

## Businessmen urge govt to create political stability in country

KARACHI: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan Mian Zahid Hussain on Friday said political tensions in the country have reached their peak and if it is not stopped then the decline of the economy will accelerate. Talking to the businessmen here, Hussain said some politicians are constantly sacrificing the national interest for their petty interests, which is making the country a laughing stock. The veteran business leader said that the business community across the country. —APP

# The Business

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## Rana Tanvir meets Nawaz Sharif in London

SHEIKHUPURA: Education Minister Rana Tanvir Hussain has met former Prime Minister (PM) Mian Nawaz Sharif in London and exchanged views with him over a set of issues with reference to political situation of the country, coming general elections and revival of national economy. Railway minister Khawaja Saad Rafiq, former finance minister Ishaq Dar, former MNA Dr Shuzra Mansab were also present on the occasion. Later talking on telephone after meeting, Rana Tanvir Hussain said Nawaz Sharif health condition has improved. —

## Govt invites Japanese Cos to invest in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Friday while underscoring his government's efforts for creating business-friendly opportunities, invited new Japanese companies to avail themselves of such opportunities and invest in Pakistan.

The prime minister, in a meeting with Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan Mitsuhiro Wada here, assured that the government would extend all possible facilitation to Japanese investors. Conveying Pakistan's firm resolve to elevate this relationship to new heights, the prime minister emphasized the importance of deepening bilateral cooperation, especially in the areas of trade, development, education, IT, climate change, and infrastructure.

During the course of their conversation, views were exchanged on further strengthening the existing Pakistan-Japan bilateral relationship. The prime minister recalled that the year 2022 was being observed as the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two nations. He also appreciated that the special events being organized to commemorate this landmark occasion were a reflection of the special relationship that Pakistan enjoyed with Japan. The prime minister was deeply appreciative of JICA's ongoing programmes and meaningful contribution for supporting socio-economic and development sectors in Pakistan. Ambassador Wada recalled Japan's longstanding bilateral cooperation with Pakistan in diverse fields and expressed his government's commitment to working together. —DNA

## 'Nation forced to reap inflation sown by Imran'

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Friday that former Prime Minister Imran Khan had sown the crop of inflation, made agreements on strict conditions and set a record of corruption.

In a tweet, she said today the nation was forced to reap that crop in the form of inflation and increase in the prices of petroleum products. The minister said that Imran announced subsidy on petroleum products but ruined the national exchequer. She demanded that he should be held accountable for this crime. —DNA

## Hike in electricity tariff by Rs7 to meet IMF demands

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Government will be increasing electricity prices by Rs. 7 per unit to meet the demands of International Monetary Fund (IMF). According to sources privy to the matter, the hike of Rs. 7 in electricity price would include an increase in basic tariff and monthly fuel adjustment charges.

The hike in power tariff will be applicable from July 1. Moreover, the IMF has also asked the government to immediately privatize the profitable electricity distribution companies.

Earlier on IMF's conditions, government has increased the fuel prices. Following Rs. 30 per liter increase in price of petrol, the new price is Rs. 179.86. It should be noted that the government is further planning to increase the fuel prices in the same ratio in next 15 days in a bid to achieve the IMF program.

## Maryam again lashes out at Imran

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) vice president Maryam Nawaz once again lashed out at former PM and Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan. The PML-N vice president took to the Twitter to vent her anger and wrote, "Fitna Khan has nothing left except embarrassment and confession of failure."

"Contrary to the claim of bringing 3 million to Islamabad, the former PM couldn't even bring 20,000 people in the federal capital due to which his mental condition becomes unstable," she wrote. Maryam Nawaz further wrote that the people have recognized and rejected it, adding that the revolution makes its own way,



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Rana Sana Ullah chairs a high-level meeting on law and order situation to review PTI Long March.

## Increasing petrol prices was inevitable: State Minister

# Shehzad Wasim slams govt for hiking petroleum prices

ISLAMABAD: Opposition leader in Senate Dr. Shehzad Wasim on Friday took a hardliner against Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) led coalition government for increase in petroleum products' prices. The Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N)-led government on Thursday had announced a massive hike in the price of petroleum products [petrol, oil, lubricants or POL] after the International Monetary Fund (IMF) emphasised abolishing the subsidies on the essential commodities.

Talking in the upper house of Parliament on Friday, Dr. Shehzad Wasim said "imported" government was responsible for all the economic and political chaos in the country. "The nation came down to streets across the country to protest against this imported government," Wasim told senators. In his furious speech, the opposition leader said Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) led government had used all the tactics to stop people from protesting and participating in PTI's "Haqiqi Azadi March" but the nation became part of protest demonstrations in huge numbers. "Nation proved that vigor and zeal cannot be defeated," he added.

Wasim also appreciated media for covering PTI's long march despite harsh sanctions. "Government's goons took innocent

people out of their vans and killed them. Our members of National Assembly were tortured and harassed. Tear gas was fired at the masses. People know that imported government cannot protect their interest," he said.

Another report adds: State Minister for finance and revenue accepted on Friday that Pakistan is facing difficult time and petrol prices increase was inevitable but we will take step to bring relief for poor's.

During question hour senator Irfan Ul Haq asked whether we will have power over state bank after appointing governor to which state minister responded that the law regarding that will be brought soon.

State Minister also told that to make Pakistan economically stable talks will be held with other international institutions.

If increasing petrol prices was inevitable, said Sen. Mohsin Aziz, that means former government was right and economy was progressing and this government topples them illegally. State Minister agreed that the prices are increasing internationally and inflation went higher this year. Minister also told that no new taxes are imposed on new vehicle but double tax imposed on reselling of new vehicle. He also told that government will review ban on electric vehicles as the ban is not good for environment.

Sen. Quratulain question about the im-

port of wheat and suger which was Pakistan importing on that Shazia Mari, State Minister told that our commercial envoys are working in various countries and we

## Transporters jack up fares after hike in fuel prices

LAHORE: The recent hike in fuel prices has started taking effect on common people as public transporters have jacked up their fares.

According to details, the Lahore transporters have increased fares for inter-city and intra-city bus travel. The fare from Lahore to Karachi has been increased from Rs3000 to Rs4000. Similarly, the fare from Lahore to Rawalpindi and Peshawar have been jacked up by Rs 1850 and Rs2200 respectively. The federal government on Thursday increased petrol and diesel prices up to Rs30 per litre to reduce fuel subsidies. Finance Minister Miftah Ismail made the announcement at a press conference. He announced to hike the petrol, diesel, light diesel and kerosene oil prices up to Rs30 per litre. —DNA

## Maintain strategic sugar reserves to check price

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Miftah Ismail on Friday stressed for maintaining strategic reserves of sugar and regulation of its prices for avoiding price-hike and providing maximum relief to the masses.

The minister was talking to Chairman Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA), Chaudhry Zaka Ashraf during a meeting at Finance Division. The Secretaries Finance, Commerce, National Food Security and Research, and other senior officers also attended the meeting, according to statement issued by finance ministry. Miftah He assured Chairman PSMA that the government was aware of the issues being faced by the sugar industry in Pakistan and was keen to resolve these problems at exigency.

He expressed government's resolve to promote business activities and facilitate the business community to attain sustainable growth in the country. On the occasion, Zaka Ashraf appreciated the efforts

of the government to tackle the inflationary pressure and apprised the finance minister about the issues that were being faced by the sugar industry.

Musadik denies PTI claims previous govt looking to buy oil from Russia Minister of State for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik on Friday rejected Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) claims that the party had been in the process of purchasing oil from Russia at a discounted rate when it was in power. He said the incumbent government found no evidence of this.

"Where is the government-to-government agreement or a memorandum of understanding which showed that Pakistan and Russia agreed on oil purchase?" asked Malik while addressing a news conference in Islamabad. The statement comes after the government on Thursday night announced an increase in petroleum products' prices by Rs30 per litre. Finance Minister Miftah Ismail ex-

pressed hope that reaching an understanding on staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) would now be easier as constructive discussions are being held with the Fund. However, PTI leader and former energy minister Hammad Azhar slammed the incumbent government's decision, saying that Russia was keen to supply oil at discounted rates.

"(Finance Minister) Miftah Ismail is claiming on national television that no letter or proof exists of Russian oil talks... Russia was enthusiastic on selling discounted oil to us and he should have spoken to the Energy Minister of Russia," said Azhar in a tweet, while sharing a letter he had apparently written to the Russian Energy Minister in this regard. Talking about the letter, the federal minister said that to date the government has not received an answer from Russia. Meanwhile, Malik criticised the past government for announcing subsidies on fuel. —APP

## Permanent ban on rallies entry in Islamabad likely

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Interior Ministry on Friday has decided to impose a permanent ban on the entry of rallies in the federal capital.

Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaulah chaired a PTI Long March law and order review meeting in which details of the loss of life and property across the country, attacks on police and other law-enforcement as a result of PTI's long march on May 25 were presented. The meeting directed the administration of Islamabad to take more effective steps to stem the riot march while embracing a zero-tolerance policy against the evildoers who have taken law and order into their hands.

While it was also decided to permit rallies after a written agreement. Rana Sanaulah said that the country could not be allowed to be held hostage by rowdy groups and evil elements, adding that no riotous long march would be permitted to enter the Islamabad in future.

## Ufone 4G commits to women's access to Internet

ISLAMABAD: Ufone 4G is at the forefront to support women's empowerment in the country, hence, the Pakistani company is committed to significantly expanding its female customer base. Through its commitment with the global association of mobile operators, the GSMA, Ufone 4G aims to bring high-speed connectivity to more Pakistani women to enhance their participation in the mainstream socio-economic system.

The initiative underpins Ufone 4G's long-term commitment to bringing every Pakistani citizen into the fold of digital inclusion for positive socio-economic outcomes.

Therefore, the company is focused on reducing the gender gap in access to connectivity and helping women leverage the Internet to explore opportunities for personal and professional growth. The company has exhibited its strong commitment to fostering gender inclusivity through various initiatives.

Ufone 4G boasts a significant female user base, mainly due to its women-centric use cases and communication focused on the specific call and data needs of women. These use cases helped Ufone 4G deliver products and services to women with different professional backgrounds, duly tailored to suit their call and data needs and routine. —DNA

## Pak, Indonesia to enhance ties in diverse fields

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Indonesia have agreed on a number of specific proposals for promoting bilateral trade and investment, enhancing cooperation in health, education, science and technology sectors.

Agreements to this effect came during the meet of Third Bilateral Consultative Forum between Pakistan and Indonesia that was held in Bali. The two sides discussed the entire gamut of Pakistan-Indonesia relations as well as regional and multilateral issues of common interest. They expressed satisfaction over the momentum in bilateral cooperation in recent years and resolved to further enhance engagement in the political, economic, defence and security domains. It was also agreed to strengthen bilateral engagement at the multilateral forums, including at the UN, OIC, ARF, D-8 and ASEM. The two sides exchanged views on important regional and global developments, including emerging challenges in respective regions. —Online

## VCs oppose Rs30b cut in HEC budget

ISLAMABAD: The government has made a final proposal to deduct Rs30 billion from the budget of Higher Education Commission (HEC) but it faced opposition from vice-chancellors.

The proposal by the government has put all research projects, faculty scholarships and development projects in universities at risk.

The vice chancellors of universities, during an online conference, rejected the proposal expressing their concerns that it would be detrimental to the higher education projects in the country. —DNA

## Six Pak UN peacekeepers given medals of courage

UNITED NATIONS: Six Pakistanis were among 117 UN peacekeepers who were awarded UN medals of courage late Thursday for sacrificing their lives for the cause of peace.

Five of the six — Tahir Ikram, Tahir Mehmood, Mohammed Naeem, Adil Jan and Mohammed Shafiq — were from the armed forces, while the sixth, Ibrar Syed, was a civilian. At the UN Headquarters, Secretary-General António Guterres laid a wreath to honour the nearly 4,200 UNs peacekeepers who have lost their lives since 1948. And later, he presided over a ceremony at which the Dag Hammarskjöld Medals of Courage were awarded posthumously to 117 military, police and civilian peacekeepers, including

six Pakistanis, who lost their lives serving under the UNs flag in 2021.

Captain Abdelrazakh Hamit Bahar of Chad posthumously received the "Captain Mbaye Diagne Medal for Exceptional Courage". Major Winnet Zaharare of Zimbabwe received the Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award and was declared a champion of gender equality. Pakistan is one of the longest serving and largest contributors to UN Peacekeeping for decades. Since joining the United Nations on Sept 30, 1947, Pakistan has participated in 70 UN peacekeeping missions across the globe. The Pakistan armed forces are the third largest contributor of troops to UN peacekeeping efforts, behind

India and Ethiopia.

"We are committed to helping the vulnerable communities affected by conflict and will continue to adapt to the changing environment and needs of the peacekeeping operations," said Pakistan's UN Ambassador Munir Akram. Recognising the sacrifices of the six Pakistanis who lost their lives in 2021, Ambassador Akram said: "We share the grief of their families and will never forget these heroes who won respect and recognition for their homeland."

The UN secretary-general recalled that so far more than one million women and men had served as UN peacekeepers since 1948. "We are reminded of an age-old truth: peace can never be taken for granted. Peace



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar addresses a press conference.