



Zelensky visits war-damaged city outside Kyiv

# The Business

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Solar water plants to be installed in remote areas of Cholistan: CM

## FATF reaffirms objective of strengthening economy: FM

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Sunday while welcoming Financial Action Task Force's unanimous acknowledgment of completion of action plans, reaffirmed that the government of Pakistan was committed to continue this positive trajectory of reforming the financial sector as part of its larger strategic objective of strengthening the economy.

The foreign minister, in a statement issued by the Foreign Office spokesperson, said that announcement by the FATF plenary of granting an on-site visit to Pakistan was a welcome development. It also reflected the remarkable progress made by Pakistan to enhance the effectiveness

of its AML/CFT regime, he added. "I am certain that this good news from FATF will restore confidence in Pakistan's economy and act as a catalyst for sustained growth and development. Let me reiterate the Government of Pakistan's high level commitment to continue aligning our AML/CFT regime with global standards," the foreign minister said. He said that they looked forward to the on-site visit and a successful and early culmination of the process leading to Pakistan's exit from the grey list. Foreign Minister Bilawal also commended the hard work and dedicated efforts of Pakistan's FATF team that led to the successful completion of all technical requirements. —APP



LAHORE: Usama Ashfaq Sarwar & Abdullah Ashfaq Sarwar call on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

## PM okays constitution of task force to execute minority rights

■ Task force to monitor all affairs of protection of rights of minorities in light of decisions taken by Apex court

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has approved the formation of a task force to oversee the implementation of the rights of minorities after the National Assembly (NA) unanimously passed a resolution over the matter, it emerged on Sunday.

A notification dated June 15 issued by the Prime Minister's Office stated: "In light of the resolution passed by the National Assembly on May 9, 2022, the prime minister has been pleased to approve the constitution of task force on minorities to oversee the implementation of rights of minorities in light with the decision of the Apex court."

The task force, comprising 23 parliamentarians, senators and ex-officio members, will be headed by MNA Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, who is also the patron-in-chief of the Pakistan Hindu Council. According to the "terms of reference" enlisted in the notification, the chairman of the task force will hold the status of a federal minister, while the body will play an advisory role. "The task force shall monitor and oversee all the affairs of the protection of rights of minorities in the light of decisions taken by the Apex court," it said, adding that the body will also have to submit quarterly reports on the developments to the premier. Moreover, all the

provincial governments and administrations have been instructed in the notification to provide full support and assistance to the task force in discharging its functions. Following the orders, Dr Vankwani took to Twitter saying that such a step had been taken "for the first time in the history of Pakistan".

"Parliamentarians unanimously passed a resolution to set up a task force for the rights of minorities and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif passed orders on its implementation ... this reflects concrete steps taken by the present government for the protection of minorities," he tweeted. As chairman of the task force, Vankwani continued, "I would like to address the feelings of insecurity of the minorities. Recommendations will be made for the solution of the problems faced by the minorities and we will take people from all the segments of the society along with us," Dr Vankwani promised, asserting that countering anti-Pakistan propaganda regarding minorities at the global level was the top priority of the task force.

He further went on that eight years ago, on June 19, the Supreme Court delivered a landmark judgment which "gave a glimmer of hope to minorities across the country". During this time, the governments of PTI chairman Imran Khan and PML-N

supremo Nawaz Sharif ended. "Finally, in this coalition government, the implementation took place," he added. Dr Vankwani promised that he would soon launch a new campaign for the protection of the rights of minorities in collaboration with the members of Parliament, civil society, human rights activists, friends of the media and diplomats.

**PM announces nationwide CPR training programme**

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has announced a nationwide training programme of health Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) to save human lives in emergency.

He has directed the head of Strategic Reforms Unit Salman Sufi to initiate the plan immediately to save people.

Salman Sufi, in a statement, said CPR training programme of international standard will help save lives of people.

He said CPR will also be included in curriculum at school level besides training of every citizen during the campaign. Salman Sufi said an action plan for nationwide training drive will be announced next week. He further said that Prime Minister would announce a reform programme in health sector in coming days and CPR training is first step to this direction. —Agencies

## NAB asks citizens to file complaints against fake housing schemes

ISLAMABAD: National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has asked the people cheated by illegal housing scheme's management, companies, individuals to submit their complaints/compensation claims by July 20 for getting back their looted money. According to an announcement of NAB Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the bureau was conducting investigations against Messers Qartaba Model Town, Peshawar, on the allegations of receiving money from the people by fraudulent means by promising them plots in aforementioned housing scheme.

The applications of complaints and compensation claims should be submitted to Deputy Director (Coordination), Investigation Wing, II, NAB, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Phase V, Hayatabad, Peshawar.

Meanwhile, the NAB, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has sought compensation claims from the people cheated by different housing schemes, including management of Al Haram Society, Kohat, Pakistan Railways Employees Housing Society, Nowshera, and individuals including Faheem ur Rehman, Waseem ur Rehman sons of Abdul Aziz, Shahzada son of Abdul Wadood, Akhtar Nawaz Khan son of Umer Daraz Khan, Adil Khan son of Abdullah Khan, Shahada Yar Khan son of Mehboob Khan, Peshawar, Ha-keemullah son of Naseebullah, Tehsil Bat Khela, District Malakand and others to submit their compensation claims to Deputy Director (Cooperation), Investigation Wing III, NAB, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Phase V, Hayatabad, Peshawar by July 7, during office hours.

The applications along with supporting documents including a copy of Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC), authentic copies of original documents, payment receipts of the looted money, affidavit should be submitted to Deputy Director (Cooperation), Investigation Wing III, NAB, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Phase V, Hayatabad, Peshawar within the stipulated time. —APP

## Balochistan govt presents budget today

QUETTA: The Balochistan government would unveil its balanced, relief-oriented and pro-people budget for the upcoming fiscal year, with a total outlay of more than Rs 620 billion.

The Balochistan government, led by Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), will present its budget for the fiscal year 2022-23 in the Provincial Assembly today (Monday).

Provincial Finance Minister Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran would present the budget for the year 2022-23 in the Balochistan Assembly. The government is expected to announce over Rs 250 billion development budget under Public Sector Development Programme and the outlay of non-developmental funds for the next fiscal year 2022-23 is likely to more than Rs 350 billion.

According to finance department sources, more than 5,000 new posts would be created in the new budget.

A major chunk of budget would allocated for health, education, agriculture, food, rural development, communication, law and order, irrigation and drinking water and other sectors which will change the destiny of the people of Balochistan. More money would be allocated for clean water schemes. Education, health, law and order are among the priorities of the government. —APP

**Khurram Dastgir arrives in Tehran on 4-day visit**

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Power Engineer Khurram Dastgir Khan on Sunday reached Tehran on a four-day to discuss the import of electricity from Iran.

The minister was received by Iranian Deputy Minister of Energy for International

## Govt retracts decision to import 6,00,000 tonnes of sugar

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has decided to retract its decision to import 6,00,000 tons of sugar, claiming it will be more expensive than the domestically produced sugar. According to Ministry of Trade sources, the government has decided not to import sugar from other countries and fulfill requirements from locally produced sugar. The decision has been made to lessen the trade deficit of the country.

Trade ministry sources said that imported sugar would coast around Rs110 per kg while locally produced sugar costs Rs90 per kg. The county has surplus

reserves of sugar, the sources say.

There are sufficient reserves of sugar, oil and flour in the country, the trade ministry said. The import bill for food items has gone up to Rs29 billion. Earlier on April 15, the federal government has announced to ban the export of sugar, saying the ban would drop sugar prices and provide relief to the people. According to details, the decision was made in the session chaired by Prime Minister Shahbaz Shareef. The government claims that the export ban would lessen the prices and provide relief to the people. —APP

## 'Pak-Kyrgyzstan PTA to boost economic integration'

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan to Pakistan Ulanbek Totuiaev on Sunday said that the bilateral Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan would not only increase the trade volume between the two countries but also act as a catalyst for regional economic integration.

Talking to APP, Ulanbek Totuiaev said the implementation of the PTA would serve as a prolific accelerator for enhancement of trade between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan. "In this regard, I consider it meaningful for both our governments and, especially, concerned authori-

ties to point out specific areas of interest, in which bilateral trade can be the most efficient and mutually profitable."

The ambassador said by completing this process, both sides will have all necessary information for designing, successful implementation, and further effective usage of the PTA.

Replying to a question, he said that since Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan had highly developed agricultural sectors, there was a great potential for the development of cooperation in this sphere. "In particular, Kyrgyzstani agricultural companies can export dairy products, meat, dry fruits, honey and raw leather. —APP

## Masses have rejected Imran's protest call, says Marriyum

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Sunday that the people of Pakistan have rejected the negative politics of Imran Khan and his call for agitation would prove a miserable flop.

In a tweet in response to former prime minister Imran Khan's call of protest on Sunday night, she said that the people of Pakistan have recognised his fake and hypocritical face.

Taking a jibe on Imran, she said that those who ran away on the night of May 25 now wanted to spread chaos and anarchy in the country over inflation caused by their own inefficient regime as the PTI's narrative of "foreign conspiracy" had been buried. Why should the people take to streets for those who sold national interest for a few dia-

monds, she asked.

She said why should the people come to protest on the call of a hypocrite who plundered national wealth when in power.

Why should the people come out for a person who deprived the working class of employment and their livelihood, she said, adding, why should the people respond to the call of those who were responsible for inflation, economic catastrophe and unemployment in the country. She said that the people would not respond to the call of those who created the "storm of inflation" and signed agreements with the IMF on weak grounds.

Why should the people come out on the call of those who increased flour price from Rs 35 per kg to Rs 90, and sugar price from Rs 52 to Rs 120. The

minister maintained that the people would not pay any heed to the protest call of those who had launched a "bloody march" last month and shot dead policemen performing their duty.

"Why should the people go out to protest for those who wanted the country divided into three parts and who sold national interest in exchange of diamond rings for four years. The people would not take part in protest demonstrations for those who borrowed record money during their four-year tenure and sold Kashmir and created division in the country. The minister said that the government was correcting the economic direction of the country and at this critical juncture, no violent protests would be allowed. Govt committed to put national economy on right path: Marriyum —APP



KARACHI: Indian fishermen show their names as exit the Malir Jail following their release in Provincial Capital.

## Sino-Pak institutions sign MoU to boost agri ties

BEIJING: Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) and Yunnan Academy of Agricultural Sciences (YAAS) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to promote agricultural cooperation between Pakistan and China at an online ceremony held in Beijing and Kunming.

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque, and President of YAAS, Dr. Jihua Wang signed the MoU.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Moin ul Haque highlighted the importance attached by the Government of Pakistan and China for cooperation in the field of agriculture.

He noted that the Joint Working Group on Agriculture under CPEC is working on Joint Action Plan and recently China-Pakistan Green Corridor was also launched to further streamline cooperation in the areas of food security, new seed development, crops yield, corporate farming, irrigation etc.

Ambassador Moin ul Haque expressed confidence that partnership between PARC and YAAS would contribute to strengthening China-Pakistan agriculture cooperation.

Dr. Jihua Wang welcomed the signing of MoU extending YAAS's old association with PARC. Noting a

wider range of research and development carried by Yunnan Academy in the Agriculture field specialization plant protection and pest control, he expressed happiness to share their experiences and expertise with Pakistan.

Under the MoU a Plant Protection Innovation Joint Sub-Laboratory will be set up in PARC through support of YAAS. Both sides will work to strengthen cooperation in cross-border agricultural pest research, talent cultivation and scientific and technological training.

It is to be noted that the agreement is an extension of a 2014 cooperation between PARC and PARC. —APP