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No politics of revenge, says Punjab CM

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CM directs KWSB to launch operation against water theft



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## Tareen, Aleem objective was to reap benefits, says Imran

ISLAMABAD: Chairman PTI Imran Khan has said that Jahangir Tareen and Aleem Khan motive behind coming into power was to reap benefits.

The two put in ceaseless efforts for the success of party but their ideals were not what were of mine. The differences with Jahangir Tareen developed due to action taken against sugar mafia. The differences with Aleem Khan emerged for grabbing 300 acres land illegally by him in Ravi.

Now they are standing with thieves. Mir Jaffer and Mir Sadiq hatched big conspiracy against me in Pakistan, he said this while talking in podcast at social media. He went on to say "I want friendship with US without compromising on national inter-

ests. Independent foreign policy was my crime.

He held a big conspiracy took place against me and Mir Jaffer and Mir Sadiq supported the conspiracy.

I always believe that my country is robust and independent. It has never before and will never stoop to before any one. He underlined the judiciary took suo moto notice and the courts opened at 12 O clock at night. But no action was taken against the dissidents.

Whomsoever I will give ticket now, I will take oath from him that if he has to do business then he should not come to power. They should not even think that I will provide any illegal benefit to them in their business. When sugar became costly then differences developed up with Jahangir on launching action by me



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting to review production, available stock, procurement and demands of wheat.

## Vast opportunities of investment in tech sector in Pakistan: PM

Says current govt intends to increase IT exports of Pakistan from \$1.5 billion to \$15 billion in coming year

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said that as Pakistan offered huge opportunities of investment in technology sector, foreign tech companies would be facilitated in all respects with regards to investment and expansion.

The current government intends to increase the IT exports of Pakistan from USD 1.5 billion to USD 15 billion in the coming year and for that close collaboration with Huawei will result in the provision of training to the youth of Pakistan through various mean including setting up a university, he added.

The Prime Minister said this in a meeting with Yi Xiang, Senior Vice President of the Middle East and Africa Region of Huawei. He emphasized that investments in tech sector would increase employment and skills enhancement of Pakistani youth, especially women as the government was focused on increasing the number of women in e-commerce sector by providing them the suitable environment to get themselves trained and raise capital, a press release issued by the PM Media Wing here said.

The Prime Minister also emphasized the need of expediting the process of strategizing the collaborative efforts within a week and highlighted the gov-

ernment's willingness to not leave any stone unturned to achieve the said objectives. He expressed satisfaction over Huawei's long association with Pakistan and investments in the telecom sector.

Yi Xiang while thanking the Prime Minister expressed interest in expanding Huawei's footprint in Pakistan. Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and Charge d' Affairs China Embassy Ms. Pang Chunxue were also present in the meeting.

### PM orders measures to curb wheat smuggling, theft

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Friday ordered the authorities concerned to formulate an urgent strategy against the corruption and theft of wheat and for the construction of the silos for storage.

The PM, chairing a high-level meeting to examine the wheat production, available stock and expected consumption, said the construction of the silos would help curb theft and corruption. He told the meeting that despite being an agricultural country, Pakistan had been compelled to import wheat instead of meeting its own needs, just due to the wrong decisions and delayed strategies.

The meeting was told that wheat production of 26.173 million metric tons was expected this year against the target

of 28.89 million metric tons while the estimated consumption would be around 30.79 million metric tons. It was told that reduced wheat cultivation, water shortage, fertilizer crisis due to the mismanagement by the previous government, and delayed announcement of wheat support price led to the reduced production of wheat by two percent.

The oil price hike and early rise in temperature due to climate change were also among the factors impeding the achievement of the wheat production target. The prime minister was also apprised of relief measures taken by the incumbent government including subsidy on wheat supply to flour mills, availability of 10kg flour bag at Rs 400 and provision of 200,000 metric tons wheat to KP. The prime minister directed the authorities concerned to assess the wheat consumption of KP and ensure the provision of the required supply of the commodity in coordination with the provincial government.

The meeting was told that Punjab had achieved 91.66 percent of the wheat procurement target, Sindh 49.68, Balochistan 15.29 while PASSCO had

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## NEPRA approves Rs1.386 per unit increase in tariff for KE consumers

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Friday approved Rs 1.386 per unit increase in tariff for K-Electric consumers for February under monthly fuel adjustment (FCA) mechanism. The tariff increase would have impact of Rs 1,586 million and to be recovered in the billing of May, said a notification.

The KE had requested FCA of Rs. 3.452/kWh having an impact of Rs. 3,950 million. However, the Authority approved FCA of Rs. 1.3863/kWh for the month of Feb 2022. The FCAs shall be applicable to all the consumer categories except lifeline consumers. —Online

## Gold prices up by Rs350 to Rs132,350 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed an increase of Rs350 and was sold at Rs132,350 on Friday against its sale at Rs132,000 in the local market.

The price of 10 gram 24 karat gold also increased by Rs300 and was sold at Rs113,469 compared to its sale at Rs113,169 whereas that if 22 karat gold also went up to Rs104,013 against Rs103,738, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs1500 and Rs 1286 respectively. The price of gold in international market increased by \$3 and was traded at \$1882 compared to its sale at \$1879, the association reported. —APP

## Aleem challenges Imran to dialogue on live TV debate

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: While reacting upon the allegations imposed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan, the dissident member of PTI Aleem Khan challenged him to come live on television and have a debate, a local TV channel reported on Friday.

While talking to the media, Aleem Khan challenged the former prime minister Imran Khan to tell everyone everything and then he will tell everyone all the things he knows. Aleem Khan also warned the PTI Chairman to call him with respect in return the Member of Provincial Assembly (MPA) will call the Chairman with respect.

While talking about the allegations, the businessman said that the former Prime Minister has accused him of legalizing 300 acres of acquired land whereas these are all lies and have distorted facts.

Aleem Khan also stated that he does not have three hundred acres, he has three thousand acres of land. The three hundred acres were not of acquired land but that land was purchased from landlords, MPA also said.

## Public meetings a step for early election: Rashid

LAHORE: Former Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid has said kicking off public meetings by PML-N is a step towards early election. "Two votes majority govt will soon end, he said in his tweet on social media Friday. He held Imran will soon announce date for holding Long March then it will be known to all the politics stands where.

It is better new elections should be announced before May 31. He went on to say the letter was a conspiracy to end IMRAN Khan government. Government declared it baseless and fake. Now government itself is announcing to constitute inquiry commission against its own narrative, Imran Khan is demanding judicial commission. This has proved that interference is more dangerous than conspiracy, he remarked. —APP

## PSX loses 408 points to close at 44,840 points

ISLAMABAD: The KSE 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Friday, losing 408.60 points, with a negative change of 0.90 percent, closing at 44,840.81 points against 45,249.41 points on the last working day.

A total of 189,484,396 shares were traded during the day compared to the trade of 325,466,550 shares the previous day whereas the price of shares stood at Rs5.661 billion against Rs9.290 billion on last trading day. As many as 333 companies transacted shares in the stock market, 90 of them recorded gain and 219 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 24 companies remained unchanged. The three top

trading companies were Summit Bank with a volume of 25,745,000 shares and price per share of Rs2.72, Unity Foods Ltd with a volume of 18,231,681 and price per share of Rs 24.31 and Cnergycio PK with volume of 9,126,622 and price per share of Rs6.11.

Siemens Pak witnessed a maximum increase of Rs34.99 per share, closing at Rs624.99 whereas the runner up was Millat Tractors, the share prices of which climbed up by Rs30.78 to Rs955.71. Colgate Palm witnessed maximum decrease of Rs77.40 closing at Rs2,055.10 followed by Nestle Pakistan, the share price of which declined by Rs75 to close at Rs5,800. —APP

## PTI govt laid economic landmines: PEW

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Friday said the previous government laid economic mines for the present government which is becoming difficult to deal with.

The former government announced a huge subsidy on electricity and oil in its last days which is costing up to three billion rupees daily, it said. In addition, the previous government deliberately planned to reduce oil and gas in the country to tarnish the image of the new government, but their decision is also hurting the people, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW).

He said that despite the agreement with the IMF, the government was not ready to withdraw the oil subsidy as it would provoke a public backlash.

For keeping fuel prices capped at current levels for the next fortnight, the cash-strapped government will have to pay Rs72.33/litre on diesel and Rs30.31/litre on petrol as price differential claim to the oil sector, denting the national kitty by another Rs40 billion which is not affordable.

Murtaza Mughal said that any friendly country except China and no international lender including IMF and the World Bank, will lend to Pakistan unless the US wanted it. —APP

## PTI's govt damaged economy, now it is improving: Naveed

HYDERABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar on Friday said that the previous government had damaged the country's economy and exports were reduced to zero but now the situation was improving on fast track.

Addressing the meet-the-press here at a local press club, Syed Naveed Qamar said that after the fall of PTI's government, the people breathed a sigh of relief as the prior government had violated the constitution and law.

He said that it was unconstitutional for the Governor of Punjab to write a letter to the Army Chief.

When asked about the possible arrest of Imran Khan, Syed Naveed Qamar responded that it was a matter of law and not of the government, and added that PTI should fulfill its duty



by marching to Islamabad within the ambit of law. Naveed further warned of legal action in case anyone breaks the law during the march. "The issue is not electronic voting or internet voting, but holding transparent elections is the real problem", Naveed Qamar

voiced, adding that country was standing at a crossroads from where we could not move back, therefore moving forward was only option.

In response to a question, he remarked that the previous government had destroyed the economy and now the export had reached to 20 billion dollars.

Rejecting the impression of any external conspiracy in the change of government, the Federal Minister alleged that the former Prime Minister was carrying a fake letter.

Qamar stated that the present government will complete its term and the next elections will be held in 2023. The Deputy Commissioner Yasir Bhatti and SSP Abdullah Memon, Mir Kazim Talpur and other officers were also present on the occasion. —APP



NAWABSHAH: PPP Co-Chairman and former President Asif Ali Zardari addressing to a delegation.

## IHC extends its orders for not arresting Shahbaz Gill till 9th

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) has extended its order for not arresting PTI leader Shahbaz Gill till May 9 in blasphemy case over the Masjid-e-Nabawi incident.

Chief Justice (CJ) of IHC Athar Minallah took up for hearing Shahbaz Gill petition regarding protective bail Friday. PTI leader appeared before the court in injured condition.

Shahbaz Gill while recording his statement before the court said he did not get register case against any one. He did not take shelter from PEECA ordinance. I met with you for the first time during judiciary restoration movement. I was Assistant Professor in Islami university

and I participated in the movement for restoration of judges by taking my students along with me.

The CJ IHC remarked "Shahbaz Sahb I don't know the movement for restoration of judges succeeded or otherwise. The motive of judges restoration movement was that all the institutions should run under the constitution. We welcome the criticism. But if there is no respect for constitution and the institutions then there will be chaos.

Shahbaz Gill said the man who was attacked first after the departure of government, it is me. Maryam Nawaz statement is on the record that I should be crushed. The way they

are taking action against me I don't know if I will be before you or otherwise on next hearing.

CJ IHC remarked no, there is not anything like this. I see the legal matters not the political. If all things run on political narrative then it will end in political turmoil.

### Case regarding hitting the car of Shahbaz Gill registered

Case has been registered for hitting PTI leader Shahbaz Gill car on Motorway M-2 in Hafiz Abad and a suspect has been taken into custody. In the FIR registered by Jabir ALLI, associate of Shahbaz Gill it has been said his car was hit deliberately with the intention to kill Gill. —APP