a press briefing the US State Department spokesperson restated the position that the Taliban administration bore the responsibility to control terror activities on their territory. "We don't have any comment specifically on that, but I will say we have made very clear that we believe the Taliban has the responsibility to prevent the Afghanistan from being used as a safe haven for launching terror attacks," Miller said in response to a question. INP

## More monsoon rains predicted amid urban flooding warning

ISLAMABAD The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) predicted more rains in different parts of the country week with a warning about urban flooding and landslides, as monsoon currents from the Arabian Sea are likely to penetrate upper and central parts of the country from Tuesday night while intensifying on July 19.

Under the influence of these weather systems, rain and thunder-shower with strong winds and isolated heavy falls are expected across Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan as well as Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Attock, Chakwal, Jhelum, Mandi Bahaudin, Sialkot, Narowal, Lahore, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Kasur, Miranwali, Sargodha, Faisalabad, Toba Tek Singh, Jhang, Sahiwal, Bahawalnagar and Okara districts of Sindh from July 18 (night) to 23 with occasional gusts.

During July 20-22 period, dust storm, thunderstorm and rain with isolated heavy falls is expected in Shaheed Benazirabad, Hyderabad, Sanghar, Badin, Thatta and Karachi. "Against the PMD warned that heavy rain may cause urban flooding in low-lying areas of Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Gujranwala and Lahore while triggering landslides in the vulnerable areas of Murree, Galiyat, Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## China's economic resilience shines with steady growth in global trade

ISLAMABAD China's remarkable economic resilience continues to shine through as its foreign trade demonstrates steady growth and maintains high standards.

China's foreign trade is further solidified by the strengthening of the US dollar, an advantageous development that has elevated the competitiveness of China's export commodities and played a significant role in cementing its position within the global supply chain. Several key factors have contributed to this remarkable performance.

Notably, the export of domestic enterprises and advanced electromechanical products, specifically electric vehicles, has experienced a sustained upward trajectory.

Recent data released by the General Administration of Customs reveals that China's foreign trade achieved an impressive 2.1 percent, reaching a staggering 20.1 trillion yuan (US \$2.8 trillion) in the first half of 2023, according to Gwadar Pro on Tuesday. This positive trajectory is underlined by the noteworthy rise in exports, which witnessed a substantial 3.7 percent increase, reaching 11.46 trillion yuan. Although imports experienced a marginal decline of 0.1

percent, amounting to 8.64 trillion yuan, the overall performance of China's foreign trade remains impressive, especially given the complexities of the global economic landscape. The trade leader is further solidified by the strengthening of the US dollar, an advantageous development that has elevated the competitiveness of China's export commodities and played a significant role in cementing its position within the global supply chain. Several key factors have contributed to this remarkable performance.

Additionally, the unwavering demand from countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative has further enhanced the positive outlook for China's foreign trade. The remarkable surge in trade between China and countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative highlights the success and significance of this strategic endeavor. The trade in goods between China and countries along the Belt and Road Initiative surged by an impressive 9.8 percent in the first half of 2023. This substantial growth accounted for a significant portion of China's total foreign trade volume, underscoring the significance of this strategic INP

On the other hand, dust storm and rain with isolated heavy falls are also likely in Thar parkar, Umerkot, Mirpurkhas, Sukkur, Larkana, Jacobabad and Dadu districts of Sindh from July 18 (night) to 23 with occasional gusts.

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## Rights of cotton growers to be ensured under all circumstances: CM Naqvi

LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has said that rights of cotton growers would be ensured under all circumstances. In a statement issued here on Tuesday, he said that the Punjab government will not allow sale of cotton produced by the farmers at all levels to ensure the rights of cotton farmers. Mohsin Naqvi said that cotton farmers will be compensated for their labour and the provincial government was taking all necessary steps in this regard.



QUETTA: A view of accumulated sewerage water near girls college.

## Death anniversary of Saghar Siddiqui to be observed on Today

LAHORE: The 49th death anniversary of renowned Urdu poet Saghar Siddiqui was observed on Wednesday, July 19, 2023.

Born in Ambala in 1928, Siddiqui belonged to a middle-class family and was the only child of his parents and spent early years of his life in Ambala and Saharanpur UP, India.

He was a prodigious lad who began writing poetry as a child. He had a decade of coming to Pakistan, he became disillusioned as he saw corruption and nepotism being rewarded.

For years he could be seen walking and sleeping on the streets of Lahore, living on the food given to him by those who considered him as a beggar. Within a decade of coming to Pakistan, he became disillusioned as he saw corruption and nepotism being rewarded. For years he could be seen walking and sleeping on the streets of Lahore, living on the food given to him by those who considered him as a beggar. Within a decade of coming to Pakistan, he became disillusioned as he saw corruption and nepotism being rewarded.

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## Sports goods makers seek one-stop support for SMEs: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD Sports Goods Manufacturers Exporters Association (SGMEA) has emphasised the need for a one-stop window facility (OWF) to assist small and medium-sized enterprises in enhancing their efficiency and boosting the sports goods industry's growth.

Recognising the critical role of SMEs in driving economic growth, SGMEA secretary general Mohsin Masood has urged the government to establish a dedicated OWF aimed at supporting SMEs in the sports goods sector.

He said the proposed OWF would serve as a single point of contact for SMEs, streamlining various administrative processes, reducing bureaucratic hurdles and providing assistance throughout the different stages of business operations.

This facility aims to remove barriers that hinder the growth of these enterprises, enabling them to focus on their core competencies and contribute to the country's overall economic development. He emphasised that SMEs are the lifeline of Pakistan's sports goods industry, and their growth is pivotal in tapping the country's export potential. "Establishing a dedicated OWF will not only facilitate their functioning but also ensure that they gain the necessary guidance and support on different fronts, including regulatory compliance, financial

resources and market access," Mohsin Masood noted that the OWF would offer a wide range of services to SMEs, including simplified licensing and registration procedures, assistance with compliance requirements, access to financial resources and export opportunities aimed at fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing among industry players. Moreover, he said the OWF would leverage technology to provide online platforms and publish information related to SMEs to access up-to-date information related to domestic and international markets, as well as technological advancements in sports goods manufacturing. INP

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## Judge Humayun shouldn't hear Tosha Khana case after admitting Facebook account: Farrukh

FAISALABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) West Punjab President Farrukh Bahar demanded the Judge Humayun Dilawar, who heard the Tosha Khana case, should not hear the case against PTI Chairman Inam Khan anymore after admitting his Facebook account which carried anti-Inam Khan's posts. He said that a Facebook account in the judge's name published posts against Inam Khan which showed bias in the case. PTI West Punjab President said Judge Humayun Dilawar accepted that he had the Facebook account but ironically he denied the posts published on his account. Farrukh Bahar said that the judge how he could distance himself from the posts against PTI Chairman on his Facebook account, which were present there for INP

and unpublished. On 19 July 1974, the great poet was found dead on a roadside in Lahore. He was just 46. Despite his shattered life, some of his poems (ash'ar) are among the best in Urdu poetry. His poetry earned immense popularity even after his death. Some of his famous lyrical verses are: "Zindagi Jher-e-Musallas Kit Rah Kati Hay-Janay Kis Jurm Ki Pavi Hay Sajza Yaad Nah". "Ao ek Sajda Karay Alamay Madhooshi Mein-Log Kehay/hain keh Shaghar Ko Khuda Yaad Nah". "Shaghar another famous ghazal 'Di mila aur gham shanaas mila/phool ko aak ka libas mila'. Har live on the street as a main dooba thJo sitara mila udaas mila' INP

## PSX-SZSE alliance a turning point in stock trading: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: The year 2019 was a watershed in the history of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) when it entered into an agreement with the Shenzhen Stock Exchange (SZSE) — a global player in the financial market.

The agreement ensured regulatory transparency, which helped the PSX win international recognition. Investor confidence that this alliance brought to the Pakistan equity market.

Under this collaboration, the PSX replaced the Karachi Automated Trading System (KATS) with the New Trading System (NTS) on May 15, 2023, after two successful trials.

Since its adoption, the NTS has accelerated the trading process and ensured a fair and transparent environment, thus winning the confidence of both local and foreign investors.

The PSX stakeholders now enjoy the uninterrupted ordering speed of 2 milliseconds and active order book configuration. The NTS has an inbuilt intelligent analysis system, real-time alerts and supervision to facilitate investors' trading decisions.

The PSX purchased this new and surveillance system from the SZSE to help uplift its regulatory standards domestically and internationally.

The PSX lacked financial resources to cope with the regulatory and governance issues, due to which it failed to get into the world's charts. However, after collaboration with the SZSE, it has gained global recognition and strength in terms of trading mechanism, market transparency and investor confidence.

There are 2,776 companies listed on the SZSE, while the PSX has 526 public listings. Structure-wise, the SZSE has a section called ChiNext Board with 526 companies. As mentioned above, the SZSE is concentrated with mid, small and venture firms whereas the PSX is concentrated by mid-and-small-cap firms. Thus the PSX can adopt the SZSE structure of operations without worrying much about the size of the firms being listed. The PSX can successfully adopt the SZSE trading system by properly catering INP



