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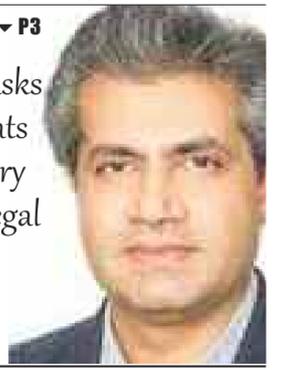
Bilawal to take oath as FM after return from UK

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Governor asks bureaucrats not to carry out any illegal orders



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## MoIB, media links priority, says Marriyum

**ISLAMABAD:** Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Tuesday said that the present government fully believed in freedom of expression and independence of media. Promoting links between the Ministry of Information (MoIB) and the media would be her topmost priority, she said after assuming charge as Minister for Information and Broadcasting. "We will take all possible steps for the welfare of media houses, organizations and the journalist community", Marriyum Aurangzeb said. She said that consultations would be held with all stakeholders on Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) 2016. Social media would be activated to project and highlight the positive iden-

tity of the country, she maintained. Those who spread negative propaganda against the state and its institutions would be dealt with severely, the minister said emphatically. She remarked that role of MoIB was important for the development of the country and promotion of important development projects of the government. The minister said that the government would take all possible steps for the promotion of drama and revival of film industry in the country. All the important institutions of the ministry including Pakistan Television Corporation and Associated Press of Pakistan, she said had a huge responsibility to provide accurate information

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## PSX loses 206 points to close at 46,333 points

From Our Staff Correspondent

**ISLAMABAD:** The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Tuesday, shedding 206.23 points, with negative change of 0.44 percent, closing at 46,333.36 points against 46,539.59 points on the last working day. A total of 228,620,219 shares were traded during the day compared to the trade of 255,608,677 shares the previous day whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 8.838 billion against Rs9.644 billion on last trading day. As many as 345 companies transacted shares in the stock market, 94 of them recorded gain and 226 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 25 compa-

nies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Cnergyico Pk with a volume of 18,326,925 and price per share of Rs 6.14, Ghani Glo Hol with a volume of 18,029,500 and price per share of Rs19.36 and WorldCall Telecom with volume of 11,547,000 and price per share of Rs 1.80. Sapphire Fiber witnessed a maximum increase of Rs67 per share, closing at Rs 968 whereas the runner up was Bhanero Tex, the share prices of which climbed up by Rs 37 to Rs 1,370. Mari Petroleum witnessed maximum decrease of Rs 26.04 closing at Rs1,735.44 followed by Philip Morris Pak, the share price of which declined by Rs20 to close at Rs 639.

## Zardari discusses impeachment of Alvi with Fazl

**ISLAMABAD:** The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari met Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman and Sardar Akhtar Mengal from the ruling coalition to discuss the removal of President Arif Alvi through impeachment. The former president met the chiefs of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazal (JUI-F) and the Baloch National Party-Mengal (BNP-M) here in Islamabad to discuss President Alvi's impeachment. The JUI-F chief, in the meeting, told Asif Ali Zardari that his party is bringing their candidate for the next president. Asif Ali Zardari is looking to get the BNP-M chief in the cabinet. Sardar Akhtar Mengal, as a condition, asked for the forma-

tion of an inquiry commission for the Chaghi incident. Sardar Akhtar Mengal, in the meeting, advised Asif Ali Zardari to check the numbers before making their decision. He also said the cabinet should be made in different stages. Mengal also said the coalition should stay united when making decisions. Earlier, sources reported that President Dr Arif Alvi had decided against resigning from his office. The decision came after consultation with the PTI leadership, the sources said, adding that he was advised to continue discharging his constitutional duties. Moreover, he did not administer the oath from PM Shehbaz Sharif and his 34-member federal cabinet. —Online

## PML-N gets 12 ministries, nine departments offered to PPP

# 33-member cabinet sworn in, Sanjrani administers oath

From Our Staff Correspondent

**ISLAMABAD:** Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani on Tuesday administered oath to federal cabinet instead of President Arif Alvi. Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) got 12 ministries and nine ministries have been given to Pakistan People's Party (PPP). Four ministries handed over to Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) and Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) two ministries. Other coalition partners including Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) and Jamhuri Watan Party (JWP) got one ministry each in the new set up. Two state ministers are from PML-N and one state minister from PPP. One member of PPP and two members of PML-N have been appointed advisors to the Prime Minister. Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz: Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary, Rana Sana Ullah Khan, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Rana Tanveer Hussain, Khurram Dastagir Khan, Marriyum Aurangzeb, Khawaja

Saad Rafique, Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Azam Nazeer Tarar and Miftah Ismail. Pakistan People's Party: Syed Khurshed Ahmed Shah, Syed Naveed Qamar, Sherry Rehman, Abdul Qadir Patel, Shazia Marri, Syed Murtaza Mahmud, Sajid Hussain Turi, Ehsaan-ur-Rehman Mazari, Abid Hussain Bhayo. Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl: Asad Mahmood, Abdul Wasay, Mufti Abdul Shakoor and Muhammad Talha Mahmood. Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan: Syed Amin-ul-Haque and Syed Faisal Ali Subzwari. Balochistan Awami Party: Muhammad Israr Tareen. Jamhoori Watan Party: Nawabzada Shazain Bugti. Pakistan Muslim League-Q: Chaudhary Tariq Bashir Cheema. Ministers of State: Dr. Aisha Ghaus Pasha, MNA – PML-N, Hina Rabbani Khar, MNA – PPP and Abdul Rehman Khan Kanju, MNA – PML-N. The cabinet also includes Advisers namely Qamar Zaman Kaira, Engineer Amir Muqam and Aon Chaudhry. PM summons first cabinet meeting today Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has

summoned first meeting of his cabinet today (Wednesday) at 10am. Acting President Sadiq Sanjrani administered oath to 33-member federal cabinet on Tuesday. Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) got 12 ministries and nine ministries have been given to Pakistan People's Party (PPP). Four ministries handed over to Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) and MQM-P two ministries. Other coalition partners including Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) and Jamhuri Watan Party (JWP) got one ministry each in the new set up. Two state ministers are from PML-N and one state minister from PPP. One member of PPP and two members of PML-N have been appointed advisors to the Prime Minister. Nawaz Khokhar excuses becoming state minister PPP leader Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar on Tuesday excused from becoming minister of state due to personal reasons and to keep his focus on his responsibilities regarding the upcoming elections. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's 34-member cabinet took oath

today. Chairman Senate and Acting President Sadiq Sanjrani administered oath from the new cabinet due to illness of President Dr Arif Alvi. The PML-N has 13 federal ministers, two ministers of state and one cabinet adviser, while the

**Work, work & only work is our motto: PM**

**ISLAMABAD:** Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said with dedication and persistent work as the motto of the government, the new cabinet would work efficiently towards addressing problems of the people. "It is my fervent hope that federal ministers, ministers of state and advisers will provide leadership, and also resolve the problems of the people," he said in a tweet as his cabinet took oath of office this morning. The prime minister said the federal cabinet had been formed after thorough consultations with Pakistan Muslim League Leader Mian Nawaz Sharif and the coalition partners. He said, "Work, work & only work is our motto". —APP



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani administers the oath to federal ministers at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## COAS Bajwa meets PM Shehbaz

From Our Staff Correspondent

**ISLAMABAD:** Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa met Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad on Tuesday. During the meeting, both the dignitaries exchanged views on professional matters pertaining to the national security.

## Pak, IMF resume talks in US

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan has formally resumed talks with the IMF in Washington over the bailout package. The negotiations with the IMF officials will remain continued until April 24 and the IMF will release US dollar one billion tranche after successful talks, sources said. Governor SBP Reza Baqar has been in Washington for talks with the IMF officials. Governor central bank will also attend the session of the WB steering committee. —APP

## Power tariff raise by Rs3.15 likely

**ISLAMABAD:** The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) is likely to hike the power tariff by Rs3.15 per unit under the fuel adjustment mechanism. According to details, the CPPA has filed a petition with NEPRA seeking a hike in electricity tariff by Rs3.15 per unit under fuel monthly adjustment. —APP

**FIQH-E-HANFIA**

SEHR	IFTAR
4:02	6:37

**FIQH-E-JAFRIA**

SEHR	IFTAR
3:52	6:47

## PM for exploring economic dimension of Pak-UAE ties

**ISLAMABAD:** Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday emphasized his government's commitment to further advance the economic dimension of the relationship with the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The prime minister expressed these views in a meeting with United Arab Emirates (UAE) Ambassador Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi, who called on to felicitate him on assuming the office. PM Shehbaz Sharif stressed focusing on enhanced trade, investment, energy, infrastructure, food security, and employment generation between the two countries. He affirmed that Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) had always enjoyed special relations which were firmly rooted in shared history, common faith, and geographical proximity. He underlined that these relations were further amplified by close people-to-people contacts. The prime minister also acknowledged the important role of expatriate Pakistanis in

the development of the UAE, who were serving as a strong bridge between the two countries. He also conveyed his warm greetings to the UAE leadership and expressed his firm resolve to closely engage with them to further deepen and broaden this vital partnership. Shehbaz Sharif expressed deep appreciation for the vision of the UAE leadership for the inspirational transformation of the country in the span of just 50 years. Extending warm felicitations to Shehbaz Sharif on assuming the office of the prime minister, the envoy reaffirmed the UAE's desire to further strengthen bilateral relations with Pakistan. Pakistan and the UAE enjoy close fraternal ties marked by decades of close collaboration. High-level interactions provide continuous momentum to the growth of bilateral cooperation. PM urges int'l community to condemn Islamophobic incidents Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday called upon the international

community to take notice of the recent incidents of Islamophobia that took place in Sweden and the Netherlands. "The people of Pakistan and Muslims around the world are deeply hurt by the recent incidents of Islamophobia in Sweden and the Netherlands," he said in a tweet. PM Shehbaz Sharif said the international community must condemn these incidents and stressed taking steps to check such "abhorrent behaviour". He also emphasized standing united against Islamophobia. Earlier, the Foreign Office in a statement had said that "these mindless provocative Islamophobic incidents served no purpose other than hurting the sensitivities of over 1.5 billion Muslims living all over the world". "Such actions are not covered under legitimate expressions of the right to freedom of expression or opinion, which carry responsibilities under international human rights law, such as the obligation not to carry out hate speech and incite people to violence," the FO said. —DNA



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa meets Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

## Pak economy enjoys a strong recovery, grows by 5.6pc: WB

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan's economy enjoyed a strong recovery and grew 5.6 percent in FY21 following measures taken by the government to mitigate the adverse socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Bank's Pakistan Development Update said on Tuesday. While economic activity maintained its momentum during July-December 2021, high demand pressures and rising global commodity prices led to double-digit inflation and a sharp rise in the import bill during this period. According to the report released on Tuesday, these developments have had an adverse impact on the rupee. More-

over, long-standing structural weaknesses of the economy including low investment, low exports, and low productivity growth pose risks to a sustained recovery. The report highlights that with economic recovery and improved labor market conditions, poverty—measured at the lower middle-income class poverty line of \$3.20 Purchasing Power Parity 2011 per day—declined from 37pc in FY20 to 34 percent in FY21. However, rising food and energy prices are expected to decrease the real purchasing power of households, disproportionately affecting poor and vulnerable households that spend a larger share

of their budget on these items. "Pakistan's economic recovery after the COVID-19 crisis indicates that the country has enormous potential to overcome challenging economic situations," said Najy Benhassine World Bank Country Director for Pakistan. "However, sustaining the economic recovery requires addressing long-standing structural weaknesses of the economy and boosting private sector investment, exports and productivity." On the back of high base effects and recent monetary tightening, real GDP growth is expected to moderate to 4.3 and 4.0 percent in FY22 and FY23, respectively. —Online