

## Govt releases Rs 7.761b for agri sector development projects

ISLAMABAD: The govt has so far released funds amounting over Rs 7.761b to execute 26 ongoing and 07 new agriculture-related projects under its PSDP for financial year 2021-22 in order to promote agriculture and livestock sectors in the country. The govt had allocated an amount of Rs12.017b in its annual developmental agenda for different agriculture sector uplift projects of the Ministry of National Food Security and Research to attain sustainable agriculture growth and economic development in the country. —APP

# The Business

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## British HC Turner meets Ch Shujaat

LAHORE: British High Commissioner (BHC) Dr Christian Turner on Thursday called on Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) supreme and former prime minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain. The two discussed the issues of mutual interest during the meeting. BHC Turner also inquired about the health of Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain. Federal Minister for Board of Investment (BoI) Chaudhry Salik Hussain, Chaudhry Shafay Hussain, British High Commission representative in Punjab Alex Ballinger, Political Advisor British High Commissioner in Lahore Office Talal Raza and Muntaha Ashraf were also present on the occasion. —APP

## All airports to be switched over to solar power: CAA

KARACHI: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has decided to convert all Pakistan International Airports into solar power in phases. According to details, the aviation authority has decided to switch Karachi's Jinnah International Airport to solar energy and has directed authorities concerned to prepare a feasibility plan in this connection.

DG Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Khaqan Murtaza said the solar energy project will save millions of rupees in terms of expenditure. "CAA is working on a plan to switch Karachi airport to solar energy," he said, adding that country's other international airports would be converted into solar power in second phase. —DNA

## 'Imran's lies-based narrative a bid to cause instability'

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday said that the PTI leadership was trying to destabilize the country with its lies and propaganda-based narrative and Imran has no regard for the constitution.

The incumbent government under the leadership of PM Shehbaz Sharif would take all possible steps to steer the country out of economic, political crises, he said. PTI government had damaged the country, but now the situation was improving on fast track, he added. Present government was making efforts for welfare of people and providing them basic amenities of life, he mentioned. Due to wrong policies of the PTI government, the country's economy was now facing multiple challenges, however, new government was taking steps to overcome these challenges.

Replying to a question, he said that present government would bring electoral reforms to ensure transparency. —DNA

## PPP, MQM-P agree to work together for Sindh interests

KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Local Bodies Nasir Hussain Shah on Thursday said for the sake of wider interests of the province, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) will work together. Addressing to media after PPP's leadership met with MQM-P's delegation in Karachi, Nasir alleged the PTI is trying to spread anarchy. Nasir Hussain said the country has suffered from the PTI's attempts to spread anarchy.

Nasir Hussain said MQM-P talks about the province when it feels that unjust is going on. Nasir Hussain said the discussions are going on over the cases and other issues, adding that the decision will be taken about the unjust on merit. Nasir Hussain lashed out at Imran Khan and said he considers himself above others, adding that the ouster of Imran Khan has been done with democratic principles.

Nasir Hussain flayed Imran and said that he did not follow the constitution and then questioned why the court was opened during the night, adding that the court was opened in violation of the constitution, because of which Imran Khan is feeling sad. —DNA

## 'Conspiracy against Pakistan hatched in Imran form'

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) vice president Maryam Nawaz castigated the PTI chairman and said that a conspiracy was hatched against Pakistan in the form of Imran Khan.

Talking to the media in Islamabad, she said that a four-week government could not be blamed for the economic destruction of four years. "Imran Khan's associates have started complaining about inflation in four weeks," she said. Maryam also stated that the NAB had not been able to present any evidence till date in the case against her. "Punish me if there is any evidence against me," she declared. Maryam also stated that an election was the only solution, for the coalition government could not take big decisions. "It is welcoming if the army distances itself from politics," she said. —DNA



KARACHI: Workers unload the newly arrived buses from China at Port, as these buses will be used for the Orange Line Bus Service.

## Climate change issues

# PCJCCI keen to learn from China's vast experience

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Wang Zihai, President Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) said on Thursday during a think tank session that Pakistan has a lot to learn from China's experience in addressing climate change issues. China has come a long way in its fight against climate change and environmental degradation, and Pakistan will benefit from China's experience including the use of new techniques to counter climate change at home. Pakistan will take a leaf out of China's book on the successful greening of degraded grasslands and deserts, he added.

Ehsan Choudhry, Senior Vice President PCJCCI said that the region has over 5,000 large and small glaciers and more than 100 lakes, which jointly make up the world's largest fresh water reservoir. But Pakistan is one of the most vulnerable countries facing the risks of climate change including the melting of glaciers; it is high time for Pakistan to seriously value its natural resources to combat the negative impacts of climate change. Pakistan has had short-term strategies to tackle the issues like climate change. Every government wants a policy or project, which can be completed within its tenure. But it would not work in the case of the environment.

It requires a 30-50 years policy to tackle these issues. He said that recently we have witnessed a very dreadful incident due to the outburst of Shishper Glacier in Hunza. Pakistan has the highest number of glaciers outside the polar region and many are losing mass due to high global temperatures. We should deploy a proactive approach rather than a reactionary one.

We usually react to a disaster once it has happened, instead of preparing ourselves beforehand. The proactive approach of preparedness and foresightedness will save much time, money and lives.

Sarfraz Butt, Vice President PCJCCI said forests have been destroyed in Pakistan over the last 60 to 70 years, and the government has launched several green initiatives including the 10 billion tree Tsunami program to minimize the influence of global warming. But we should have to seek help from the Chinese model so that we can properly cope with this misery. Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General

PCJCCI said that it is pertinent to mention that the country has been experiencing severely hot conditions for the last two months -- March and April. Notably, April 2022 turned out to be the hottest month in the last 61 years. Pakistan is a multi-threat country in terms of climate change vulnerability. It needs to do preventive measures to protect the environment, and the local communities from the ravages of climate change.

Restoring trade relations with India laudable  
Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Thursday welcomed the decision of the government to normalise relations with neighbouring India.

Such a move will be in the greater national interest as affordable agriculture and other products will be within the reach of Pakistan which will provide some relief to the masses reeling under unprecedented inflation for years, he said.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that the move, if implemented, will also help the government to reduce inflation while it will also break the back of the influential food

PNWC team visits LCCI, holds interactive session  
By Our Staff Reporter  
LAHORE: Participants of 51st Staff Course, Pakistan Navy War College held an interactive session at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry to explore role of the business community for the economic wellbeing of the country.

LCCI President Mian Nauman Kabir, Senior Vice President Mian Rehman Aziz Chan and Vice President Haris Ateeq spoke on the occasion. The delegation spent well over two hours and asked a number of questions ranging from Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) to methodology to overcome the economic challenges.

Pakistan Navy War College delegation was led by Deputy Commandant, PN War College Captain Rao Ahmad Imran while former LCCI office-bearers and Executive Committee Members were also present.

The LCCI President Mian Nauman Kabir said that no country can ever achieve its aims and objectives until and unless it has a strong system. Giving a de-

tailed briefing on LCCI role in policy making, the LCCI President said that the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry is playing its due role for the promotion of trade and industry in the country.

He said that Lahore Chamber has completed 100 years of its establishment in 2022 and we just celebrated it by way of organizing week-long events. He said that the premier function of LCCI is policy advocacy. Through its R&D Department, the Chamber identifies the issues and their possible solutions with the input of different standing committees related to various sectors. These issues are taken up at the highest forums of Government for their early resolution.

Mian Nauman Kabir said that LCCI facilitates the business community by keeping them aware of the opportunities and challenges originating from the globalization of trade & investment. He said that LCCI prepares budget proposals and sends them to government for consideration so that tax anomalies could be rectified and

private sector representatives may be encouraged to take new business initiatives.

"LCCI gives feedback to the Government on various public policies e.g. Industrial policy and Trade Policy etc. LCCI also organizes Seminars, Workshops and Conferences for capacity building of its members", Mian Nauman Kabir said and added that LCCI has signed a lot of MOUs with national and international organizations directly related to trade and other important fields like banking, education, diplomatic affairs etc.

LCCI Senior Vice President Mian Rehman Aziz Chan also gave a detailed briefing on the working and role of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry. He said that apart from pursuing its main objective of promoting and protecting the interests of trade & industry, LCCI carries out Corporate Social Responsibility quite actively. Moreover, an NGO called the Lahore Business Association for Rehabilitation of the Disabled (LABARD) is working under the patronage of LCCI to facilitate the rehabilitation and recruitment

## FIA not to pursue money laundering case against PM

The Business Report

LAHORE: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Thursday has decided not to further pursue money laundering case against Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Hamza Shahbaz and others. As per details, the court has included the petition of FIA prosecution team in the record. The special judge central, in his written judgment, has said that FIA special prosecutor had filed a plea for not pursuing the case further.

However, the court has decided to continue the trial despite the agency's decision and has directed PM Shehbaz Sharif, CM Hamza Shahbaz and other accused to appear before the court on May 14. The order directs both PML-N leaders to ensure their attendance on the next hearing for indictment.

The FIA had in December 2021 submitted the challan against Shehbaz and Hamza to a special court for their alleged involvement in laundering in the sugar scam case.

## Govt first wants to retrieve economy: Asif

The Business Report

LONDON: Defense Minister Khawaja Asif on Thursday said that economic reforms are government's top priority and elections will be held after economic situation of the country improves. Talking to media persons, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Khawaja Asif said that if it was in his control he would bring Nawaz Sharif back the coming day but the decision about his return will be taken by the party leadership.

He further said that Imran Khan's anti-America narrative is worthless and Arif Alvi, Omar Sarfaraz Cheema and Qasim Suri violated the constitution of the country. The minister said that he is a political workers and does not believe in arrest of opponents.

We will not act like Imran Khan under any circumstances and now everything will be as per law and constitution, he added.

## Avenfield apartment reference

## IHC asks lawyers to give arguments on next hearing

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Thursday instructed the respondents to give arguments on next hearing after preparation in appeals of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N)'s Vice President Maryam Nawaz and her husband Capt. (reted) Muhammad Safdar in Avenfield Property reference.

Maryam Nawaz appeared before court along with her legal team this day. Special Prosecutor NAB Imtiaz Saddiqui expressed excuse to appear while the other Special Prosecutor Azhar Saddiq could not appear due to engagements in Lahore High Court. At the outset of hearing, defence lawyer Irfan Qadir pleaded that this bench had raised some questions before the bureau which could not be answered so far. The two new prosecutor were given time for preparation but today both could not attend the proceeding, he said

## Imran submits review plea against no-trust vote in SC

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan has submitted a review petition in Supreme Court against its verdict on ruling of Deputy Speaker regarding no-trust motion in National Assembly (NA).

In the petition, Khan has pleaded to review the nullification of Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri's ruling in the Assembly. It also states that there are some issues in the ruling of April 7 decision that are needed to be reviewed.

In the petition, he also states that there are some lacunae in the court's ruling that should be reviewed. Earlier, the Supreme Court of Pakistan restored the NA on April 7 after it declared the govt's decision to dissolve the assembly and NA Deputy Speaker Suri's rul-

# No one can sabotage Pak, China friendship: Ministry

BEIJING: Pakistan and China have agreed to carry forward traditional friendship and both the countries will never allow any force to sabotage their all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Zhao Lijian said on Thursday.

"State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi held a virtual meeting with his Pakistani counterpart Bilawal Bhutto Zardari yesterday. The two foreign ministers reached important consensus on deepening our all-weather strategic cooperative partnerships and political cooperation," he said during his regular briefing in response to a question asked by this agency.

He informed that the two foreign minister exchanged views on fur-

ther strengthening the safeguarding of safety for Chinese citizens and institutions in Pakistan during their first meeting since the new government in Pakistan came into office.

"It is also the first official bilateral meeting after Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was sworn in," he added. The spokesperson said, the two foreign ministers reached important consensus on deepening our all-weather strategic cooperative partnerships and political cooperation, adding, "Both agreed that China and Pakistan should carry forward our traditional friendship."

He said that friendship towards China remained the shared consensus in Pakistan transcending political differences. Foreign Minister Bilawal reiterated that the China-Pakistan

friendship remained the cornerstone for Pakistan's foreign policy, and also was a strategic priority for Pakistan.

"The new government will move forward our bilateral relations with the Pakistani speed," he added.

State Councillor Wang Yi stressed that longstanding friendship between the two friendly countries would not be changed by individual incident and said, "With the concerted efforts of both sides, our partnership will continue to develop with our long term friendship." Zhao Lijian remarked that China and Pakistan would deepen practical cooperation across the board. "China stands ready to synergize strategy with Pakistan to support Pakistan's efforts in upholding economic and financial stability." —APP



PESHAWAR: A view of rush outside of a bank for collecting Benazir Income Support Programme cash at the Sukarner Square.