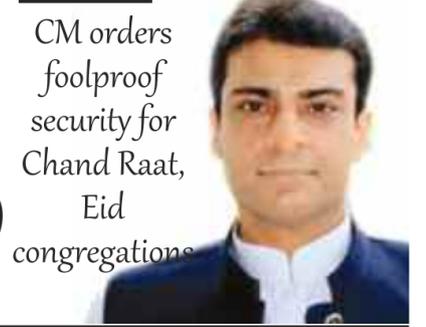




Australian leader decries China's interference

The Business

An English Daily published simultaneously from Lahore and Faisalabad



CM orders foolproof security for Chand Raat, Eid congregations

Case against Farah Khan totally wrong, says Imran

ISLAMABAD: Finally breaking his silence over the corruption allegations against his wife Bushra Bibi's close aide Farhat Shehzadi aka Farah Khan, former Prime Minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan deemed the case against Farah "totally wrong."

"He said Farah has been in the real estate business for 20 years," Imran said Sunday while addressing a press conference in the federal capital. He said that his former wife Jemima Goldsmith had been booked in a case related to the smuggling of antique tiles as well, adding that his wife Bushra Bibi doesn't have any bank account.

The PTI chairman said that initiating these cases is intended at attacking him,

reiterating that Farah is innocent.

"It was implied Farah's riches exponentially grew during three years, real estate business has generated a lot of money during the last three years," he said.

"They say that the National Accountability Bureau is independent. First of all, I ask NAB if a case can even be built against Farah Khan or not?" Imran questioned.

He said that the term "wealth beyond known sources of income" applies to public office holders only. Imran went on to say that the thing that they based the case on is that Farah's husband was an official of a union council from 1997 to 1999." —Online



ABU DHABI: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif meets Sheikh Muhammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of UAE Armed Forces at Qasr Al Shati Palace.

Pak to strengthen ties with Gulf states, vows PM Shehbaz

■ -Says relationships with UAE and other states will further increase to bring stability and prosperity

DUBAI: Pakistan accords top priority to its close relationships with the UAE and will further increase its cooperation on regional and international issues to bring stability and prosperity, says Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on his maiden visit to the country.

In an exclusive interview with Khaleej Times, the new Pakistani leader expressed his desire to further strengthen the historical ties between the two countries and boost cooperation in various fields.

Sharif said Pakistan enjoys strong relations with Gulf nations and is now working to explore new and non-conventional areas of bilateral cooperation, focusing on promoting economic, trade and investment ties. "Our relations with the UAE are also historic and robust. This is a relationship that is characterised by solidarity and understanding resulting from our strong leadership level contacts and close cooperation on regional and international issues over the years," Sharif told Khaleej Times during the interview.

Sharif arrived in the UAE on Saturday evening after wrapping up an official three-day visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He was called on by His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy

Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, to discuss matters of mutual interests and strengthen bilateral ties in key sectors.

The UAE is Pakistan's largest trading partner in the Middle East and a major source of investments and remittances. Bilateral trade between the two countries stood firm at Dh30 billion (\$8.19 billion) last year, and the two nations are committed to doubling trade volume to Dh60 billion in the next five years.

Sharif, 70, the younger brother of three-time Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, termed his Saudi visit successful and productive and said it would open doors for more opportunities for the Pakistani workforce in the kingdom. He said Pakistan aims for a deep strategic partnership with Saudi Arabia and will explore new areas of cooperation.

"My visit to Saudi Arabia was significant and most productive. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia enjoy longstanding fraternal ties, rooted deep in common faith, shared history and mutual support and understanding."

"These relations are built on strong foundations. Our relationship is historic in nature and strategic in significance. Over the past seven decades, both countries

have stood by each other, through thick and thin," the Prime Minister said.

"I had substantive interaction with the Saudi Crown Prince with particular focus on advancing economic, trade and investment ties and the creation of greater opportunities for the Pakistani workforce in Saudi Arabia. We also exchanged views on a range of regional and international issues of mutual interest," he said.

Sharif, who became Pakistan's 23rd Prime Minister on April 11 following a no-confidence against cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan, said Pakistan has always maintained close fraternal relations with the brotherly countries in the Gulf region. "Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with all countries in the Gulf region. We have strong political, security and economic linkages with these countries. Above all, we have strong people-to-people linkages that play an important role in cementing bilateral relations in the region," the Prime Minister said. "It is our earnest desire to transform these relationships into deep, diverse and mutually beneficial partnerships. We are now working to explore new and non-conventional areas of bilateral cooperation, with

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Case registered against Imran, other top PTI leaders

ISLAMABAD: A case under blasphemy laws was registered in Faisalabad against PTI Chairman and former Prime Minister Imran Khan and other top figures of the previous government, it emerged on Sunday, days after pilgrims converged on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's delegation and chanted slogans in Masjid-i-Nabwi.

The FIR has been registered under Sections 295 (harming or defiling a place of worship with intent to insult a religion), 295-A (deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs), 296 (disturbing religious assembly) and 109 (abatement) of the Pakistan Penal Code. The FIR, registered on the complaint of a common citizen Muhammad Naem in Faisalabad, names key PTI leaders and associates — Fawad Chaudhry, Shabbaz Gill, Qasim Suri, Sahibzada Jahangir, Aneel Musarrat as well as former Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed. Rashid's nephew, Sheikh Rashid Shafiq, has also been named in the FIR.

According to the complainant, the incident at Masjid-i-Nabwi was carried out under a "planned and thought out scheme and conspiracy." —DNA

Masjid-e-Nabawi case Sana vows to arrest Imran Khan

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Sunday vowed that former prime minister Imran Khan will be arrested in a case relating to hooliganism and sloganeering against Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his delegation visiting Masjid-e-Nabawi earlier this week.

In a statement, Sanaullah dubbed Imran Khan as "fitna" and said, "They will not be forgiven at all for what they did." "Imran Khan will be arrested definitely," he added.

Referring to the FIR registered against almost 150 people, including Imran Khan, the minister said that there is no justification for not filing a case against those who violated the sanctity of Roza-e-Rasool (PBUH). The government will not create any obstacle if any citizens comes forward and seeks action in this regard, he added. The incident relating to the harassment of PML-N leaders at the holy mosque was preplanned, he said, adding that people were provoked to do this. As per the planning, a group of people headed by Aneel Musarrat and Sahibzada Jahangir arrived in Saudi Arabia from the UK for hooliganism at the Masjid-e-Nabawi, he said.

"This man Imran Khan is bent on misleading the new generation," he said and asked if anyone ever called for a protest on Chand Raat?

Talking about the plot behind the incident, the minister asked: "Is there any need for proof after Sheikh Rasheed's press conference?" Sanaullah said that the Saudi government has decided to take action against the people involved in the incident, adding that some people will be deported from the Kingdom. Nobody can even think of taking personal animosity and politics to Masjid-e-Nabawi, he added. —APP

PM again sends Cheema's removal summary to Presidency

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has once again sent a summary to President Arif Alvi advising him to remove Punjab Governor Omer Sarfraz Cheema.

Sources revealed on Sunday that the Presidency had received the summaries sent by the PM Office.

According to the constitution, if the President does not remove the Governor on the advice of the Prime Minister, then the Governor would cease to hold his office automatically after a lapse of 10 days. Sources said that the Prime Minister would also suggest name of the new Governor to the President. It is expected that the Pakistan Peoples Party would get the governorship of Punjab, they

added. President Alvi had promptly removed former Punjab Governor Ch Sarwar with the crack of the dawn at 4am on the same day when the then primeminister Imran Khan had advised him to remove the Governor. Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had sent a summary to President Arif Alvi for the removal of Governor Cheema on April 15. But the President returned the summary after raising an objection. Now, PM Shehbaz has once again dispatched a summary to the Presidency for Cheema's removal and as per the law the governor will automatically be dismissed after the lapse of 10 days if the President chooses not to remove him. —DNA

Sheikh Rasheed says he fears being killed

ISLAMABAD: Awami Mulsim League (AML) chief and former interior minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad has said that he has submitted an application with Islamabad's Secretariat Police Station that if he was killed, the leaders of PML-N led government must be held responsible.

Addressing a press conference on Sunday in Islamabad, Rasheed said that "they want to get me killed" and that he had submitted similar applications to the "five elders" of the country — an apparent reference to top officials in judiciary and security institutions. The former interior minister said that the government wanted to

see Imran Khan's long march meet a "mishap" and he was being persecuted for standing with Khan.

Rasheed claimed that he was chased by some people twice on Saturday and that he also feared getting arrested along with Imran Khan, though he said that he felt jails were the house of his in-laws and pairs of handcuffs his ornaments. Referring to over 150 FIRs lodged across the country against PTI and AML leaders under blasphemy charges in connection with the Masjid-e-Nabwi incident, Rasheed said that "fake" cases were being created by the PML-N led government. —Online

S Arabia agrees to augment its \$3b support for Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Miftah Ismail has said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has vowed to provide support to Pakistan and its economy by augmenting the \$3 billion deposit with the State Bank of Pakistan and further enhancing the financing of petroleum products and supporting the economic structural reforms for the benefit of the country and its people.

Miftah posted a tweet on Sunday quoting excerpts of joint statement on the visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to the Kingdom.

He wrote: "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia affirmed its continued support to Pakistan and its economy including the discussion of augmenting the three billion USD deposit with the central bank through term extension or otherwise, and

exploring options to further enhance the financing of petroleum products and supporting the economic structural reforms for the benefit of Pakistan and its people. Pakistan greatly appreciates the continued strong support of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan."

Earlier, Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have affirmed their stance to consolidate security and stability, renounce violence, extremism and terrorism, support the unity and independence of the countries of the region and their territorial integrity, as well as to give priority to political solutions that bring prosperity & progress to the region and its people.

In the political context, the two sides exchanged views on issues of mutual concern in the regional and international lev-

els, and agreed on the importance to continue coordinating their positions in a way that serves their interests, said a joint statement issued at the conclusion of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's three-day official visit to the KSA.

The prime minister along with a delegation visited the KSA at the invitation of Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman. The two sides agreed to continue exchanging support and coordination in international organizations and forums and stressed the importance of all countries' commitment to the United Nations Charter and the principles of international law, adherence to the principles of good neighborliness, respect for the unity and sovereignty of states, non-interference in internal affairs, and striving to resolve dis-

FIQH-E-HANFIA

SEHR	IFTAR
3:49	6:44

FIQH-E-JAFRIA

SEHR	IFTAR
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HYDERABAD: Pakistan Trade Union Defense Campaign workers participate in rally to mark World Labour Day outside the Press Club.

Country urgently needs labour-friendly policies: Sherry

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman on Saturday in her message on Labour Day being observed on Sunday said the country urgently needed labour-friendly policies and measures to rectify the devastation of the former PTI-led government.

In her message issued here, she said, "On Labor Day, I pay tribute to the working people of the world, including Pakistan".

Senator Sherry Rehman said the former government's anti-labour measures increased unemployment and labour exploitation in the country.

She said the PTI government had



claimed to bring reforms in the labour market and 10 million jobs, adding, "Where are the labour market reforms, labor policy and 10 mil-

lion jobs?" The Minister said the working class instead received ban on labor unions and got inflation and unemployment. "The PPP introduced a labour policy in 1972 to protect the rights of Pakistani workers. The Sindh government has formulated its own provincial labour policy since the 18th amendment", Senator Sherry Rehman underscored. She added that every government should work for the rights and welfare of the workers.

The current government has announced to raise the minimum monthly wage to Rs25,000 which is a welcoming start, Senator Sherry Rehman said. —APP