



# Islamabad POST

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Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

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**NZ rewards Ex-PM Jacinda Ardern with title of dame**

Detailed News On Page-08

**US to blame for trouble in Taiwan strait**

Detailed News On Page-07



**Luka Modric among top Saudi targets**

Detailed News On Page-06



## Briefs

**Chest pain: Sanaullah visits hospital**

DNA  
FAISALABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah was admitted to Faisalabad Institute of Cardiology (FIC) for a checkup after his BP shoot-up last night. Rana Sanaullah underwent heart surgery in 2004. According to FIC sources, Sanaullah was brought to the hospital with 120/160 blood pressure and complained of 'heart pain.' The interior minister underwent the test to know the nature of the heart attack, the sources said. Hospital sources said the minister was discharged after he deemed healthy.

**Umar says no contact with Tareen**

STAFF REPORT  
ISLAMABAD: PTI's former General Secretary Asad Umar has said that Jahangir Tareen did not contact him. In an informal chat with journalists in the district courts here on Monday, Asad denies any contact with Tareen when a journalist asked him whether he would join Tareen's party. Asad said 'no' when another reporter asked him whether Tareen contacted him. "Jahangir Tareen has not contacted me," he added. Asad said that he has been visiting courts since his release from prison around a week ago.

**PPP okays Murtaza for mayor**

DNA  
KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto on Monday nominated party's spokesperson Murtaza Wahab for the Karachi mayor slot and Salman Murad for deputy mayor. Talking to Twitter, he congratulated all the nominees for Sindh local government and expressed faith in the chosen candidates for "serving the people". Meanwhile, PPP Sindh president Nisar Khuhro announced names of slots of chairmen, deputy chairmen, mayors, and deputy mayors.

## PM slams Imran's politics Govt poised to tackle all challenges

**PM says very hopeful of finalizing a deal with the IMF this month**

DNA  
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has said that his government has been able to navigate the challenges faced by Pakistan in the best possible fashion with the help of its people and brotherly and friendly countries. In an interview with a Turkish Agency posted on its website on Monday, the prime minister said Pakistan had been facing a plethora of problems since April 2022, when the current government took over after former prime minister Imran Khan was ousted in a no-trust vote. "The issues are the result of the previous government's policies," he said. "Pakistan, in April 2022, was on the verge of default because the government of the day had violated the IMF agreement and the economy was in tatters," he maintained. "Then we had devastating floods in August 2022. Combined with that we are facing galloping inflation, because of the international situation," he added. To a question, PM Shehbaz said Pakistan was very hopeful of finalizing a deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) this month. "We are still very hopeful that the IMF programme will materialize. Our ninth review by the IMF will match all terms and conditions and, hopefully, we'll have some good news this month," he told Anadolu in Ankara. The prime minister was in Ankara for President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's inauguration ceremony.

## PM for public friendly budget

KHAYAM ABBASI  
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif says public welfare, development and business friendly policies will be the pivot of budget for next fiscal year. He was chairing a high-level meeting in Islamabad on Monday, to consult with the coalition parties for the Public Sector Development Program. The Prime Minister said volume of Public Sector Development Program is being increased from 700 billion to 950 billion rupees to accelerate the growth rate and employment opportunities in the next financial year. He said next financial year will be the year of economic development for Pakistan. He said the government is adopting the policy of utilizing the available resources in the best way despite the difficult economic situation. Shehbaz Sharif said a significant amount is also being kept for the development and reconstruction of the flood affected areas. Shehbaz Sharif said consultation of coalition

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## 'No respect for those who disrespect martyrs' Maryam Nawaz boasts PML-N's 'steadfastness' despite difficulties

DNA  
BAGH: PML-N Senior Vice President and Chief Organizer Maryam Nawaz Monday declared that no respect for those who disrespect martyrs on May 9. Addressing a rally in Bagh district of Azad Jammu and Kashmir during her mass-contact campaign in constituency of party candidate Mushtaq Minhas today, Maryam Nawaz said that those who burn our fighter jets and martyrs memorials are not among us because no matter how much angry someone is, they cannot cause damage to their country. She held the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman Imran Khan responsible for the May 9 attacks and vowed that he would be made a 'nishaan-e-ibrat' for others. "Your people are revealing that the chairman is the mastermind of May 9." The PML-N senior vice president reiterated that people would not respect anyone

## Fazl rules out talks with Khan

BUREAU REPORT  
LAHORE: Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) President and Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has said that there can be no talk of any kind with PTI Chairman Imran Khan now, asserting that the Army Act will come into force when someone attacks the Army House and General Headquarters (GHQ). Maulana Fazl was talking to the media when he visited former speaker National Assembly Ayaz Sadiq's house on Monday to convey his condolences on the demise of Ayaz's elder brother Sardar Mehmood Sadiq. Fazl said that

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## Pakistan-Iraq resolve to take bilateral ties 'to new heights'



BAGHDAD: FM Bilawal Bhutto Zardari called on PM of Iraq Mohammed Shia Al Sudani and conveyed best wishes to the leadership and people of Iraq. They agreed to further strengthen multidimensional cooperation and to further cement brotherly ties between Pakistan and Iraq. – DNA

BAGHDAD: Pakistan and Iraq have resolved to take bilateral ties "to new heights and expand cooperation in diverse areas", said Foreign Minister Bilawal-Bhutto Zardari after his meeting with Iraqi President Abdul Latif Rashid on Monday. "Today, I called on HE Dr Abdul Latif Jamal, president of Iraq. Resolved to take Pakistan and Iraq relations to new heights and expand cooperation in diverse areas,

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ISLAMABAD: JUI-F President Molana Fazlur Rehman calls on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. – DNA

## Soldier embraces martyrdom

Funeral prayers of two Shaheed soldiers offered



STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: A fire exchange took place between our troops and terrorists in general area Ladhra, South Waziristan District. According to ISPR, our troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location. However, during intense exchange of fire, Lance Naik Muhammad Sabir (age 30 years, resident of District Mansehra) having fought gallantly, embraced shahadat. Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area. Armed Forces of Pakistan are

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## 'Living in dark ages'

## 'Nazi era law of kin punishment being practiced'

Imran asks how long will SC allow violation of basic rights

MONITORING REPORT  
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has said that we are now living in the dark ages, as Nazi Germany era law of kin punishment is being practiced against PTI; however, he asked that how long the Supreme Court (SC) will allow complete violation of fundamental rights. In a statement on Monday, PTI Chairman said: "How long will the SC allow complete violation of fundamental rights of anyone linked to Pakistan's biggest political party?" "We are now living in the dark ages. Nazi Germany era law of kin punishment is being practiced against PTI," he added. PTI Chairman said that in other countries where this barbaric law was imposed, was in totalitarian states like Stalin's Russia, North Korea and China during the Cultural Revolution. Meanwhile, PTI Chairman Imran Khan strongly condemned 'abduction' of 82 years old Mian Azhar from his residence in Lahore, who was struggling with

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## Asad Qaiser says he stands by PTI

STAFF REPORT  
ISLAMABAD: At a time when many of the PTI leaders and former lawmakers are dissociating themselves from the party, Asad Qaiser – the former National Assembly speaker – on Monday made it clear that he had not switched sides. He was standing by the party and in contact with the PTI chief, Qaiser told reporters outside a local court where he attended the hearing of a case pertaining to the vandalism outside the federal capital's judicial complex. "I am with [Pakistan] Tehreek-e-Insaf and in touch with the PTI chairman." The latest assertion is in complete contrast with what the people had seen last week when Pervez Khattak,

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## Iran embassy reopens in KSA today

NEWS DESK  
TEHRAN: Iran is set to reopen its embassy in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday following a seven-year closure, Tehran and a diplomatic source said, sealing a Chinese-brokered rapprochement deal announced in March. Saudi Arabia severed relations with Iran in 2016 after its embassy in Tehran and consulate in the northwestern city of Mashhad were attacked during protests over Riyadh's execution of Shia cleric Nimr al-Nimr. Iran's diplomatic mission, which was

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## Russia says it thwarts big attack in Ukraine

Ukrainian sources say a series of small-scale operations are under way

NEWS DESK  
KYIV: Moscow said on Monday it had thwarted a major offensive against its forces in eastern Ukraine, but Ukrainian officials dismissed the report and both sides said the Ukrainian military had advanced elsewhere along the front line. It was unclear whether the attacks represented the start of Ukraine's long-heralded counter-offensive against Russia's invasion. Ukrainian officials sidestepped questions about it. Russia's defence ministry said Ukraine had attacked on Sunday morning with six mech-

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anised and two tank battalions in southern Donetsk, where Moscow has long suspected Ukraine would seek to drive a wedge through Russian-controlled territory. "On the morning of June 4, the enemy launched a large-scale offensive in five sectors of the front in the South Donetsk direction," the defence ministry said in a statement posted on Telegram at 1:30 a.m. Moscow time (2230 GMT). "The enemy's goal was to break through our defences in the most vulnerable, in its opinion, sector of the front," it said. "The enemy did not achieve its tasks, it had no success." Asked to comment, a Ukrainian military spokesperson said: "We do not have such information and we do not comment on any kind of fake."

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## World Environment Day

## Administrative hurdles in beating plastic pollution

## STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The speakers at seminar on Monday said that the environmental hazards of plastic are multifarious but often glossed over. Policies are ineffective and lack implementation whereas plastic has detrimental effects on human health that take their toll on millions of lives every year. The impact of plastic on aquatic life in oceans is an example of this. Pakistan is no exception to plastic pollution. Pakistan produced 3.9 million tonnes of plastic waste in 2020, over 65 per cent of which was mismanaged. 18 per cent of municipal solid waste produced in Pakistan is plastics. Only 3 per cent of plastic used by the manufacturing industry in Pakistan is recycled material. The presence of plastic bags is now ubiquitous. Starting from shops, plastic bags are seen flying in streets, floating on water bodies, tangled in trees, blocking sewerage networks and choking trachea of aquatic life in sea. Mass production, low cost and easy access have turned plastics into a major hazard. The seminar titled "Beat Plastic Pollution" was organized by the Bahria University Environment and Earth Sciences Department and APGA on Monday. The guest speakers included well-known environmentalist and Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed, Dr. Said Ak-

bar Khan, Dr. Abrar Shinwari, UNIDO technical expert Hammad Bashir, former Member CDA Sanaullah Aman, environmentalists Sana Tahir and Rehan Tahir. Speaking as a guest of honour, well-known environmentalist and Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed said Pakistan's single-use plastic consumption is rising by over 15 per cent a year despite all the legislation by the federal and provincial governments. Pakistan is producing about four million tons of plastic waste a year while the already-produced plastic waste can make a mountain double of the height of K2, the second-highest mountain in the world. According to a survey report, Pakistan currently uses 55 billion plastic bags a year. Munir Ahmed said the gap between the policies and their implementation is huge. We have everything on papers that dusting shelves sans practices accordingly. Government institutions lack will and resources to implement the policies in letter and spirit. First of all, our policies don't address the single-use plastics that have increased immensely after the Covid-19. Secondly, we don't realize the carcinogenic role of plastics that has increased health vulnerabilities. Civil society organizations and academia shall play their role in creating awareness among masses on the use of plastics, and also raise voice to the governments to take every possible measure for drastic cut

on supply-side. He said the federal legislation to ban the manufacturing, supply, sale and use of plastic bags has completely failed despite the civil society has raised concerns repeatedly. Meanwhile, plastics have sneaked into our everyday lives without much realisation of the environmental ramifications of the change. Sana Tahir urged the students to take lead in using the environment-friendly products, and help in reaching out to the common people with a message of conservation. The university shall engage students in public awareness initiatives. Sanaullah Aman said charity begins at home. We need to focus on our habits and change the perceptions to conservation by individual efforts. The single-use plastic is easily available and commonly used because it's a free commodity. The government shall focus on curtailing the manufacturing and supply of the products. Hammad Bashir said according to the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), plastic production and use have grown exponentially since the 1950s, with around nine million people employed globally in polymer production and plastic processing industries. Presently, the world produces 430 million metric tonnes of plastics every year. Of these, two-thirds are short-lived products which become waste after single use. Plastic production is set to triple by 2060 if business continues as usual.



ISLAMABAD: Students along with their college staff posing for a camera shot on the occasion of certificate distribution ceremony organized at a girls college, on Monday.—DNA

## Drug addiction most heinous social evil

PESHAWAR: KP caretaker Minister for Excise and Narcotics Control Haji Manzoor Khan Afridi on Monday said that drug addiction is the most heinous social evil which has rapidly infiltrated in our youth and is eating away all their talents. Talking to a delegation from Shiro Jhangi locality of Peshawar here on Monday, the provincial minister said that the time has come to pay full attention to the spread and treatment of drug addiction and to protect the next generation from the menace of narcotics. The delegation lauded the people-friendly steps of the provincial government, especially the minister of Excise in respect of waging war against narcotics. They while appreciating the sincere efforts on anti-narcotics, assured of full cooperation at the public level to make this important initiative a success story in all respects. Haji Manzoor Afridi said that his Excise and Narcotics Control Department has launched a comprehensive campaign against drugs with three major goals, including blocking the sources of supply and demand of all kinds of narcotics, the effective prevention of the use of drugs among the youth as well as treatment and rehabilitation of the addicts. He said that unfortunately the youth suffering from the curse of drugs consider themselves to be healthy, but in reality, they are terminally ill and their abilities fade with time and eventually they die in very miserable conditions. The provincial minister said that his department is working diligently to achieve the above three crucial goals.—APP

## For 'war-affected' traders SCCI urges special relief package in budget

PESHAWAR: Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) on Monday urged the government to announce a special economic relief package for the 'terrorism-affected' business community of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) in the budget. In the media talk with different private news channels regarding the upcoming fiscal budget here on Monday, the chamber's acting president Ejaz Khan Afridi urged the government to present a business-friendly budget for the next financial year. Ejaz sought a reduction in the ratio of taxes and opposed imposing the additional burden of taxes on existing taxpayers and poor

masses. He furthermore asked to reduce electricity, gas tariffs and prices of petroleum commodities. The SCCI acting chief said it was the dire need of the hour to provide relief to the business community in the budget in order to revive the ailing economy of the country. Businessmen are faced with difficulties owing to high prices of electricity, gas and petroleum commodities, Ejaz said. The chamber's acting chief furthermore asked for taking economic, industries and business growth-oriented initiatives. He asked the government to incorporate the SCCI proposals in the upcoming fiscal budget so that relief should be given

in light of the chamber's recommendations to terrorism and natural calamity hit traders' community of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. If the industries and businesses would be functional and working positions that will bring stability in the national economy, Ejaz remarked. He added that a prosperous business community is a guarantee for a better economy, so the government should give them relief and special incentives at every level. In response to reporters' various queries, Ejaz Afridi urged the government to take pragmatic steps through the upcoming budget for the removal of hurdles in the way of the country's export and bilateral trade.—APP

## KP ministers visits industrial zones

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Mohammad Adnan Jalil visited Nowshera on Monday and inaugurated various projects in the industrial zones. He also inaugurated the newly established centre of Rescue 1122 and a new tube well for supplying drinking water to the Export Processing Zone (EPZ). During the visit, he also laid the foundation stone of two new industrial units including a flour mill (MS Mibron Flour Mills) and a Waste Management Plant (MS Green Private Limited). Besides, Secretary Industry, Commerce and Technical Education, Mutiullah Khan, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KP-EZDMC), Javed Iqbal Khattak and other officers.—APP

## KMC takes steps to combat environmental challenges

KARACHI: Administrator Karachi Dr. Syed Saifur Rahman on Monday said that sea and air pollution and increased temperature are the indicators of climate change all over the world. We need to change our way of thinking and behavior to bring this pollution on a lower level and KMC is taking steps to plant trees in all open places in Karachi to combat environmental challenges and climate change. He said this while addressing a function organized by Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) sub-committee on environment and climate change and Karachi Metropolitan Corporation at Bagh Ibn Qasim on the occasion of World Environment Day. He said that the purpose of observing World Environment Day is to raise awareness and intensify efforts at the international level to protect the planet from the dangers posed by plastics and other hazard-

ous chemicals. Plantation of 50 thousand saplings was also done on this occasion. Chairman of FPCCI Sub-Committee for Environment and Climate Change Muhammad Rabbani, Dr. Khalid, Dr. Kanwal, Al-Khair Trust Chairman Muhammad Tahir Ansari and others also spoke while Director General Parks Junaidullah Khan and prominent religious leader Qari Usman were also present on the occasion. Dr. Syed Saifur Rahman said that the theme of this year's World Environment Day is "Beat Plastic Pollution- Restore Ecosystem". In 1972, the United Nations General Assembly declared World Environment Day to be celebrated for the first time to raise awareness of environmental challenges and encourage action in this regard. He said that environmental experts have undertaken this time to find a solution to save the world from plastic

pollution. Plastic is one of the best inventions in the world, the main thing is its use, until today in Bangladesh, jute bags are used. The world produces 400 million tons of plastic every year, half of which is disposable and only 10 percent is recycled, 19 to 23 million tons of plastic produced in the world ends up in rivers, oceans. Micro plastics are added to our food, water and air. According to an estimate, every person on the planet consumes 50 thousand plastic particles every year. Waste plastic seriously harms human health and ecological balance and it contaminates the entire ecosystem from top of the mountains to the bottom of the ocean. The Administrator Karachi said that to deal with this problem, the stakeholders have to accelerate their actions based on modern scientific research to protect the world from increasing environmental pollution.—APP

## Correction of name

Correction of father's name spellings  
I want to change my father's name spellings appearing in my degree from Bahria university Islamabad campus registration no. 49282, S.NO. 17823 and my transcript S.NO 0117394 spellings "SHAHID MAHMOOD" To "SHAHEID MEHMUD" the spellings have been corrected in my previous academic record. Name: Danish Mahmood, CNIC: 61101-3454474-1

## BoK expands its footprint in Federal Capital

ISLAMABAD: Bank of Khyber, one of the leading financial institutions in Pakistan, is proud to announce the grand inauguration of two state-of-the-art branches in DHA Islamabad and Top City. With these latest additions, the bank has expanded its presence in the federal capital, now boasting a total of 12 branches. This strategic expansion aims to offer customers in the capital region enhanced accessibility to a wide range of convenient banking services. Mr. Hafiz

Mohsin Director Accounts and Finance Bahria Town, Maj @ Kazim Ali Khan, MD Al-Nazim 999 Builders & Developers and Mr. Muhammad Ali Gulfaraz, MD /CEO, Bank of Khyber inaugurated the DHA Islamabad branch. Mr. Sher Muhammad - Group Head of Conventional Banking, Mr. Asim Bashir Group Head Digital Banking, Ms Natasha Adil Regional Head Retail Banking along with other senior executives also attended the branch

inauguration. Col® Riaz ul Haq Chaudhary, Project Director, Al-Nazim 999 Builders & Developers, Mr. Hafiz Mohsin, Director Accounts, Bahria town Islamabad also graced the occasion with their presence. Simultaneously, the Top City Islamabad Branch was inaugurated by Brig @ Hamid, Chief Administrator of Top City Islamabad, Mr. Shafiq Afridi, CEO of Toyota Khyber Motors, and Mr. Muhammad Ali Gulfaraz, MD/CEO of Bank of Khy-

ber along with other senior executives of the bank. The newly inaugurated branches, located in DHA and Top city of Islamabad, bring the Bank of Khyber's comprehensive range of financial solutions closer to the residents, businesses, and organizations in these vibrant communities. The opening of these branches is a testament to the Bank's commitment to enhancing accessibility and fostering economic growth in the region.—APP

## Round table discussion with Polish Under secretary

## KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized a Round-Table Discussion with H.E. Mr. Wojciech Gerwel, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland. The discussion was chaired by Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI. Participants included: Ambassador Fauzia Nasreen, Pakistan's Former Ambassador to Poland; Ambassador Nadeem Riyaz, President IRS; Former Ambassador Shah Jamal; Mr Muhammad Saleem, Additional Secretary Europe, MOFA; Dr Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, Director, School of Politics and International Relations, QAU; Mr. Hassan Abbas, Policy Expert, National

Security Division; Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman, BoG, ISSI; and Senior Research Faculty members. Dr. Neelum Nigar, Director CSP, and CSP research team were also present. In his welcome remarks, DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood said that warm and cordial relations existed between Pakistan

and Poland. As they celebrated the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations, both countries were keen on further deepening their multifaceted relationship in all dimensions. DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood also thanked the Polish authorities for their assistance in safe evacuation of Pakistani nationals from

Ukraine in the wake of the Ukraine conflict. Furthermore, he highlighted Poland's significance as an important partner, being an EU and NATO member, and Pakistan-Poland collaboration in multilateral fora and on key regional issues. He also apprised of ISSI's outreach to counterpart think-tanks for closer collaboration.

Undersecretary Gerwel underscored the importance Poland accorded to its 'friendly and solid' relationship with Pakistan. He stated in the changing and uncertain times, Poland was reaching out to its partners, and as such "Pakistan is a valuable partner." He highlighted the vast potential in economic relations between the two countries in a number of key sectors including trade, investment and energy. Undersecretary Gerwel also apprised of the evolving regional situation including in Ukraine as well as Poland's perspective on the range of issues of peace and security confronting Europe. His talk was followed by a dynamic interactive session. Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG ISSI made the concluding remarks.



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## Briefs

## Inflation pushing millions below the poverty line

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt said on Monday that merciless inflation has broken the backs of the people and pushed millions of people below the poverty line. People in rural areas are more affected by the inflation than people in urban areas, which is unfortunate, he said. Shahid Rasheed Butt said that now that inflation is fully embedded in the system, it will continue to damage the masses with full force in the next financial year to increase public anxiety. In a statement issued here today, he said that according to the data released by the government, inflation has reached 38 percent in the month of May, which is the highest level in the history of the country and in South Asia. Inflation is increasing, but there has been no increase in the wages of the workers, nor has there been a significant increase in the salaries of public and private employees, he added. The business leader said that people are being affected by inflation and that it has become difficult for them to make ends meet. While the politicians, aristocrats, industrialists, landlords, and bureaucracy do not care about it. To reduce inflation, it is necessary to improve the price mechanism, deal with hoarders and profiteers according to the law, and import cheap food items from neighbouring countries, he demanded.

## Drop in political temperature beneficial to economy

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Hanif Mughal, Senior Vice President of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW), said on Monday that the political temperature is decreasing in the country, which is a good sign for the struggling economy. Masses are getting satisfied as inflation is receding, economic indicators are slowly improving, and things are coming back to normal, he said. Dr. Hanif Mughal said in a statement issued here today that economic development will accelerate if appropriate measures are taken in the budget which will give relief to the people. He said that the previous government not only took record loans in the history of the country, but also set new records of mismanagement. Pakistan's economy which was 22nd in the world was pushed down to 47th number and now their frustrated leaders are claiming that the country will be bankrupted any time soon. The former government destroyed the economy, leading to closure of thousands of businesses and millions losing their jobs.—DNA

## Railways earn Rs. over 5 million from saloons

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has generated revenue worth Rs. 5,269,315 through utilizing its 23 saloons and inspection coaches for commercial purposes, during the last three years (2020-22). "At present Pakistan Railways has only 23 saloons and inspection coaches with different dignitaries of the country who are entitled to use these saloons when needed," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP. Giving the details of the saloons, he said that two highly luxurious coaches have been allocated for the Prime Minister's Secretariat while four coaches have been allocated for the Minister for Railways, Secretary/Chairman of Railways and another senior official in the Ministry. The official said only one saloon has been allocated to the federal government while one saloon each has been allocated to the Governors of Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab and the provincial governments.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Students of the international Islamic University Schools, I-8 Campus, Islamabad visiting Senate Museum at Parliament House.—DNA

## HEC announces Helmut-Schmidt-scholarships for Pak students

DAAD scholarship holders are exempt from paying tuition fees

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Higher Education Commission (HEC) has announced Helmut-Schmidt-Programme Master's Scholarships for Public Policy and Good Governance 2024, to contribute to promoting good governance and civil society structures in developing and emerging countries. According to HEC, the Programme offers future leaders master's courses in disciplines that are of special relevance for social, political, and economic development, prepares them in a practice-oriented course for re-

sponsible positions in or for their home regions and contributes to establishing economic and social institutions that are democratically oriented and designed to overcome social inequalities. The graduates from developing and emerging countries (bachelor or equivalent) with a well-qualified first university degree and above-average grades (upper third) in Social and Political Sciences, Law, Economics, Public Policy and Administration, willing to actively contribute to the social, political and economic development of their home countries/regions, who have already gained

practical experience relevant for the programme (professional experience, internships, political/social commitment). Academic education in one of the master's courses, listed below and selected by the DAAD, will take place from September/October 2024.

DAAD scholarship holders are exempt from paying tuition fees. The scholarship holders will receive scholarships (of currently 934 per month) for master's courses at German higher education institutions, health insurance coverage in Germany, appropriate travel allowances for travel between

Germany and the respective developing and emerging countries, a study and research grant, rent subsidies and family supplements, as applicable, preceding German language course in Germany, lasting up to 6 months; participation is mandatory. The application period for all seven higher education institutions is from 1 June until 31 July 2023. The DAAD Helmut-Schmidt-Programme (known as Public Policy and Good Governance) supports future leaders from developing countries (see list of countries), who want to promote democracy and social justice in their home

countries. The programme, which is funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, offers the chance to acquire a Master's degree in Master programmes of particular relevance for the social, political and economic development in the students' countries of origin. In the light of the principles of Good Governance, highly qualified graduates with a first academic degree are being educated in political science, law, economics and administration and prepared for future leading positions in their home countries.

## UBG demands business friendly budget

ISLAMABAD: Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry's United Business Group (UBG) on Monday demanded a business-friendly, export-oriented and pro-poor people budget to gear up trade activities, besides restoring the confidence of investors with a basket of lucrative incentives to attract foreign investments. Chairing a meeting of industrialists and traders, Chairman UBG Shahzad Ali Malik said that the government was considering their all proposals at all levels and discussing in detail about their incorporation in the coming annual federal budget, said a press release. He said the Prime Minister's office had sent UBG proposals to ministries of finance, commerce, FBR and other relevant departments, which he added are now in the final stage of approval by the competent authority.—APP

## ANF seizes over 135 kg drugs in eight operations

RAWALPIND: ANF while conducting eight operations across the country managed to recover over 135 kg of drugs and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that in an operation conducted near Bahria Town Phase-4, over 100 intoxicated tablets were recovered from the possession of an accused resident of Rawalpindi.

In another operation near Hangu Bypass, Kohat, 14.4 kg charras was recovered. In the third operation at Jinnah International Airport, Karachi, 1256 grams of Ice drug and 6.5 kg of suspected material were recovered from the possession of a Saudia-bound passenger, resident of Mardan, going on flight no GF-751. In the fourth operation conducted by ANF and Customs Department, 270 grams of charras

were recovered from a parcel booked for Bangkok at the GPO office, in Karachi. He informed that in the fifth operation at Faisalabad International Airport, 390 grams of heroin was recovered from the possession of a Dubai-bound passenger, a resident of Pakpattan, going on flight no FZ-392. ANF recovered 1020 grams of Ice drug from the possession of an accused resident of Lahore, arrested from 'Padhana' vil-

lage near Lahore while in another operation 922 grams of heroin was recovered from a parcel booked for London at a private courier office in Lahore. In the eighth operation conducted near the 'Kuchlak' Bypass, Quetta, 90 kg charras and 20 kg heroin was recovered from a deserted area. Separate cases have been registered against the accused while further investigations are under process, he added.—APP

## Policy of withholding refunds should be abolished

ISLAMABAD: Former Vice President of FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh said on Monday that a fifty percent increase in gas prices will affect the masses, production, and exports. The decision will increase poverty in the country, which is already facing unprecedented price hikes taking a toll on the masses, he said. Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as President ICCI and Chairman PVMA said in a statement issued here today that an upward revision in the gas tariff will burden the people with hundreds of billions of rupees, therefore the decision should be withdrawn. The decision will help state-run gas companies get additional funds of 226 billion rupees amid mounting losses. OGRA's decision will provide SNGPL with additional funds of about Rs121 billion during the next financial year. SSGCL will get additional funds of Rs105 billion, which is not justified. He said that domestic production is continuously falling, the production of major industries has decreased to an alarming level.—DNA

## Imran Abbas sings praises for female co-stars

ISLAMABAD: Imran Abbas, a name that resonates with talent and charm, has been making waves in showbiz and needless to say, the heartthrob has managed to garner ample praise for himself. Recently, the 'Amanat' sensation has applauded Lollywood's top-notch actresses via a heartwarming Insta note. While sharing the captivating photos with showbiz beauties, the heartthrob penned "Be it Mahnoor Baloch in 'Noor Bano' and 'Pal mein Ishq', Sanam Jung in 'Dile-Muzter' and 'Alvida' or Neelum Muneer in 'Ehram-e-Junoon', I am blessed to work with these immensely talented, extremely gorgeous and amazing leading ladies and each one of them possesses a very special place in my heart."

the starlets with immense love and adoration. Furthermore, Abbas shared an enchanting photo with Jung along with the caption, "An unconditional friendship, truly best friends forever in every true sense of the world." To which, Jung responded with immense gratitude. Taking a trip down memory lane, the 'Pyari Mona' starlet wrote: "Imran, known you for 10 years now but we connected the day we met on the sets on Dil-e-Muzter. A pure heart, respectful and a generous soul, can't thank you enough for always being a call away." "You're a gem. Keep shining, lots of love," Jung concluded the lengthy comment followed by a heart emoticon.

On the professional front, Abbas gears up for the highly-anticipated drama serial 'Tumharey Husn Kay Naam' alongside the epitome of talent, Saba Qamar.—APP

## China helps Pak to develop dairy industry

DNA

ISLAMABAD, Jun. 5 (): China is extending cooperation to Pakistan to develop its dairy industry through production of high milk-yielding cows, the Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (AAUR) said. The goal of the cooperation is to improve genetic variations of cows being used in Pakistan for dairy farming. This can be achieved by breeding elite animals with high yields and long lives, and with better embryos, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Monday.

## Pak to bring more products to Chinese market

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani and Chinese governments are making joint efforts to bring more Pakistani seafood and agro products through the Karakoram Highway (KHH) to the Chinese market. This was stated by Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque in a statement issued here while commenting on Pakistan's first-ever land containerised seafood cargo, which has successfully arrived in Xinjiang through Karakoram Highway, according to Gwadar Pro on Monday. "We are working together to bring more Pakistani




seafood and agro products through this land route to the Chinese market," he said. As the world's second-largest consumer market, China is keen on importing more quality Pakistani products, Ambassador Haque added. Haque stressed that facilitating

trade and exports of Pakistan's quality products through the Khunjerab border is Pakistan and China's shared objective. Last week, a truck carrying cold chain containers from Pakistan reached Kashgar in Northeast China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region via a cross-border land


route. This is the first time that seafood containers from Pakistan have been transported by road from Karachi to Kashgar along China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). According to a representative from the Pakistani transport company, it was the first attempt at a bilateral cross-border road transport business in partnership with a Chinese firm. "The cost and price of cold chain transport of the route is under assessment. Our Chinese partners are also exploring more opportunities to import more commodities from Pakistan," he added.

## Researchers to preserve remains of Dead Blue Whale

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Museum for Natural History (PMNH) will preserve the specimen of recently discovered 36-foot long dead Blue Whale from Balochistan, for public awareness and research. According to the PMNH, the 36-foot long lifeless Blue Whale body reached to shore on coast of Jiwani, Gwadar, Balochistan on last Friday. The concerned authorities identified it as a blue whale, one of the three whale species found in Pakistan's waters, alongside Bryde's whale and Arabian humpback whale. Director General, Gwadar Development Authority (GDA), Mujeeb Ur Rehman Qamrani pronounced to preserve dead specimen of Blue Whale for public awareness and research. On the request of GDA, a team of PMNH zoologists comprising on Muhammad Asif Khan, Dr. Muhammad Abbas, Dr. Shabbir Ali Amir and Dr. Rifaqat Masroor reached onsite to inspect the dead specimen of Blue Whale to preserve its remains and skeleton. Director, Administration, GDA, Zahid Ahmed Lango and Deputy Director Administration, Abdul Rahim Baloch also accompanied the PMNH team to facilitate them in preserving dead Blue Whale remains and skeleton for the purpose of public awareness and scientific research.—APP



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## Briefs

## Govt poised to tackle all challenges

FROM PAGE 01  
"We have met all conditionalities. I repeat, each and every requirement of the IMF as prior actions has been met," he asserted. "Some of those actions are usually met after the board's approval, but this time the IMF required that those actions be met before the board's approval, so we have met them," he was quoted by the Turkish news agency as saying. The prime minister said the people of Pakistan had faced challenges in the past, and if needed, would tighten their belt and rise again. About May 9 vandalism, he said PTI chief Imran Khan faced charges of "serious corruption, malpractice, and wheeling-dealing," stressing that the "law had to deal with this." He (Imran Khan) for a period of time, had been preparing his people mentally, his bunch of thugs as he would call them, to react violently, in case he (IK) was arrested, the prime minister added.

## PM for public...

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parties is highly significant in every initiative. He noted with satisfaction how the ruling coalition saved the country from economic and political turmoil through mutual cooperation and beyond their political interests. The meeting was told the National Flood Response Program, which has been delayed for years, is being re-launched.

## Pak-Iraq resolve...

FROM PAGE 01  
Bilawal also called on Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani on the first day of his visit and said after the meeting that they "discussed a broad range of issues, including enhancing bilateral trade, convening of joint ministerial commission, rebuilding Iraqi infrastructure, connectivity, zaireen (pilgrims) and enhancing people-to-people and business contacts". Earlier, Radio Pakistan reported that the two countries had agreed to further strengthen bilateral ties. The "understanding" between the two countries was reached during a meeting between Bilawal and his Iraqi counterpart, Dr Fuad Hussein, the report said.

## Nazi era law of kin...

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multiple health issues, saying such acts of violation of the value system of our society will further breed hatred and anger against this fascist government. In a strong reaction on Monday, PTI Chairman said: "I strongly condemn Mian Azhar's abduction from his residence in Lahore." Imran Khan said that he was one of the most respected politicians of Punjab, 82 years of age and was struggling with multiple health issues. "It just goes to show that this fascist regime is devoid of any sense of ethics or morality in its mission to crush PTI," he added. PTI Chairman stated that such acts that violate the value system of our society especially the way we respect women and our elders, will further breed hatred and anger against this fascist govt.

## Asad Qaiser says he...

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addressing a presser in Islamabad along with Qaiser, had announced his decision to quit as the PTI president. However, Qaiser remained silent during the event where Khattak had condemned the May 9 mayhem and said it wasn't possible for him to continue as a PTI office holder, adding that he would announce his future plan later after consulting his friends and party colleagues. And on Monday, Qaiser said he wasn't in contact with Jahangir Tareen. He was replying to a question about whether Tareen had contacted him as the influential politician from Lodharan is currently busy in forming a new political party mostly comprising the PTI defectors.



ISLAMABAD: Players of Rising Stars Hockey Club posing for a picture with Chief Guest Muhammad Umer Khan, Sales Manager North, Turkish Airlines, before League match, at Naseer Bundha Hockey Stadium. – DNA

## CDA trying to make sports the identity of Islamabad

The teams of ICCI, CDA, Media anchor and ICT XI participated in the tournament. Senior officials of CDA, Senior Vice President Islamabad Chamber Faad Waheed, Vice President Engineer Azhar Islam, Zafar Bakhtawari participated in the tournament Among others participated

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman CDA Captain Noor Ul Amin Mengal has said that we are trying to make sports the identity of Islamabad city. Improving sports facilities in Islamabad is our priority. CDA is working on a mega project to upgrade sports grounds. Providing sports facilities to the youth is indispensable for building a better society. He expressed these views yesterday in his speech as a special guest at the cricket tournament organized by the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The teams of ICCI, CDA, Media anchor and ICT XI participated in the tournament. The senior officials of CDA, Senior Vice President Islamabad Chamber Faad Waheed, Vice President Engineer Azhar Islam, Zafar Bakhtawari participated in the tournament Among others participated. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman CDA said that CDA is taking great steps regarding sports. will provide complete sports facilities in every



sector of Islamabad, working to improve the condition of the existing grounds. He said that CDA is also working for special sports enclaves, jogging tracks have been

made indispensable in all major parks. Islamabad Chamber's interest in the promotion of sports is welcome. I hope the Chamber and CDA will work together for the promotion of sports. Talking on this occasion, President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that sports can be the best alternative for youth in any society. Promoting heels means highlighting positive activities in society. He said that the Islamabad Chamber has a keen interest in the promotion of sports related activities in the city. The Chamber is working on a project to construct a multi-purpose sports ground in Islamabad. Which will not only benefit the chamber members but other citizens will also be able to benefit, he said that there is a need to work for the promotion of sports in educational institutions. Better talent will emerge only if sports are promoted at the grassroots. He said that Chairman CDA's interest in promoting sports is welcome. If other institutions also cooperate in this regard, the situation can improve. All institutions need to work together to take Islamabad forward in sports.

## Roland Garros bracing for Svitolina vs Sabalenka clash

PARIS: Tension will be at its highest at the French Open on Tuesday when Elina Svitolina faces Aryna Sabalenka in front of a notoriously fickle Roland Garros crowd in the most electrifying sporting clash since Russia's invasion of Ukraine last year. Ukraine's Svitolina has been refusing to shake hands with players from Russia or Belarus, who has been a key staging ground for what Moscow calls a 'special military operation', while Belarusian Sabalenka has been in the eye of the storm for snubbing the media after being grilled about the war. Sabalenka is aiming for the world number one spot in Paris but she has a mountain to climb in the form of Svitolina, who will have the full backing of the raucous, sometimes brutal Roland Garros crowd. The match, however, is scheduled second on court Philippe Chatrier, around lunch time, when the crowd are usually sparse. Svitolina, playing her first Grand Slam since

coming a mother eight months ago, is the partner of Gael Monfilis, one of the French fans' most beloved player, which makes her, in her own words, the 'last French player standing'. The former world number three was fully supported by the fans in her fourth-round win against Russian Kasatkina, who was booed at the end of the match although she has spoken out against the war, calling it a 'full night-

Ukraine's Marta Kostyuk who was jeered for refusing to shake

hands with Sabalenka after their first-round match. Whether extra security measures would be taken was not disclosed, with organisers telling Reuters that "for reasons of confidentiality we do not communicate on this matter".

In the men's draw, world number one Carlos Alcaraz and two-time French Open champion Novak Djokovic face the last obstacle before a much-awaited semi-final encounter. The Spaniard takes on 2021 runner-up Stefanos Tsitsipas, the fifth seed, having dismantled the hugely-talented Lorenzo Musetti in the previous round, while the Greek has had an easy path into the last eight. Djokovic, gunning for a record-breaking 23rd men's Grand Slam singles title here, will be up against Russian 11th seed Karen Khachanov, who has beaten him only once in nine meetings, in 2018. – Agencies

mare'. Sabalenka, who has skipped two press conferences here saying she felt 'not safe' after being repeatedly quizzed about her personal stance on the war, can expect a hostile reception. The Roland Garros aficionados' reactions can be so unpredictable, however, that it was

## Novak Djokovic, Carlos Alcaraz into French quarters

PARIS: Novak Djokovic swept into the French Open quarter-finals for the 14th straight year on Sunday as world number one Carlos Alcaraz breezed past Lorenzo Musetti to stay on a collision course with the 22-time Grand Slam champion. Third seed Djokovic ended the surprise run of Peruvian outsider Juan Pablo Varillas, winning 6-3, 6-2, 6-2, and has yet to drop a set through four matches. The Serb, chasing a third Roland Garros crown, is into a record 17th French Open quarter-final after making the last eight at a major for the 55th time. "I'm proud of it, but my attention is already in the next match," said Djokovic,

who faces Russian 11th seed Karen Khachanov for a place in the semi-finals, where Alcaraz could await. "I know what my goal is here. I'm trying to stay mentally the course and of course not look too far. "Obviously the performance of today gives me a great deal of confidence about how I felt, about how I played." Varillas, 27, was the first player from Peru to reach the second week of a Grand Slam since Jaime Yzaga made the US Open quarter-finals 29 years ago. Djokovic raced 4-0 ahead in the opening set only for Varillas to break in the next game and then have a chance to get back on serve in the seventh game.

But once Djokovic held for a 5-2 lead it was plain sailing for him as he closed out victory in just under two hours. Khachanov made his third successive Grand Slam quarter-final after he recovered from a bad start to overcome Lorenzo Sonego 1-6, 6-4, 7-6 (9/7), 6-1. Djokovic holds an 8-1 record against Khachanov, winning their only previous meeting at the French Open in 2020. Alcaraz looked every part the tournament favourite as he dismantled the talented Musetti in straight sets to return to the French Open last eight. Musetti had not lost a set in three rounds but Alcaraz brushed the Italian 17th seed aside in barely two hours, triumph-

ing 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 to avenge last year's defeat on clay in the Hamburg final. "I think I played such a great level, really high quality of shots. I played a really complete match from the first ball until the last and I'm pretty happy to get through this tough round," said Alcaraz. The 20-year-old faces a tough next assignment in 2021 runner-up Stefanos Tsitsipas, who eased past Austrian qualifier Sebastian Ofner 7-5, 6-3, 6-0. "The clash we've been all waiting for," said Tsitsipas, the Greek fifth seed who has lost all four meetings with Alcaraz. "I think everyone was expecting it, weren't they? And it's here. It's game on." – Agencies



DNA

## 'No respect for those...

FROM PAGE 01  
who burnt graves of martyrs, adding that the arsonist did not belong to the country. "Anyone who vandalised martyrs' scriptures could not be a Pakistani," she added. She added that the nation will not forgive the May 9 rioters and people who are hiding as they hurt the feelings of martyrs' families. "The nation will not forgive those who meted out ill treatment to the martyrs," she remarked. The PML-N chief organizer lambasted PTI saying that those who came to power in 2018 through rigging are now leaving them and those who wanted to divide PML-N their party is now no more in the politics. "The party which was imposed by rigging has crumbled today. The person who used to say that he is enough alone is crying while sitting alone," she explained. "The party that attempted to ruin PML-N supmo Nawaz Sharif's politics was in tatters," she remarked.

## Fazl rules out talks...

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the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) is not an electoral alliance. However, the seat adjustment might be possible at the local level. He said that in the past, despite their differences, they made important collective decisions including bringing a no-confidence motion against then prime minister in 2022. He said during the previous PTI regime, the TLP, PML-N and PPP launched their long marches against inflation but their supporters didn't break even a vase during their rallies and they never attacked the state institutions and the GHQ. Talking about the PDM rally outside the Supreme Court building last month, Fazl said that the PDM went to the public against the 'biased' attitude of the judiciary. He lamented that nowhere in the country's history, we could find the precedence of the May 9 incidents.

## Russia says it thwarts...

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Oleksiy Danilov, Secretary of Ukraine's Security and Defence Council, said: "The war continues. Until complete victory." Further north, near the long-contested city of Bakhmut, Ukrainian forces were reported to have been "moving forward" by the commander of Ukraine's ground forces, Oleksandr Syrskyi. An armed forces video showed Russian positions under fire and Russian mercenary leader Yevgeny Prigozhin said Ukrainian forces had retaken part of the settlement of Berkhivka, north of Bakhmut in eastern Ukraine, calling it a "disgrace".

## Soldier embraces...

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determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve. Earlier, funeral prayers of Lance Naik Mairaj Uddin Shaheed (23 years, resident of D.I Khan) and Naik Zaheer Abbas (38 years, resident of District Khushab) who embraced shahadat in North Waziristan while fighting gallantly with terrorists, were offered at their respective hometowns. The Shaheeds were laid to rest with full military honours. Senior serving & retired officers / soldiers, relatives and a large number of people attended the funerals.

## Iran embassy...

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expelled by Saudi authorities, will return under the leadership of Alireza Enayati, who previously served as Iran's ambassador to Kuwait. Tehran's foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani announced the reopening in a statement Monday, confirming earlier comments by a diplomatic source in Riyadh. Iran's embassy in Riyadh, its consulate in Jeddah and its representative office to OIC "will be officially reopened on Tuesday and Wednesday", Kanani said. Saudi Arabia has yet to confirm when it will reopen its embassy in Tehran or its pick for ambassador.



