



# Islamabad POST

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### Musk likely to visit China this week, meet officials

Detailed News On Page-08

### Tinubu sworn in as Nigerian President

Detailed News On Page-07



### Kylian Mbappe named best French player

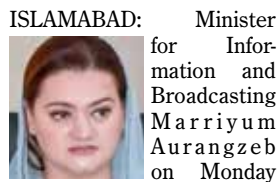
Detailed News On Page-06



## Briefs

### Imran Khan's narrative bound to fail

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday debunked another narrative of PTI Chairman Imran Khan that the female workers of his party were being harassed in prisons, as totally baseless. "A certified liar, who says 'men are not robots' and advocates attacks on women and young girls because of wearing short clothes, is now cooking up a new lie to play the victim in the aftermath of public response to the May 9 tragedy," the minister said in a long thread in Urdu language on her Twitter handle.

### Belarus FM due in Islamabad

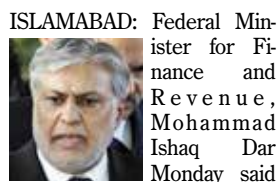
DNA



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister of Belarus Sergei Aleinik will arrive in Islamabad on a two-day official visit to Pakistan on Tuesday. He is visiting Pakistan at the invitation of Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. The two Foreign Ministers will hold wide-ranging talks covering a range of topics of bilateral interest. They will undertake an overview of bilateral relations and explore enhanced cooperation in political, economic, defence and science and technology domains. Pakistan and Belarus enjoy close and cordial relations.

### No deal on country's dignity

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Monday said that the civil and military leadership were on the same page against miscreants involved in the 9 May incidents who will be brought to justice. Talking to a private news channel he said that such incidents should be condemned, adding that the government was committed to strengthening the national economy and all stakeholders should play their role in this regard.

## New review law adopted SC puts off ECP's plea indefinitely

### Under new law, review plea will be heard by larger bench



COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The hearing on the review petition of the Punjab Election Commission in the Supreme Court was adjourned shortly on Monday after it began when the attorney general for Pakistan told the court that the Supreme Court (Review of Judgements and Orders) Bill 2023 had come into effect. A three-judge Supreme Court bench led by Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Ijazul Ahsan and Justice Munib Akhtar conducted the hearing of the review pleas against SC's April 4 order for holding elections in Punjab on May 14. When Attorney General for Pakistan Mansoor Awan came to the rostrum, he objected to the bench. He told the court that the Supreme Court Review Act has now become a

law after the assent of the President, adding that the scope of review under the new Act would now be the same as an appeal. He said now only a larger bench would be able to hear the review plea and raised objections to the three-judge panel hearing the case. He said the law states that it is necessary to ensure the fundamental right to justice by providing for a "meaningful review" of the apex court's judgements and orders in the exercise of the Supreme Court's original jurisdiction, as described in Article 184 of the Constitution. At this juncture, Justice Munib Akhtar remarked that after hearing that the Review of SC Judgements Bill has become a law, a smile has spread across the face of ECP lawyer. Chief Justice Bandial remarked that this has become a very interesting case as this court also defends the fundamental right of the independence of the judiciary. Then the top judge directed the attorney general that another court hearing on a set of petitions moved to challenge the government-appointed judicial commission to probe audio leaks is also scheduled for hearing on Thursday 'so please take instructions regarding that case too'. "You must have read our order on the audio leaks commission. Keep it in mind that the court didn't declare the commission as nullified," the top judge added.

Continued on Page 06

## Life time disqualification

### 'Nawaz, Tareen cannot benefit from new law' Law Minister says both have exercised their right of review



KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar on Monday said that former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) estranged leader Jahangir Khan Tareen cannot benefit from the new law regarding the review of judgements. Speaking to a news channel, Tarar said that the Supreme Court (Review of Judgements and Orders) Bill 2023 will not benefit

Continued on Page 06

### Tareen likely to announce new party PTI deserters likely to join Tareen party

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: In a bid to take advantage of the mass exodus of leaders from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), seasoned politician Jahangir Khan Tareen (JKT) — once Imran Khan's closest aide — is likely to announce his new party, mostly comprising the former ruling party's defectors, during the next 72 hours, well-placed sources said.

Continued on Page 06



QUETTA: General Syed Asim Munir, COAS visited Quetta Garrison where he addressed officers of Command & Staff College Quetta. — DNA

### Pakistani leaders congratulate Erdogan

#### Bilateral relations to further get boost



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani leaders including Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, former president Asif Ali Zardari and JUI Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman have felicitated Recep Tayyip Erdogan on his historic re-election as President of Turkey for the third time. Taking to his Twitter handle, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif wrote a congratulatory message to President Erdogan on his re-election, saying: "Heartiest congratulations to my dear brother H.E. President @RTErdogan on his historic re-election as President, Republic of Turkey. He is one of few world leaders whose politics has been anchored in public service. He has been a pillar of strength for the oppressed Muslims & a fervent

Continued on Page 06

## Despite PTI exodus vote belongs only to Imran: Asad

### Says no one remained in PPP during Bhutto's turbulent times

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former finance minister Asad Umar has said that despite the fact that a large number of leaders are parting ways with the party, the vote bank is still intact and it belongs only to Imran Khan. "You know that the vote belongs only to Imran Khan, whether someone is there or not, it doesn't make any difference... when [former prime minister] Zulfikar Ali Bhutto faced difficult times, where were the party leaders? There was no one left in PPP. When PML-Q formed the government in 2002, all the PML-N members were in it," he said while speaking to the media outside the Islamabad High Court. When asked about a possible meeting with Imran Khan as he was leaving for Lahore, Umar replied, "Yes, it is possible that I may meet him." In response to a question about future plans, Asad Umar smiled and said nothing. Answering a question about "scripted" press conferences of PTI leaders, Asad Umar said it cannot be said about his press conferences. "My press conference was different. No matter how many times you ask, I am still a part of the party". "Decisions taken by politicians –

Continued on Page 06

### 'Govt on agenda to crush PTI' Says army 'ruled the country directly or indirectly'

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: In a tweet, PTI Chairman Imran Khan called the incumbent government "worse than General Musharraf's martial law" and claimed that the federal coalition's "one-point agenda is to crush the PTI". "The PDM leaders have billions of dollars stashed abroad, and understandably they are not pushed. The question is, how on earth the Pakistani establishment is allowing the country to head towards a complete economic meltdown?" he asked. He further said that the army ruled the country directly or indirectly ever since inception of Pakistan. He again asked the government to announce elections. He was confident that the PTI will win again.

## Fresh attacks pound Kyiv after intense drone barrage

CENTRELINE REPORT

KYIV: Russian missiles have hit Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, following two nights of heavy drone strikes. They were all reportedly shot down and there are no reports of casualties. Flaming debris from the intercepted missiles landed in residential areas in central Kyiv. Russia has launched 16 air attacks on the Ukrainian capital this month. The latest, however, was unusual because it took place during the day - and seemed to be targeted at the city centre. All other air assaults on the capital so far in May have taken place at night and appeared to be directed at critical national infrastructure and air defences on the outskirts. Air Force spokesman Yuri Ihnat said that Iskander ballistic missiles were used in the latest attack and that it was possible S-300 and S-400 missiles had also been fired. According to reports, only one person was injured and all missiles were destroyed by Ukrainian air defences. Russian authorities claimed all their targets had been hit. Air raid sirens reportedly also rang out across several other Ukrainian regions. Local military commanders in Kyiv accused Russia of changing its tactics and deliberately targeting the civilian population. It certainly appears that Moscow wants to

step up its pressure on Ukraine even further ahead of any counter-offensive. Oleksandr Scherba, ambassador-at-large at Ukraine's ministry of foreign affairs, told the BBC that the last few days had been very difficult for Kyiv residents. "Almost every night, the skies look and sound like another Star Wars episode, but we don't feel much of Russian rockets hitting their targets here within the city area. And this is all thanks to the decent countries, decent people of the world who gave us this air defence," he said. Living in the capital was anything but normal at the moment, Mr Scherba said, adding that the drone attacks and sleepless nights had become "part of our routine". On Sunday, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky praised his country's air defence forces after Kyiv sustained the largest drone attack since the war began. "You are heroes," said Mr Zelensky, after military commanders said most of the drones launched by Russia were brought down. In its recent attacks, Russia - which launched its full-scale invasion in February 2022 - has been using kamikaze drones as well as a range of cruise and ballistic missiles. Analysts say Moscow is seeking to deplete and damage Ukraine's air defences ahead of its long-expected counter-offensive.

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**TURKISH AIRLINES**

**BEST PART OF THE JOURNEY**

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**IN ISTANBUL**

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# Aiming for interest-free Pakistan by 2027

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The aim is to eliminate interest from the country's economy by 2027, said State Bank of Pakistan Governor Jameel Ahmad, addressing the Islamic Capital Markets conference in Islamabad on Monday. The Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan and SBP are working together on reforms to promote the Islamic finance sector, he added. The governor was seconded by SECP Chairperson Akif Saeed. "In the past decade the country has seen a 24% rise/growth in Islamic banking, with the Islamic capital market growing to around \$3 trillion," he said, adding that this has reflected positively in the overall state of the country's economy. "Islamic banking now makes up 20% of the banking sector in Pakistan." According to Ahmad, Pakistan has issued Sukuk bonds (Sharia-compliant bonds) worth Rs2.8 trillion. A committee has been formed within the SBP to convert government debt into Sukuk, he informed.

Ahmad said that there are ongoing discussions for funding from the capital market through Shariah compliance. The SBP governor was of the view that financial requirements of the government can also be met through Sukuk issuance. "The size of the corporate banking sector in Pakistan is very small. There is a need to increase the corporate debt market while the Islamic banking market can be promoted further by promoting Sukook," added Ahmad. Meanwhile, SECP Chairperson Akif Mian while addressing the conference said that after the Federal Shariat Court's (FSC) ruling last year, directing that Pakistan implement a riba-free banking system and transform the economy by 2027 year-end, important measures have been taken to promote an Islamic

financial system within the country. The goal is to promote the capital market, he added. FSC ruling In April 2022, the Federal Shariat Court ruled that the prohibition of Riba (interest) is absolute in all its forms and manifestations according to the injunctions of Islam and in accordance with the Holy Quran and Sunnah. Therefore, it should be eliminated from the country in five years. "We are of the view that five years period is reasonably enough time for the implementation of our decision completely i.e convert economy of Pakistan into, equitable, asset based, risk sharing and interest-free economy," read a 298-page judgment authored by Justice Dr Syed Muhammad Anwer and endorsed by two other judges. "Therefore, we would specify the 31st day of December, 2027 on which the decision shall take effect by way of complete elimination of Riba from Pakistan," it added.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan visits Engineering Innovation Exhibition and Demonstration of VR, CV & Spatial AI projects at Arfa Software Technology Park.

## Govt, Parliament have no friction with judiciary

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Accountability Irfan Qadir on Monday dispelled a notion that both the government and the Parliament were at odds with the top judiciary. "There are some rumours that the government and the Parliament are against the Supreme Court, which are totally baseless and have no reality. The government has desire to see a strong judiciary," the SAPM said while addressing a news conference. "I want to inform the nation that the present government desires to strengthen judiciary and the Supreme Court as we have no friction against the courts, instead we are standing with the apex court." However, he said, being the mother of all the institutions, the Parliament was the supreme forum and implementation of its decisions was crucial to run the affairs of the country in an effective way. As regards the appointment of judges in the Supreme Court, he said, judges should be appointed on the basis of "seniority-cum-fitness". He said all the institutions were bound to follow the Constitution. In the mature democracies across the globe, he said, all the institutions were working within their domains enshrined in their constitutions. "We all are also bound to work according to the Constitution of our country. —APP

## Country's youth second to none in terms of skills

DNA

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has said country's youth are second to none in the world in terms of their intelligence and skills. Addressing the inaugural ceremony of Engineering Innovation Exhibition and Demonstration of VR, CV & Spatial AI projects at Arfa Software Technology Park on Monday, he said, "We have entered the age of paradigm shift." He said it was the age of disruption, innovation, complexity, and uncertainty, and added that it was all just because of digital revolution. Ahsan Iqbal said that digital revolution was making all those models irrelevant which were existing in different fields of life. He said if change was responded proactively only then one

could become able to benefit from it. He said that in 2014, the PML-N government evolved vision 2025 to revive and sustain country's growth momentum in line with the ongoing changes across the world. In 2017, an international leading firm Pricewaterhouse Coopers had said that if Pakistan continued with same trajectory, it would get place among top 20 powerful economies of the world by 2030. He said education, human resources and youth were targeted in the Vision 2025. Ahsan said when Shehbaz Sharif was chief minister Punjab, he paid special attention to empowering the youth digitally. The Information Technology University was established to prepare country's youth for digital age, he added. He said that in 2017-18, the National Centre for Artificial Intelligence, National Centre

for Cyber Security, National Centre for Automation and Robotics and National Centre for Big Data and Cloud Computing were set up to achieve the desired results. He said that in four years, these centres worked very well. Laptops were given to students to make them digital warriors of the economy, he added and said that Pakistan became 3rd biggest e-lancing country in the world with distribution of more than one million laptops. The federal minister said that free laptops would be given on merit to students while other students would get laptops on easy installments on completion of their degree. He said a project of Rs 6.5 billion had been passed to introduce Pakistan's engineering universities globally. He said that under the project, world class labs would be established at five universities.

## IHC seeks medical report of Afridi

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday sought medical report of PTT's leader Shehryar Khan Afridi from Adiala Jail Rawalpindi. Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir heard the case against the arrest of Shehryar Khan Afridi. The state counsel informed the court that accused had also been involved in investigation of a case registered by I-9 police station. The petitioner's lawyer said that his client was injured when at the time of his arrest and right arm went frozen. He said that his client was kept in a very small cell in jail. He prayed the court to issue directives for provision of A-class in jail to his client. The court adjourned further hearing of the case till June 2, with above instructions.—APP

## CM refutes women mistreatment allegations

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has strongly refuted the allegations of mistreatment of women in prison. He emphasised the importance of respecting and honoring women, urging care before levelling such accusations, said a handout issued here. Referring to the incident of May 9, where 32 women were arrested and 11 of them were currently on judicial remand in women jail, the caretaker CM said he had reassured that surveillance cameras were installed and monitoring teams were in place to ensure security. Speaking to the media during a late-night inspection of the Samanabad underpass project, the CM reiterated that safeguarding women was a responsibility and emphasized his commitment to ensuring the safety of mothers and sisters. The CM declared that those involved in the attack on Jinnah House were being arrested without fail, emphasizing that no one.—APP

## Ashrafi congratulates Erdogan on re-election

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman and Prime Minister's Special Representative on Interfaith Harmony and Middle East, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, on Monday extended heartfelt congratulations to Recep Tayyip Erdogan on his momentous re-election as President of the Republic of Turkey. He, in a talk with APP, said this historic achievement underscored the unwavering trust and confidence placed by the Turkish people in President Erdogan's exceptional leadership. It was a testament to his remarkable vision and dedication in steering

Turkiye towards progress and prosperity, he added. Chairman Ashrafi applauded President Erdogan's dynamic leadership, which had played a pivotal role in shaping Turkiye's trajectory and enhancing its standing on the global stage adding that the Turkish people's resounding endorsement of President Erdogan's presidency served as a shining example of his steadfast commitment to serving their best interests. Under President Erdogan's astute guidance, he said Turkiye had witnessed remarkable growth across various sectors, fostering socioeconomic develop-

ment and fostering harmony among diverse communities. "His inclusive approach and unwavering commitment to interfaith harmony have contributed significantly to fostering unity and understanding within Turkiye and beyond," he maintained. Chairman Ashrafi reaffirmed Pakistan Ulema Council's commitment to further strengthen the bilateral ties between Pakistan and Turkiye, based on shared values and mutual respect. "We look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts in promoting peace, interfaith harmony, and prosperity in the region

## Balochistan population touches 21.7 million mark

ISLAMABAD: The population of Balochistan has increased by 76 percent to 21.7 million according to the results of the 2023 digital census. The population of Balochistan was 12.3 million according to the 2017 census. The increase in population rate in Balochistan is the highest compared to other provinces. "No correct census was conducted in Balochistan from 1998 to 2017," Census Commissioner Noor Ahmad Perkani said. "Census was boycotted in some areas of Balochistan in 1998 while the census in 2017 was controversial. Both Sindh and Balochistan had objections to the 2017 census," he added. "Since the 2017 census was controversial, the census was conducted again in 2023 after five years. Due to the bad law and order situation in the past, no proper census could be conducted in some areas," he stated. "The increase in the population of Balochistan is seen because a census has not been conducted in the province for a long time," he maintained. "We are grateful to the federal government and the Bureau of Statistics for providing adequate time for the census in the province," he said.—DNA

## Centreline becomes member of APNS Federal Committee Regional committee for Islamabad, KP announced

DNA

KARACHI: "The President, Nazafreen Saigol Lakhani and the Secretary General, Sarmad Ali of the All Pakistan Newspapers Society have nominated Mr. Mohsin Bilal to head the Federal Capital Committee (Islamabad / Rawalpindi) of the APNS as Chairman. They have also nominated Syed Haroon Shah to be the Chairman of the Khy-

ber Pakhtoon-Khwa (KP) Provincial Committee. The members nominated on the committees are as under: Federal Capital Committee (Islamabad / Rawalpindi) Mr. Mohsin Bilal, Chairman, Daily Ausaf, Mr. Danish Iftikhar, Vice Chairman, Daily Asas, whereas the following are nominated as members: Mr. Gauhar Zahid Malik, Daily Pakistan Observer, Mr. Khushnood Ali Khan, Daily Sahafat, Mr. Sardar

Khan Niazi, Daily Patriot, Mr. Waseem Ahmed, Daily Awam, Syed Amjad Ali, Daily Jang, Mr. Agha Bilal, Daily Dawn, Mr. Tahir Mughal, Daily Nawa-i-Pak, Mr. Ansar Mahmood Bhatti, Monthly Centre Line and Mrs. Rukhsana Sault Saleemi, Weekly Nikhar. Khyber Pakhtoon-Khwa (KP) Provincial Committee Syed Haroon Shah, Daily Wahdat, Chairman, Syed Ayaz Badshah, Vice Chairman, Daily Mashriq, Peshawar,

whereas the following are nominated as members Mrs. Saba Yousuf, Daily Aaj, Mr. Bari Malik, Daily Watan, Mr. Imran Haider, Daily Frontier Times, Mr. Ashfaq Ahmed Mufiti, Daily Ilhaq, Syed Qaiser Rizvi, Daily Jiddat, Mr. Liaqat Ali Yousafzai, Daily Surkhah, Mr. Zahid Hafeez, Daily Sarhad, Mr. Tahir Farooq, Daily Jihad and Mr. Mahmood ullah Afridi, Daily Frontier Post.

## Grand Opening of PC Legacy Hunza Unveiling a haven of comfort and serenity

DNA

HUNZA: On the 27th of May, the grand opening of PC Legacy Nasirabad Hunza took place in the beautiful valley of Hunza, surrounded by the snow-capped mountains. The event was attended by Deputy Chairman and CEO, Hashoo Group, Mr. and Mrs. Murtaza Hashwani, Senior Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan Col. Ubaidullah Baig, Rani Atiqah Sahiba of Hunza, Shehryar Khan, Mir of Hunza, Owners Mr. Ayaz Kalani, Mr. Mehboob Ali Bhulani, Mr. Fida Ali Sawani and Mr. Nizarshah, local dignitaries, Hashoo Group executives and guests from all over Pakistan. The brand PC Legacy is a new chain of four-star hotels by Hashoo Group, which already owns and operates Pearl-Continental Hotels and Hotel One across Pakistan. PC Legacy will bridge the gap for travellers between five-star and select-service

hotels. Situated in one of the world's most picturesque locations, and overlooking Rakaposhi, PC Legacy Nasirabad Hunza offers breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains, allowing guests to immerse themselves in the magnificence of nature. The hotel features 57 meticulously designed rooms and suites, state-of-the-art facilities, and a range of dining options, promising a truly

remarkable stay. The breathtaking ceremony took place in the idyllic outdoors of the hotel, with an unobstructed view of the enchanting Rakaposhi mountain. The CEO of Hashoo Group, Mr. Murtaza Hashwani, a pioneering force in the Pakistani hospitality sector, unveiled the PC Legacy Nasirabad Hunza and addressed the guests, reflecting upon the journey

that led to the creation of PC Legacy Nasirabad Hunza. "It gives us immense pride to declare that we have already attained a remarkable 40% representation of female employees at PC Legacy Nasirabad Hunza, and we are dedicated to elevating this figure to 50%. This distinction makes us the first hotel in Pakistan to achieve such a significant proportion of women in our workforce"

he added. The afternoon was filled with moments of inspiration. Ms. Samreen Kalani, Mr. Faisal Sawani, Sheryar Mohammad and Salman Mehboob Ali shared their views, emphasizing the collaboration and shared vision behind this exceptional venture. Their words resonated with the audience, underscoring their commitment to providing unparalleled luxury and service, as well as giving back to the community. The Senior Minister, Col. Ubaidullah Baig's attendance highlighted the significance of this landmark occasion, symbolizing the importance of the region as a prime destination for tourism and development. Adding to the enchantment of the evening, the internationally acclaimed "Gurgu", a group of musicians from Lief Larson Music Centre, Hunza, along with Mr. Niaz Baltistani, a renowned singer from Gilgit-Baltistan took the centre stage, captivating the guests with a mesmerizing performance.



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**National Days and Armed Forces Days**

**MAY**

May 03/Poland  
**National Day**

May 06/Bulgaria  
**Armed Forces Day**

May 06/UAE  
**Armed Forces Day**

May 07/Kazakhstan  
**Armed Forces Day**

May 08/Czech Republic  
**National Day**

May 09/European Union  
**National Day**

May 17/Norway  
**Constitution Day**

May 21/Hungary  
**Armed Forces Day**

May 22/Yemen Republic  
**Re-unification Day (National Day)**

May 24/Eritrea  
**National Day**

May 25/Argentina  
**National Day**

May 25/Lebanon  
**Liberation and Resistance Day**

May 28/Azerbaijan  
**Republic Day**

May 28/Ethiopia  
**National Day**

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Serena Hotel.....111 133 133  
Marriott.....051-2826121  
Monal.....0334-5421812

**Airlines**

Turkish Airlines.....8494949

**Emergency**

Rescue (Police).....15  
Bomb Disposal.....15  
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16  
Emergency Ambulance.....1122 & Rescue Services.4451122  
Motorway Police.....9266044  
Motorway Police.9270601-20  
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596  
Rawalpindi.....9270601-20

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PIA Flight Info.....114  
PIA Cargo.....9280979  
Railway Inquiry.....117  
Railway Exchange 9270831-5  
WASA Rawalpindi.555489  
CAA.....9281092

**Hospitals**

CMH.....5611111  
MH.....5611116  
Cantt Hospital.....9270907-11  
DHQ.....5556311-4  
RGH.....9290301-7  
Holy Family.....9290322-7  
PIMS.....9261170-79  
Polyclinic.....9218300-09  
Shifa International 4603666

**Departments**

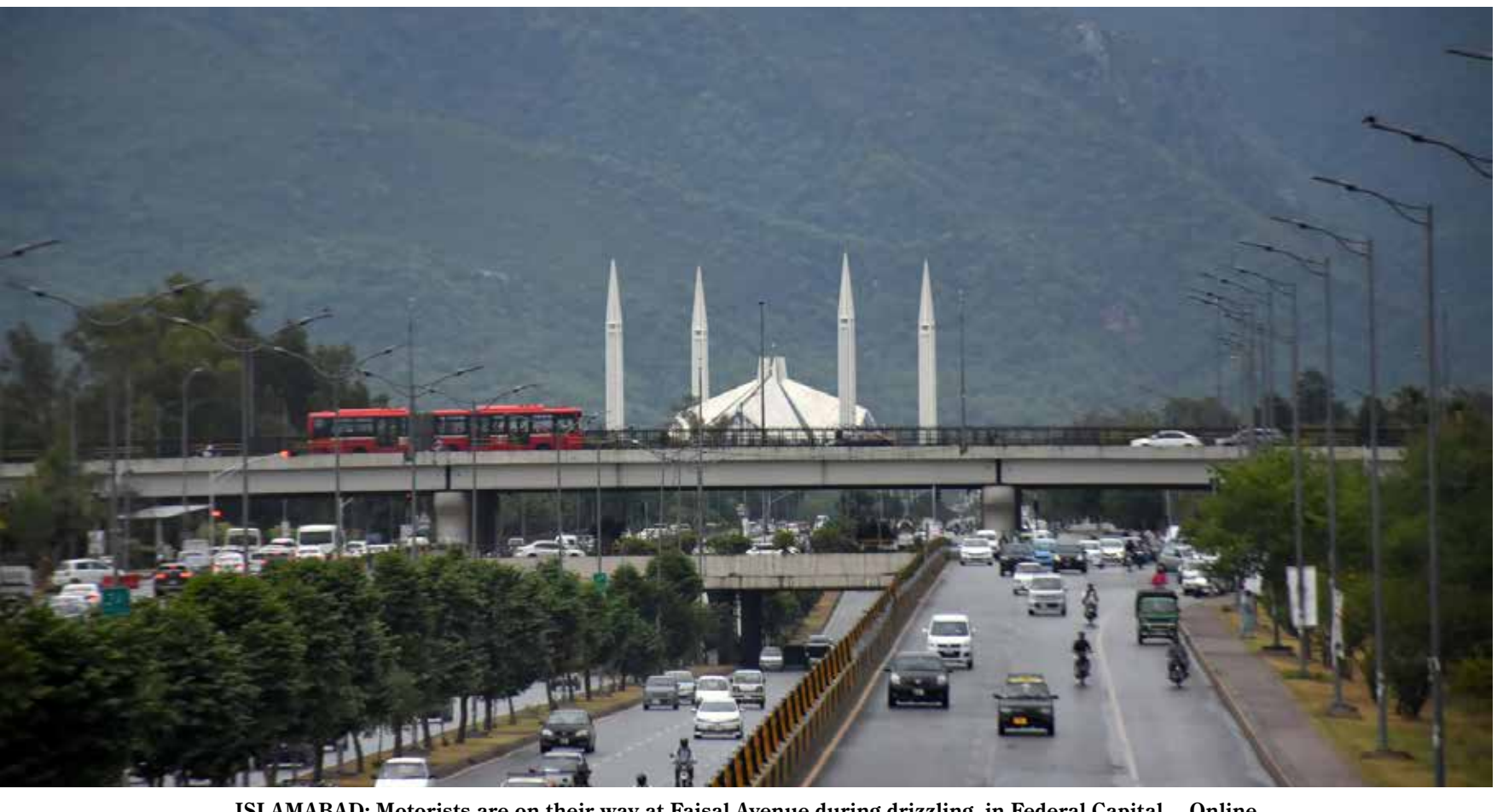
CDA.....9221334-43  
CDA.....9208301-04  
Met Office.....9250360-6  
RDA.....5555864  
TMA.....5770886  
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

**Islamabad Metropolitan**

Corporation.....9209224  
Potohar Town.....9209224  
Rawal Town.....5773343

**Water Tank**

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: Motorists are on their way at Faisal Avenue during drizzling, in Federal Capital. —Online

**Electricity generation capacity to Tarbela increases**

ISLAMABAD: The total electricity generation capacity of Tarbela Power House will jump to 6,418 megawatts (MW) from the existing 4,888 MW after the commissioning of the Tarbela 5th Extension Project scheduled to be completed in 2025. Official sources told APP here that the cumulative generation capacity of the project stood at 1530 MW with three generating units of 510 MW each. On completion, the project would provide 1.347 billion units of environment-friendly and low-cost hydel electricity to the National Grid on average every year. —APP

**IT ministry allocates \$1.6 mln to construct building**

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication has allocated an amount of \$1.6 million to construct a building in NED University of Engineering & Technology Karachi for gaming and animation.

An official of the Ministry of IT said, that the Ministry is working towards the vision of the IT industry in 2050. In Pakistan, the investment in 2020 was just \$75 million, which increased to \$373 million in 2021-22. Similarly, after the ministry's efforts, the regulatory duty on mobile phones has been abolished since March 30. He said that an agreement has been signed with Google for 45,000 scholarships, which will increase to 450,000 next year. The upcoming scholarships will include a 40 per cent allocation for women. Previously, Google had provided only 15,000 scholarships last year, but the ministry interfered to increase the number through consultations. He said that about 8 National Incubation Centers are currently functional in the country's major cities. —APP

**Making Islamabad a crime-free city is responsibility of Police**

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: DIG Safe City Project Islamabad Police Shoab Khurram Janbaz has said that the police is working to make Islamabad a crime-free city. The Safe City project has helped significantly in reducing crime. Work is being done to provide 100% coverage of the Safe City Project in urban areas of Islamabad. Steps are being taken to bring markets and parks into the project. There is a need to increase cooperation between ICCI and Safe City Project. He expressed these views while talking to the president of the chamber, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, during his visit to the Islamabad Chamber yesterday. On this occasion, he invited the delegation of Islamabad Chamber to visit Safe City Headquarters. In the meeting, cooperation between the two institutions was discussed and various possibilities were reviewed. DIG Safe City Project said in his speech that Safe City Pro-

ject has proved to be helpful in eliminating crime from Islamabad and bringing criminals to justice. At present, the coverage of Safe City in all urban sectors of Islamabad is 60 to 70 percent, which is targeted to reach 100 percent. Work is being done to take the project to newly constructed sectors as well. He said that many reforms have been brought in the traffic system in the city. Alternative arrange-

ments have been made in areas where there were traffic problems. Talking on this occasion, President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that the prevention of crimes is necessary for the security and survival of Pakistan, because domestic and foreign investors are slowly diverting their attention from Pakistan due to crime. We have to look at the eradication

of crime with national security, only then we can get rid of this evil. He said that the Safe City project is commendable and has benefited the city a lot. To increase the effectiveness of the plan, its coverage should be increased. There is a need to increase the cameras of the Safe City project and improve the monitoring at the entrances of Islamabad. He said that first aid points should

be started at public places so that immediate help can be provided in case of an accident. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that Islamabad Chamber is going to start FM radio channel soon. Islamabad Police, especially the Safe City Project, should take advantage of this. Police should organize awareness for healthy activities among the youth, Islamabad Chamber will fully cooperate in this regard. On this occasion, Senior Vice President Islamabad Chamber Faad Waheed said that there is a need for a sustainable policy to solve traffic problems in the city. Traffic engineering needs to be used during road construction to avoid ruts, ruts and other problems. Former President Islamabad Chamber Zafar Bakhtawari said that there is a need to create fear of cameras in criminals. Under Safe City, there should be such a system that before committing a crime, the criminal has to fear that his movements are being recorded.



**Insufficient gendered data cause of inequalities**

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) and Convener Parliamentary Taskforce on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Romina Khurshid Alam on Monday said lack of gendered data hinders effective policy implementation to address climate disaster issues and inequalities. Speaking at the consultative workshop titled "Gender Policy and Economic Development: Applying the Disaster Resilience Lens" organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), in collaboration with British High Commission's Revenue Mobilisation, Investment and Trade (REMINT) programme here, the SAPM said gender inequality was an international issue which required targeted

policy interventions with a bottom-up approach. SAPM Romina Khurshid Alam said that women being half of population were at the center of development agenda and pivotal for effectively catalyzing change. She said that collaboration and knowledge sharing could help strengthen responses to novel and evolving challenges. She also informed that the Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs and SDPI were collaborating to initiate a regional parliamentary consortium to overcome gender inequalities in the region and join forces on the issue. Senior Responsible Owner (SRO), REMIT, Naghma-e-Tehmiat reiterated British government's commitment to addressing gender and climate issues. She said that since the floods in 2022, the focus has been directed to review of policies for gendered impact analysis and address these issues. Joint Executive

Director, SDPI, Dr Vaqar Ahmed said that with higher incidence of climate disasters, current knowledge must be utilized to develop responses to sporadic climate instances. He stressed that disaster lens for a gender focused economic development should be holistic, and not be confined to a single ministry's framework. Chief of SDGs, Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiative, Ali Kemal said that gender disaggregated data was already available but lack of evidence on impacts of policy actions and responses was needed. He said that care economy and financial inclusion must be targeted for rural women to address social and gender inequalities. CEO of National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF) Bilal Anwar informed that the NDRMF now ensures gender dimension in project design and implementation which has demonstrated success.

**ANF seizes over 852 kg drugs in six operations**

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in their ongoing operations against drug smugglers managed to recover over 852 kg drugs and arrested three accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that in two operations near Islamabad Motorway Toll Plaza, drugs were recovered and two accused were sent behind the bars. In an operation, four kg charras was recovered from the possession of an accused resident of Karak while in another operation, one kg charras was recovered from the possession of an accused resident of Khyber. In third operation in Islamabad, E-11/2 area, 60 intoxicating tablets were recovered from the possession of an accused resident of Islamabad. In an operation at Lahore International Airport Cargo, 184 grams heroin was recovered from a parcel booked for Australia. —APP

**Federal board starts recruitment exams for govt jobs**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) Islamabad has taken an important

step by starting matriculation, intermediate as well as government jobs recruitment exams across Pakistan. According to an official of the Board on Monday, May 28, 2023, the Federal Board of Education successfully conducted the examinations in ten major cities, in which a total of 42,000 candidates were examined. These candidates had applied for various posts within the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Reforms—APP

**AIOU employees welfare association takes oath**

They assured Vice Chancellor to stand by the side of AIOU administration for the betterment of the university

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood on Monday said that employees should perform their duties with honesty, hard work, and sincere spirit for the overall development of the organization. In his speech at the oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected office bearers of the Employees Welfare Association (EWA), he said that employees who work hard would be encouraged and their rights would also be fulfilled as per the rules. The Vice-Chancel-

lor said on this occasion that we should all focus on our responsibilities. Dr. Nasir, while appreciating the efforts of all the previous leadership and administration of AIOU, said that they all played their role in the development of AIOU strategically, and with their sincere efforts, AIOU is included in the "mega universities of the world". He said that we must learn from past experiences and should work together for the prosperity of AIOU. Dr. Nasir agreed to establish a community center in the residential colony of AIOU for the facilitation of employees. He further nodded upgrading

the agenda of the upcoming meeting of the executive council for approval. The Vice-Chancellor said that approval for the upgradation of grades 2 to 16 would also be obtained from the upcoming meeting of the Executive Council. Earlier, the Vice-Chancellor administered the oath to the newly elected body of EWA and congratulated them on their victory. The newly elected president of EWA, Yasir Mehmood and general secretary, Amjad Rehman presented a list of demands for the welfare of the employees and requested the vice chancellor to solve them.



**WATER AND SANITATION AGENCY (WASA), RAWALPINDI TENDER NOTICE**

- Sealed tenders are invited for the work mentioned below from the eligible Contractors / firms who are registered in PEC in respective categories and renewed upto current Financial Year and registered with FBR and PRA alongwith active tax payer status with concerned authorities.
- Tender / Bidding documents can be obtained from the office of Deputy Director (Concerned) immediately after the publication (PPRA 2014 Rules 25(1) upon written request accompanied with attested copies of PEC License authority letter on pad form, and non refundable tender fee in shape of Pay order for Rs. 5000/-each in favour of Dy. Director Concerned WASA/RDA Rawalpindi.
- Tendered rates and amount should be filled in figures as well as in words and tenders should be signed as per general directions given in the tender documents.
- Tenders will be issued from date of publication upto 12/06/2023, during the office hours from the office of the concerned Dy. Director. Sealed tender will be received in the office Assistant Director Development Commissioner Office, Rawalpindi on 13/06/2023 till 12:00 and will be opened on same day at 12:30 PM in the presence of the contractors or their authorized representatives.
- Bidding documents shall be issued to owner of the firm by showing original CNIC and / or to Authorized representative of firm having authority letter with specimen signature of representative of firm along with original CNIC. Conditional tender and tenders without attested copies of registered partnership deed and power of attorney in case firms will not be entertained.
- Earnest money will be 05% of the estimated cost. Tender without earnest money will not be accepted.
- No tender will be accepted which is received telegraphically or by post.
- Procedure of open competitive bidding i.e single stage one envelop system shall be adopted.
- In case the tendered amount from bidder is less than 5% of the estimated cost the lowest bidder will have to submit the additional performance security from scheduled bank equal to difference of tendered amount and estimated cost. The acceptance letter will be issued on production of additional performance security which will be refunded as per contract agreement.
- Deduction of Security, Income Tax, GST etc will be made as per Govt. Rules
- If clarification and amendment in bid is needed before date of bidding, addendum to this effect can be issued before 24 Hours from date of receiving.
- WASA Rawalpindi may reject all bids or proposals at any time without prior notice to the acceptance of a bid or proposal as per Rule No. 35 of PPRA 2014.
- The bid will be valid for 60 days.

Sr. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Time Limit	Earnest Money 05% of the estimated cost
1	Dredging/Desilting of Nallah from Dhoke Hasso to Dhoke Mangal Rawalpindi	Rs. 7,075,400/-	01 Month	Rs.353,770
2	Dredging/Desilting of Nallah From Mangal Road Bridge towards Nallah Lai Hazara Colony Rawalpindi	Rs. 3,937,700/-	01 Month	Rs.196,885
3	Dredging/Desilting of Nallah From Iq Road to Dhoke Dalal Rawalpindi	Rs. 7,954,000/-	01 Month	Rs.397,700
4	Dredging/Desilting of Nallah From Kassi Malpur Kassi Malpur Asghar Mall Scheme Kartarpura Haripura Khohati Bazar Muree Road Rawalpindi	Rs. 7,742,800/-	01 Month	Rs.387,140
5	Dredging/Desilting of Nallah From Muree Road Via Dabo Road Milal Colony Iqar Bazar Dhoke Iqar Bazar Rawalpindi	Rs. 6,210,400/-	01 Month	Rs.310,520
6	Dredging/Desilting of Nallah Sadpur Road Banni Muhalla Thandi Gali Imam Bargah Road Jamia Masjid Road Washkopi Muhallah Nalla Lai Rawalpindi	Rs. 4,773,200/-	01 Month	Rs. 238,660
7	Dredging/Desilting of Nallah From Air Port Dhoke Khabba to Dhoke Sati Baksh Rawalpindi	Rs. 4,127,300/-	01 Month	Rs. 206,365
8	Dredging/Desilting of Nallah From Dhoke Kashmirian to Sadiqabad, Chirah Road Service Road, Kurri Road Paf Base Rawalpindi	Rs. 5,116,100/-	01 Month	Rs.255,805
9	Dredging/ De-Silting of Lal Nallah from Katarian Bridge to Pirwadhal Bridge (Phase-II) for the Year 2022-23	Rs. 30,000,000/-	01 Month	Rs.1,500,000

**Dy. Director (S&D) WASA**  
Liaquat Bagh, Murree Road, Rawalpindi  
Telephone No. 051-5554071 Fax No. 051-5539490

**IPL NO 4081**

*(Signature)*  
**Dy. Director (S&D) WASA Rawalpindi**

## Briefs

## RTI Act empowers citizens to improve governance

ISLAMABAD: Chief Information Commissioner Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui has said that the Right to Information Act, 2017 empowers every citizen of the country to improve governance significantly through the power of knowledge and raising questions in the right powerful way.

Talking to APP here on Monday, the Information Commissioner said that the RTI Act brings an end to the concept of careless citizenship and makes every Pakistani responsible to ask for information if they find anything doubtful in running the affairs of the government at any level.

"Applicant can file an application on plain paper to the head of the department elaborating which information is required. If the applicant does not receive an answer up to the satisfaction within 10 or even 20 days, RTI can be contacted Commission through an email to [appeals@rti.gov.pk](mailto:appeals@rti.gov.pk) or through the post without visiting the" he explained. The aim of RTI is to improve governance through transparency, the Commissioner said adding that currently, they have received more than 3000 appeals and half of them have been disposed of.

He said that the RTI Act encourages citizens to take an active part in improving governance. He highlighted that it is a people-centric and public-friendly law due to which citizens can take an interest in the affairs of the government through framing the good question. He said that the inclusion of citizens will make government officials mindful, careful and efficient and will double the quality of governance. —APP

## Oil up with tentative US deal to raise debt ceiling

ISLAMABAD: Oil prices increased on Monday after US President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy negotiated a debt ceiling agreement over the weekend. International benchmark Brent crude traded at \$77.47 per barrel at 8.55 a.m. local time (0555GMT), a 0.64% rise from the closing price of \$76.98 a barrel in the previous trading session on Friday. The American benchmark West Texas Intermediate (WTI) traded at the same time at \$73.19 per barrel, up 0.72% from the previous session's close of \$72.67 per barrel. Biden and McCarthy announced an "agreement in principle" late Saturday to raise the debt limit and avoid a "catastrophic default." On Sunday, the US president urged Congress to pass a bipartisan agreement he reached with McCarthy to raise the debt ceiling. A vote is expected in the House on Wednesday.

The debt limit was hit in January, but the Treasury Department has taken steps to ensure that the US continues to pay its bills. The declining value of the dollar also aided the increase in dollar-indexed oil prices. The US dollar index, which measures the value of the American dollar against a basket of currencies, including the Japanese yen, British pound, Canadian dollar, Swedish krona and Swiss franc, declined 0.09% to 104.11 early Monday.

## Zardari felicitates Erdogan

ISLAMABAD: President Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians (PPP) Asif Ali Zardari on Monday congratulated Recep Tayyip Erdogan on being re-elected as the President of Türkiye for the third time. In a felicitation message issued here by the party secretariat, Asif Zardari felicitated Recep Tayyip Erdogan on winning the elections of the President of Türkiye. "Recep Tayyip Erdogan's victory is a manifestation of his popularity among the Turkish people," he added. He prayed that Türkiye reached new heights of development under the leadership of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. —DNA

## PRCS organizes mega youth gathering and Walk

PRCS Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari condemns the attack on Jinnah House

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) held a "Mega Youth Gathering and Awareness Walk" to commemorate Red Cross Red Crescent Day. The event took place in Lahore here on Monday, starting from Ayub Sports Complex and concluding at Jinnah House. The walk was led by PRCS Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari and saw the participation of numerous students, PRCS personnel, volunteers, and individuals from diverse schools of thought. During the walk, participants displayed placards conveying messages of national unity and service to humanity. The main objectives of the event were to foster patriotism, instill positive attitudes among young people, and pay tribute to the founder of the nation and the Pakistan



Red Crescent, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Speaking to the media outside Jinnah House, PRCS Chairman

Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari condemned the attack on Jinnah House and said that any form of disrespect towards the sacred site and the martyrs would not be tolerated. He emphasized that the PRCS is dedicated to promoting positive thinking and

practical actions for the betterment of humanity. The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, he stated, teaches the values of serving humanity, regardless of caste, color, or creed, with this principle being present in every religion. He expressed the organization's commitment to serving humanity wholeheartedly.

Chairman Laghari also highlighted the PRCS's efforts in providing relief assistance, including food supplies and family tents, to millions of people affected by floods across the country. He mentioned that the Red Crescent is organizing Red Cross Red Crescent Day celebrations in provincial headquarters nationwide.

PRCS also setup volunteer registration desks, first aid counters on this occasion. A mobile blood unit van was present at the event to collect blood donations.

## President directs FBR to make payment &amp; apologize to citizen

During the hearing, FBR's representative admitted the fault of the Customs personnel in handling the matter due to a lack of communication and system barriers. He said that as per Customs Rules, if the goods were not cleared within 15 days of the date of arrival at a Customs Station, the same could be sold in an auction

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has directed FBR to apologize and make payment to a citizen whose three imported vehicles were mishandled by Customs Department, wrongly auctioned by Custom officials at a low price of almost Rs 3 million without any notice to him, and the Customs Duty paid by him was refunded to some unauthorized clearing agents, who later disappeared with the money. The President directed FBR to verify all receipts/documents, refund the amount as per the assessed value of the vehicles, and refund the duties/charges paid in favour of importers/owners. He also directed the citizen to provide all documents and reconcile with Customs Department enabling FBR to make payment within 30 days. He further observed that interest should be added to the

payment since the auction money was lying with the exchequer.

The President gave these directions while accepting a representation filed by Mr Ifthikhar Ahmed Awan (the complainant) against the orders of the Wafaqi Mohtasib. The complainant had stated that overseas Pakistanis, living in Japan, legally imported three vehicles for the personal use of their families and the freight against the vehicles was paid. However, FBR didn't release the vehicles and sold the three cars in an auction at a low price of Rs 3,019,385. Feeling aggrieved, the complainant approached the Wafaqi Mohtasib, who directed FBR to make payment of sale proceeds of vehicles to owners, after verification as to why they were being paid such a low amount. The complainant then filed a representation with the President praying that Customs Department should be ordered to make pay-

ment of sale proceeds of the vehicles at prevailing market rates as well as refund all the duties/charges which were paid.

During the proceedings, it was pointed out that after the completion of all formalities, the ship carrying the vehicles landed at another terminal and the Customs Department auctioned the vehicles without any notice to the importer, and that the Customs Duty was refunded to unauthorized clearing agents, which resulted in huge financial loss to the importers/owners. During the hearing, FBR's representative admitted the fault of the Customs personnel in handling the matter due to a lack of communication and system barriers. He said that as per Customs Rules, if the goods were not cleared within 15 days of the date of arrival at a Customs Station, the same could be sold in an auction. He further informed that FBR had initiated disciplinary proceedings against the de-

linquent officials involved in mishandling the matter and they had also been served a charge sheet in pursuance of the order of the Mohtasib. He added that the licences of the agents, who disappeared with the money, had also been cancelled.

The President concluded that mishandling of the imported vehicles on the part of the Customs Department was not denied and maladministration had been established. He said that due to the negligence of officials, importers/owners suffered a huge financial loss and mental agony. He added that it was a fact that financial loss occurred due to negligence, lack of communication, and deviation from the established clearing system of the Customs. The President said that the citizen was aggrieved by the wrong committed by Custom Officials and not due to fault of his own, therefore, his representation was accepted and FBR was directed to refund the amount as per the value assessed.

## China-Pakistan infrastructure construction fruitful

ISLAMABAD: China-Pakistan infrastructure construction is leading to fruitful achievements, mainly because of China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC) which entered the Pakistani market in 1984 long before CPEC. Many major projects in Pakistan have been constructed by this company, which showed the quality and professionalism of this corporation, according to an article carried by Gwadar Pro on Monday.

The CSCEC has built five thermal power plants in Pakistan and these projects include Jamshoro, Faisalabad, Lakhala, Kotri and Mustafa Go. Thanks to these thermal power plants, two million watts of electricity capacity has been increased in Pakistan. Along with the construction of these thermal power plants, in the mid-1990s, this corporation completed a huge project in the Sindh province. Karachi, as the largest densely populated city in Pakistan, in which the big and long-standing problems is sewage treatment. Thus, CSCEC played a key role in solving this problem and by building the Karachi Sewage Treatment Plant, the positive effects are permanently seen on the urban life of Karachi. A very important factor in the economic relations between China and Pakistan is the defense cooperation between the two countries. The JF Seventeen Thunder aircraft is most important for Pakistan in terms of its defense needs and the interesting thing is that the same company is credited with construction of factory at the place where the aircraft is manufactured. This factory is located in the famous Airbase Kamra of Pakistan. Similarly, another indispensable project was completed in Islamabad. The passenger terminal building of Islamabad International Airport has been constructed by the same company, while a large business center named Centaurus is standing in Islamabad and the construction of this business center is also a proof of the technical skills of the same company. In Lahore, the famous tallest building in the city - Arfa Karim IT Tower is also a masterpiece of the same enterprise. The building is named after a teenage girl who is a Pakistani IT luminary and the youngest Microsoft Certified Professional. Unfortunately, she died at a very young age, so people use this building as a memorial to her. While the largest economic cooperation project between Pakistan and China CPEC, the largest transportation infrastructure project of CPEC PKM (Sukhar Multan Section) construction contract was also awarded to the same corporation in 2015. The past record of CSCEC is a witness that whatever contract they have signed, they have completed the contract according to the spirit of the contract. —DNA

## Wheat production is below rate of population growth

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Brig. (retd) Aslam Khan, Chairman of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) said on Monday that the production of wheat in the country is not able to keep pace with the growing population. Due to reduced production and a growing population, the wheat exporting country is now forced to import wheat worth billions of dollars.

In a statement issued here today, Aslam Khan said that the country's population is increasing at a rate of two percent per year, but the production of wheat is not increasing at the same rate. This year, the production of wheat is likely to be less than the target by 1.6 million tonnes, due to which wheat will have to be imported. He said that wheat production was estimated at 28.4 million tonnes, but the recent estimates suggest that the production will remain at 26.8 million tonnes while the shortfall will be met through imports.

## Countries are not dismembered by borders

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League chief and former federal interior minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said on Monday that those who left the party had changed loyalties many times under the doctrine of necessity. Using his twitter handle, Sheikh Rashid said, "Countries are not dismembered by borders but from within. In Pakistan, the hearts of the people have been broken by desecration and violation of sanctity of homes. Efforts should be made to bridge differences and unite the people and winning their hearts. When a nation loses heart, it damages political and economic basis of the country." The former federal minister said those who quit the party had changed parties many times under the doctrine of necessity. Nawaz Sharif himself was a member of 'Tehreek-e-Istiqal Asghar Khan Coordination Committee'. He got excise ministry from Gate No 4 after orders from the higher-ups. About Shehbaz Sharif, comments of Ijazul Haq were enough, he stated. Mr Ahmed said those who claimed about production of 'bumper crops' were telling about three million tonnes shortfall in wheat purchase. He appealed to the institutions to address the rumours spreading in the country. —

## Expertise and CPEC to boost Pakistan's chemical industry

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Expertise and CPEC to boost Pakistan's Chemical industry, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday quoting experts. China is currently a world leader in terms of the chemical industry, and it saw a significant increase in investment and exports last year. According to Professor of H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry, China has emphasised the advancement of the cracking industry, which produces chemicals necessary for various applications, such as soap, dye, leather, textiles and cement. "China now sells its chemical products globally, said Pakistan enterprises can cooperate with China in this sector to develop their own

cracking industries." he added.

chemical industry can also benefit from China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) when the 4 special economic zones (SEZs) are constructed. "Local production of chemicals is very important. If Pakistan can establish a good chemical industry, build cracking plants and produce the chemicals locally from indigenous resources, our imports will be greatly reduced," said Raza Shah. Chemicals are essential for all industries and every walk of life. However, Pakistan's chemical sector is mostly dependent on imports and at a very initial stage. Chemical industry necessitates a high level of expertise, but Pakistani graduates have had little exposure to it. To address the

skilled worker shortage, it is critical to strengthen collaboration between industry and academia in this sector.

"Our organization specializes in chemical research, and possesses state-of-the-art facilities. Private sector currently lacks access to these resources. With the collaboration of private industries and academic institutions, the chemical manufacturing sector in Pakistan can flourish." Raza Shah added. There will be separate areas for chemical industry to produce chemicals for the main industries," said Amir Qaiser, representative of Chemical Linkers Pakistan Beijing office. "We can also export chemicals from there. Pakistan has abundant raw materials for chemicals, so it can be a very potential industry." —APP

## Pakistan becoming politically stable

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt said on Monday that Pakistan is inching back to normal as the political crisis that has engulfed the country for years is subsiding. "Political stability will result in economic stability, which will not only improve the image and economy of the country but also advance the quality of life of people," he said. Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today that policymakers should not try to manipulate the US dollar for at least two years, which will not only reduce its value and strengthen the rupee but also attract investment and capital that has fled the country due to political turmoil. Engineering the exchange rate has eroded the confidence of local and foreign investors, stoked inflation to unprecedented levels, and pushed the country to the brink of default. —APP

## Seven police stations solarized to save Rs 74 million

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory Police have saved Rs. 74 million by shifting seven police stations and various offices to efficient energy system. According to the vision of Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and following the approval of Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan, the police introduced an environment-friendly major energy saving project. All police stations, lines, safe city, offices and other buildings and equipment of Islamabad Capital Police are being shifted to efficient energy system. i.e. solar energy. Under this project, the power source of all devices will be converted to solar energy and the main objective of this whole project is to ensure austerity and save energy. During the last three months, this ongoing initiative has resulted in remarkable achievements and implementation of solar energy system in seven police stations including Golra, Sihala, Women, Bhara Kahu, Shahzad Town, Sabzi Mandi, and Tarnol which led to substantial savings. The police have saved 68,648 units of electricity and saved around Rs. 74 million after shifting to this system. By adopting solar energy system, the police contributed towards friendly environment. The funds previously allocated for electricity bills can be utilized to support operational duties effectively. The adoption of solar power system demonstrates Islamabad capital police's commitment for pollution-free and greener Islamabad. This project will not only transform police stations into 'green police stations' but also to contribute towards eco-friendly Islamabad. Furthermore, the integration of solar energy ensures an uninterrupted supply of electricity to police stations by replacing conventional energy sources. The police department is actively exploring additional measures to enhance the efficiency of the solar power system and its output would be further improved in near future. —DNA



## 10 Minutes Drive From The Monal



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## Sudan's civilians: important, not incidental

When foreign diplomats fled Sudan as fighting engulfed Khartoum, some denied Sudanese civilians the means to follow them to safety. American and French staff shredded passports handed in by those seeking visas, to ensure they did not fall into the wrong hands. Others simply left them locked inside abandoned embassies. This speaks to the disregard shown to those caught up in the struggle between two generals: Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, Sudan's army chief and de facto leader, and Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, known as Hemetti, who commands the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces. The fighting is not only trashing hospitals, markets and homes. The political analyst Kholood Kair says the conflict has "completely annihilate[d] Sudanese political, social and economic life". The UN expert for human rights in Sudan, Radhouane Nouicer, warned on Tuesday: "This is the destruction of a country in a way that is dehumanising its people." More than 850 civilians have been killed, thousands injured and hundreds of thousands displaced since violence erupted in mid-April.

The latest patchy, fragile ceasefire has begun, following a deal brokered by Washington and Riyadh. But expectations are at rock bottom. Both sides remain aggressive; neither has gained a decisive advantage and previous ceasefires have been partially honoured, if at all. While the situation in Khartoum has commanded the most attention, there are concerns that the conflict in Darfur is already broadening.

Not only are civilians suffering from indiscriminate attacks, but civil society activists are being targeted by people on both sides. That is, perhaps, hardly surprising, when the generals were previously united in preventing a transition to civilian government. Those whom the country most needs are being detained, killed or forced to flee.

This conflict has already demonstrated that counting on military strongmen for stability is a grotesque error. Saudi Arabia, which has ties to both leaders but is regarded as broadly neutral, has been key in bringing them to the table and reaching this ceasefire agreement. No one imagines it will see the return to democracy as an important goal, however. Senior White House engagement and the appointment of a special envoy could help stabilise the situation and should also press for civilian involvement in the longer term.

More than half of Sudan's population needs humanitarian aid. Over 300,000 civilians have fled to neighbouring countries, where many are extremely vulnerable. While the UN has launched a \$3bn appeal for help, the UK has just slashed funding to east Africa. As many feared, the international spotlight has swung away from this violence following the evacuation of foreigners. But Sudanese civilians must not be treated as an afterthought.

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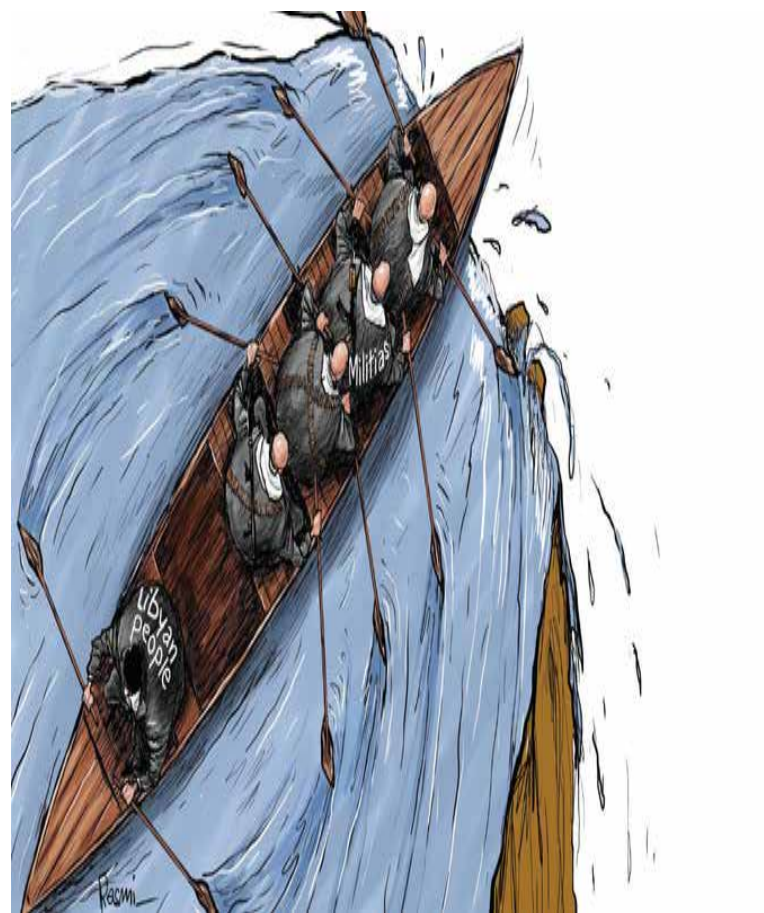
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## US waging long-term trade attack

Were it not for US Deputy Trade Representative Sarah Bianchi's interview with Reuters after the "Indo-Pacific" Economic Framework for Prosperity talks wrapped up in Detroit, Michigan, on Saturday, the statutory four-year review of the previous Donald Trump administration's initial tariff actions and their subsequent modifications by the Joe Biden administration might have passed under the public radar.

That to some extent shows that the US society, including the parties suffering from the tariffs, have given up hope of any suspension of the tariffs, particularly as the inflation in the United States that prompted the Biden administration to consider adjusting the tariffs last year has now eased.

Bianchi's remarks on the Office of the US Trade Representative's review of whether to keep the tariffs on Chinese goods in place reinforced that judgment. "We are conducting the review from an analytical perspective. We're not base-casing any breakthrough in the trade relationship. We're not assuming that that will happen." Moreover, the deputy trade representative, who oversees trade engagement with Asia, added that the USTR is continuing to study industry and stakeholder comments on the duties and consulting with the US Commerce Department, the Treasury and other agencies to determine which categories make strategic sense, hinting that more imports from China might be added to the tariffs. The tariffs on thousands of imports from China, valued at around \$370 billion at the time, were imposed by the Trump administration in 2018 and 2019 as a bargaining chip for its trade talks with Beijing. After passing the inflation pressure test – with much of the cost of the tariffs having been passed on to US consumers and businesses – and with no intention of mending ties with Beijing, the Biden administration sees no reason not to keep the tariffs in place. With its blacklist sanctions precisely targeting China's high-tech sectors, the tariffs are being used to hurt China's lower-end manufacturing industries. Bianchi's remarks came just two days after Chinese Commerce Minister Wang Wentao raised objections against the tariffs as an issue of concern during a meeting with US Trade Representative Katherine Tai in Detroit on the sidelines of an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation trade meeting on Thursday, the first Cabinet-level exchanges between Washington and Beijing in months.

Considering that the duties are viewed by the Biden administration as "significant leverage" over China and that Congress has delegated much of its tariff authority to the president, so as to avoid censure by a few vocal industries, the so-called importance and necessity of maintaining such "conversations" between the two sides highlighted by Bianchi in her interview is questionable for Beijing.

## "Samarkand solidarity initiative" must be supported globally

Irfan Shahzad Takalvi



The political system, the governance edifice and the structure of economy have all been modernized, transformed and made inclusive. These moves are backed by an overwhelming majority of Uzbek people, as is visible from the results on 2021 presidential election and recent constitutional referendum in this Central Asian republic

During around past seven years of the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Uzbekistan has recorded holistic, broad-based and multifaceted progress which is open for the entire world to see.

The political system, the governance edifice and the structure of economy have all been modernized, transformed and made inclusive. These moves are backed by an overwhelming majority of Uzbek people, as is visible from the results on 2021 presidential election and recent constitutional referendum in this Central Asian republic. The results are visible in the form of noticeable confidence among the people, smooth functioning of the governance system and improving socio-economic indicators.

Apart from focus on his own nation's well-being, President Mirziyoyev has also taken pathbreaking, innovative and engaging steps aimed at tackling regional and international issues. These include, but are not limited to, proving a leading role for finding lasting solutions to the Afghanistan imbroglio as well as promoting regional cooperation and integration not only intra-region but also inter-regional. I have noted at certain platforms that his role as 'Integrator-in-Chief' of Central Asia is well manifested. Solid pushes for Central-South Asia connectivity, Eurasian integration and efforts for resolving non-traditional security issues such as ecological challenges and food security are also there to mention.

A very successful holding of Samarkand Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is September 2022 – the first face to face summit of the grouping since 2019 – indeed needs a special mention. It has been noted globally that the 'Samarkand Spirit' injected a new vitality into overall work and functioning of SCO. A common thread one can notice throughout Uzbek President's national, regional and

global initiatives is patronage for and encouragement of generation of new ideas and much needed intellectual exchanges. This, it would not be wrong to assert here, is unprecedented. Hardly can one actually note such an ostensible attention and emphasis by a leader on involvement of intellectuals, academics, opinion makers and centers of knowledge – the think-tanks. Uzbek leader's initiatives and personal attention in recent years have already reclaimed the same position and glory for the historic city of Samarkand, what it has been known for, over centuries since medieval times. Yes, we are talking about the city's intellectual, academic and cultural glory that distinguishes it among the cities of the region. Besides giving the city a developmental face-lift, a number of high-level cultural and academic events and activities (linked with SCO summit and also separately) have been held in the city and many more are in the pipeline – notably Samarkand International Platform – which are contributing immensely to highlight city's well-deserved place on regional and global intellectual map.

One of the most inspiring ideas in this connection, in my view, is the Samarkand Solidarity Initiative for Common Security and Prosperity. It was brought forward by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev on the eve of SCO Summit, and since has won endorsement from the leaders of all SCO members' leadership as is recorded in the Samarkand Declaration of SCO, 2022. And it has been backed once again by the leadership of China and Central Asian nations in the recently held China-Central Asia Summit, in Xi'an. The 'Xi'an Declaration 2023 stands testimony to the fact that Samarkand Solidarity Initiative is finding itself increasingly relevant, and manifesting itself as the need of the hour. Seen in the background of China's Global Security Initiative,

Global Development Initiative, and Global Civilization Initiative – the Samarkand Solidarity Initiative enriches the discourse and brightens the minds by adding an all-important dimension, i.e., solidarity. It goes without saying that solidarity among and between the societies and nations becomes a pre-requisite for any form of cooperative effort to realize.

While intellectual deliberations on further explanation and development of the initiative are already in the offing and an international moot is also planned in Samarkand, it is the time that world community specially regional nations and institutions must come forward to express all-out support for this initiative. The basic thrust, as the Initiative itself seeks, is the coming together of nations notwithstanding their bilateral issues, differences of political and developmental systems, diversity of approaches and being part of a wide array of organizations and groupings. Hence, the taking forward of 'Samarkand Spirit' means a spread of the Spirit of Solidarity.

While the idea of Samarkand Solidarity Initiative gains ground, the Uzbek side under the leadership of Shavkat Mirziyoyev must also work on its part to make it a lasting endeavor – intellectually, administratively and on the ground. The task requires regular deliberations, development of proper concept papers, outlining the range of moves to be made and ideally having a permanent secretariate / team. An initiative like this would certainly win support and backing, once it gets going. And it would certainly bring positive outcomes for this region of Central, South and West Asia.

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## China and the West: Deadly enemies or prosperous allies?

Baria Alamuddin

The Ukraine conflict was a wakeup call that major foreign invasions or global superpower confrontations weren't just a relic of the 20th century. This realization has dramatically prompted NATO states to re-evaluate their collective security – particularly throwing into relief the challenges emerging from China, which has 10 times the GDP and 10 times the population of Russia. Indeed, with Beijing's unique relationship to Vladimir Putin, we may yet see China again come to play the role of peacemaker before too long. It is entirely Xi Jinping's choice whether he desires history to know him as a warmonger.

The China-brokered agreement in March to restore diplomatic ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran caught the entire planet by surprise – not only because of its implications for Middle Eastern realignments but also because of Beijing's conspicuous midwife role, with states such as the US scarcely even aware of the magnitude of what was transpiring. It was an unmistakable signal that China had definitively emerged as a diplomatic world power, with clear ambitions to achieve much, much more.

Once upon a time, China scarcely seemed to have a foreign policy beyond vague pronouncements about non-interference in others' domestic affairs. The Belt and Road initiative profoundly changed all this, through massive infrastructure investments in a multitude of Asian and African states. While many developing nations have benefited immensely from Chinese-engineered roads, ports, bridges and railways, the flipside can be seen in how heavily indebted states such as Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Angola have become locked in a straitjacket of Chinese domination. In Afghanistan, Chinese diplomats have exploited the West's withdrawal to become one of the few states systematically engaging with the Taliban. China has also agreed to invest \$400 billion in Iran's economy in exchange for heavily discounted Iranian oil – one of many factors that have caused the interests of Tehran, Moscow and Beijing to enmesh evermore closely. Economic and political cooperation between Beijing and Arab Gulf states has notably flourished, with China now Saudi Arabia's largest export market. China is an unparalleled economic powerhouse. In recent decades, Chinese leaders ruthlessly tended to prioritize rapid economic expansion over everything else, creating millions of jobs for immense new cohorts of young people emerging every year from schools and universities. In just a decade, Chinese average household income increased by 400 percent. But having scrapped constitutional presidential term limits and embarked on his third term, Xi Jinping's authoritarian security-first predilections have unmistakably come to the fore. With policies that have had a chilling impact on international

trade relations, such as punitive measures against certain foreign businesses, the risk for China's leadership is that the resulting economic slowdown could fuel turbulent dissatisfaction among its population.

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Indeed, with Beijing's unique relationship to Vladimir Putin, we may yet see China again come to play the role of peacemaker before too long. It is entirely Xi Jinping's choice whether he desires history to know him as a warmonger and autocrat, or a champion of global peace, stability and prosperity. While American foreign policy under Donald Trump then Joe Biden has become inexorably more hostile toward China, European states have been more conflicted – wishing to prioritize trade but unable to wholly ignore glaring human rights violations and strategic challenges. Muslim states seeking closer alignment with Beijing have likewise struggled to address the systematic abuse of millions of Uyghurs. Is West-China armed confrontation inevitable? Everybody hopes not, but an extraordinary number of flashpoint issues have emerged between the two blocs, the most inflammatory of which is Taiwan. If Beijing is hellbent on armed invasion to reabsorb Taiwan back into China, as many of its public pronouncements indicate, and if Washington is serious about military action to prevent this, then it simply becomes a question of when confrontation would occur and how far-reaching it would be.

The recent G7 summit sought to take a middle-ground approach of "de-risking," whereby Western companies wouldn't fully disengage from China, but would reduce the risk of being caught in the crossfire of future escalatory scenarios, along with limitations on the sales of sensitive equipment. One of the reasons Russia must be definitively defeated in Ukraine is that leaders such as Xi should

ultimately look at the decisions Putin made and think: "I don't want that to happen to me." Just as the 2003 Iraq invasion was an unmitigated disaster, the Ukraine invasion should leave a large enough wound in the global psyche for no leader to consider any further such war of aggression for at least another century. Full-blown direct confrontation between America and China would be a recipe for Armageddon.

Such scenarios should be a wakeup call to leaders in China, America and elsewhere that we are all better off when this newly multilateral international environment is governed by a strict system of mutually binding rules, in which leaders are beholden to behave responsibly – and with real penalties for all those who violate their obligations. China and the US have been locked in a zero-sum mentality, when in fact the opposite is true: trade between them has soared in the past two decades since China joined the World Trade Organization, with China now the US's third-biggest export market, and total merchandise trade between the two countries climbing to nearly \$700 billion in 2022 – despite all the economic saber-rattling!

If both sides can put their playground one-upmanship and petty differences aside then the entire planet thrives. America's climate envoy John Kerry is due to hold talks with China about issues such as reducing global dependence on coal and methane reduction, a critical reminder of the necessity of superpower cooperation in ensuring the planet's very survival. America and its allies must up their diplomatic game for addressing this full spectrum of East-West challenges, particularly as – unlike Iran, North Korea and perhaps even Russia – China is too big and too crucial to be simply contained or sidelined. However, Beijing too must learn that if it desires to be a world-class power, it must lead by example and accord the dignity of Hong Kong, Tibet, Xinjiang and Taiwan the people and rights that will allow China to take its rightful place as a global force to be admired and emulated.

Courtesy: Arab News





## Briefs

**May 9: Eight accused handed over to military for trial**

DNA

RAWALPINDI: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Rawalpindi has handed over eight accused in May 9 riots to the authorities for trial by military courts. The ATC heard the cases related to the attack on the Pakistan Army's General Headquarters (GHQ) and arson. The commanding officer Farhan Nazeer sought custody of eight accused through the deputy prosecutor. The petition stated that the accused were found involved in the May 9 incidents under Secret Act's Section 3, 7, 9, Army Act. The accused include Ali Hassan, Lal Shah, Shehr-yar Zulfikar, Farhad Khan, Muhammad Idrees, Umar Farooq, Raja Muhammad Ehsan and Muhammad Abdullah. After approving the request, the ATC handed over the eight accused to the commanding officers for their trial by military courts. Moreover, the court also issued orders to the superintendent of the Adiala Jail. On May 26, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said that 33 suspects had been handed over to the military following attacks on army installations during violent protests that broke out in the country on May 9. Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir had, on Saturday, said that the legal process of trial against planners, instigators, abettors and perpetrators involved in the May 9 mayhem commenced under Pakistan Army Act and Official Secret Act as per existing and established legal procedures derived from the Constitution.

**PIA signs new deal for Roosevelt Hotel in USA**

DNA

KARACHI: Pakistan International Airline (PIA) has signed a new agreement for its Roosevelt Hotel in the United States of America, which help in generating the revenue valued of \$5.4 million annually. According to details, PIA has entered into a new agreement with the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation for its Roosevelt Hotel in the USA. Under this agreement, the PIA's owned hotel will be operated by the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation for a period of three years, while the sources revealed that this agreement is valued at an annual amount of \$5.4 million. The American firm will provide housing for healthcare migrants in the hotel. As per the agreement, the corporation has also granted an 18-month guarantee to PIA Investment Management. The American firm has also reached a settlement agreement with the union of the Roosevelt Hotel. PIA administration states that after this new agreement, the hotel will reopen.

# Neglected plight of KP; Power struggles, terrorism

Unfortunately, major acts of terrorism have occurred throughout Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. These include a suicide blast in Peshawar's Police Lines Jama Masjid during Zuhr prayers, attacks on anti-terror police stations in Bannu and Swat, and terrorist incidents in Dera Ismail Khan and Hangu, targeting a foreign company's plant

SHAMIM SHAHID

It is a bitter reality that the supreme power in the Kingdom of Godfather Pakistan is monopolized solely by the military establishment, which has subjugated all state institutions. Among its victims, the media stands atop the list. Although Pakistan is officially hailed as a federation, where all its constituent units enjoy equal rights and powers, this equality remains confined to mere words. In practice, it is far from the truth. Whenever Punjab faces challenging times or crises, little attention is paid to the other provinces. Punjab not only holds the majority population in Pakistan but also dominates the ranks and positions within the Pakistan Army. This demographic reality has led to the military establishment prioritizing the interests and rights of Punjabis. This thought has been on my mind since April 2022 when the relations between for-

mer Prime Minister Imran Khan and the military establishment turned sour. Since then, security incidents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have either been completely ignored or treated with secondary importance. The ongoing power struggle between Imran Khan and the military establishment has entered a decisive phase, resulting in the dismissal of his loyalists for making trivial statements in press conferences. Ironically, during this period, loyalists of Pakistan-backed Taliban in Afghanistan have made their presence felt, resulting in increased terrorism and violence in the northern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. How did the militants of Pakistan's extremist organization, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, manage to return from Afghanistan? General Retired Faiz Hameed and his close associate Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif might shed light on this matter. Nevertheless, the powerful circles responsible for this will have to be held accountable, either now or in the near future.

Unfortunately, major acts of terrorism have occurred throughout Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. These include a suicide blast in Peshawar's Police Lines Jama Masjid during Zuhr prayers, attacks on anti-terror police stations in Bannu and Swat, and terrorist incidents in Dera Ismail Khan and Hangu, targeting a foreign company's plant. In areas such as Lucky Marwat, North and South Waziristan, and others, hundreds of people, including police officers and polio workers, have fallen victim to ambushes and bombings. Recently, Teri Mangal, a highly sensitive area near the Afghanistan border in Kurram district, witnessed a horrific incident of terror and bloodshed. Eight individuals, including five teachers, were brutally murdered. While locals classify it as a purely terrorist incident, some quarters attribute it to a property or land dispute. However, leaders from Shia and Sunni schools of thought in Kurram district are united in their demand for an impartial investigation

into these incidents. It is disconcerting to note that since 2004, neither judicial inquiries nor reports from any other institution have shed light on the major terrorism incidents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and across the country. Despite protests in Kurram district and Peshawar regarding the incident in Teri Mangal, there is a lack of awareness among those who hold real power, as well as the media, who seem focused on perpetuating political crises. Among the victims of this tragedy were highly educated teachers. Ironically, while those responsible for upholding the law follow the orders of powerful circles, political parties and leaders remain preoccupied with their future prospects. Regrettably, the province finds itself burdened with a governor, Ghulam Ali, who has turned the governor's house into a center for personal gain. Similarly, despite being in the position of caretaker Chief Minister, Azam Khan has failed to ensure the protection of lives and property.

## Elon Musk expected to visit China this week

HONG KONG: Tesla (TSLA) Chief Executive Elon Musk is expected to visit China this week, three people with knowledge of the matter said, in what would be his first trip to the country in three years. Musk is expected to meet senior Chinese officials and to visit Tesla's Shanghai plant, two of the sources said. It was not immediately clear who Musk would meet and what they would discuss. The people with knowledge of the trip declined to be named as the matter is private. Tesla and China's State Council Information Office did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Reuters reported in March that Musk was planning a trip to China and seeking a meeting with Chinese Premier Li Qiang as early as April, with the exact timing subject to Li's availability. China is Tesla's second-largest market after the United States, and its Shanghai plant is the electric carmaker's largest production hub. - Agencies



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at FBR on Budget proposals. - DNA

## PTI senators condemn May 9 events across country

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The senators of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Monday condemned the events of May 9, stating that violence and lawlessness could not be accepted. The PTI senators including Zeeshan Khanzada, Seemee Ezdi, Zarqa Taimur, Falak Naz, Dr Humayun and Saifullah Niazi talked to the media in Islamabad. "Pakistan Army is our army. We are ashamed that the defence installations were damaged," they said. "I too belong to a military family," Dr Humayun told the media. "We strongly condemn the incidents of May 9. My

father fought on the Burmese front in World War II. The blood of the martyrs will not go in vain," she emphasised. "The events of May 9 should be investigated and the accused should be punished according to the law and Constitution," she stressed. "We belong to the Pakistan Army, and the Pakistan Army belongs to us. We regret the events of May 9. Violence and lawlessness can never be accepted," they declared. The PTI senators submitted a resolution condemning the events of May 9 to the Senate. "We strongly condemn the attacks on military and historic buildings," the text of the resolution read. "This House strongly condemns the violent at-

tacks on the General Headquarters (GHQ) and Jinnah House on May 9," it added. "The corps commander resides in Jinnah House, Lahore. It was also set on fire. The valuable belongings of the founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah were also burnt," it condemned. "The memorials of the martyrs were also burnt. Historic buildings, mosques and schools were set on fire and damaged. This House stands united and extends unwavering support to the institutions," it added. The resolution also expressed solidarity with the armed forces, security agencies and the people who had been affected by these incidents.

## British CGS in Pak for 'defence engagement'

ISLAMABAD: British Army's Chief of the General Staff General Sir Patrick Sanders arrived in Pakistan on Monday for a five-day defence engagement visit as part of the long-standing defence cooperation agreement between the UK and Pakistan. During his visit, Gen Sanders will meet Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir, alongside holding other defence activities. According to the press release, the depth and warmth of the UK-Pakistan military relationship and friendship, underpinned by a shared history and 'living bridge' diaspora links, is highly valued by the UK. The existing defence relationship includes Pakistani officers undertaking training at the UK's Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, the Advance Command and Staff Course and the Royal College of Defence Studies. Gen Sanders' visit comes almost a year after Pakistan's devastating floods that left nearly one-third of the country submerged and affected an estimated 33 million people. The UK's Ministry of Defence was directly involved in providing assistance for flood relief operations, airlifting in eight boats and 10 portable generators at the request of the Pakistani army chief. - DNA

## Govt puts Imran, Bushra's names on ECL in Trust case

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has put the name of former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan on the Exit Control List. The federal cabinet gave the approval regarding placing Imran Khan's name in the ECL through a circular summary on Monday. The PTI chief's name was put in the no-fly list in connection with Al Qadir Trust corruption case involving transfer of £190 million to the Supreme Court of Pakistan by the UK's National Crime Agency as a result of its settlement with a Pakistani real estate tycoon. The cabinet has also decided to put the name of Imran's wife Bushra Bibi on the Exit Control List. Following the recommendation of NAB Rawalpindi, the cabinet approved the inclusion of the names of Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi in the ECP. Earlier, a German news agency, DPA, reported on Friday quoting two FIA officials that Pakistan's government has restricted former prime minister Imran Khan, his wife and hundreds of political aides from travelling abroad. Khan's wife, Bushra Bibi, and more than 500 leaders and members of his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party have also been added to the list, officials said. "It is a standard practice in every case. All those who face court cases are barred from leaving the country," one of the officials told dpa. - DNA

## Russia hits military facility in Ukraine in new wave of strikes

KYIV: Russia said on Monday its military had hit Ukrainian air bases in overnight strikes and Ukrainian forces had shelled industrial facilities inside Russia as both sides sought the upper hand ahead of what Kyiv hopes will be a decisive counter-offensive. In a rare acknowledgement of damage to a military "target", Ukraine said that work was under way to restore a runway and that five aircraft were taken out of service in the western region of Khmelnytskyi, although it did not name the site or sites. A large military airfield was located in the region before the war. "At the moment, work is continuing to contain fires in storage facilities for fuel and lubricants and munitions," the Khmelnytskyi region governor's office said. Russian state-owned news agency RIA cited the defence ministry as saying more than one air base was hit, but there was no confirmation from Ukraine of damage to any other air bases. The Ukrainian capital came under attack for the 16th time this month in the morning after a second successive night of bombardments. But officials said most of the drones and missiles fired overnight had been shot down and no targets were hit in the morning. - Agencies

## Israeli forces kill Palestinian officer in clashes

AGENCIES

JENIN: Israeli forces killed a Palestinian security officer during clashes in the occupied West Bank flash-point city of Jenin on Monday, the Palestinian Fatah faction said in a statement. The Israeli military said its forces had come under heavy Palestinian fire while seeking the arrest of security suspects in Jenin and had returned fire at the gunmen. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah party identified the officer as Ashraf Sheikh Ibrahim, saying he had died "as he confronted the aggression and the occupation's storming of the city of Jenin". Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade militant group, associated with Fatah, claimed him as a member. In another part of the West Bank on Monday, Jewish settlers inaugurated a seminary in a settler outpost, drawing Palestinian condemnation. In a video posted on social media, settler leader Yossi Dagan recited a Jewish benediction at the entrance to the Homesh seminary school, a large white prefabricated shack at the top of a West Bank hill. "With God's help ... there will be many more new settlements in northern Samaria," he said, referring to the West Bank by its biblical name. The new school was moved off privately-owned Palestinian land to a new spot on the same hilltop around 150 metres away.

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