

## Gold price increases Rs450 to Rs151,550 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed an increase of Rs 450 on Wednesday and was sold at Rs 151,550 against its sale at Rs 151,100 the previous day. The price of 10 gram 24 karat also increased by Rs 386 and was sold at Rs 129,930 against Rs 129,544; whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat went down to Rs 119,102 against its sale at Rs 118,748. All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs 1,590 and Rs 1,363.13 respectively. —FOSC

# The Business

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## CM KP approves proposals to strengthen Police Department

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Mahmood Khan has principally approved several proposals for strengthening of the police department in the province, especially in the newly merged districts, adding that peace is paramount for progress and development. Mahmood Khan has reiterated his stance for extending all available resources to strengthen the police department on modern lines as per contemporary requirements. Chairing the 10th meeting of the Provincial Task Force. —APP

## ICCI for amending firefighting rules for buildings

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) President, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari here on Wednesday invited Director, Emergency and Disaster Management, MCI Syed Kashif Shah, and discussed the concerns of the business community on the firefighting rules of MCI.

He highlighted the difficulties being faced by the business community in implementing the firefighting rules of MCI in industrial and commercial buildings, said an ICCI press release. It was not possible to implement these rules in the existing industrial and commercial buildings as it needed a lot of changes in building structures, he added.

He stressed that MCI should implement these rules in new buildings and amend them in consultation with stakeholders to make them practicable for old and existing commercial and industrial buildings. The president also proposed to form a committee comprising representatives of ICCI and MCI to review and amend the building codes and firefighting requirements of MCI to make them implementable in the existing industrial and commercial buildings.

Syed Kashif Shah said that he was not authorized to amend the firefighting rules.

However, he assured that he would convey the reservations of the business community on these rules to the relevant authority of MCI. He said that MCI wanted to implement these firefighting rules in public and private sector buildings in a uniform way for the safety of occupants and assets.

Senior Vice President Faad Waheed, Vice President ICCI Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Group Leader Khalid Iqbal Malik, Zafar Bakhtawari, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Khalid Chaudhry and others also highlighted the difficulties being faced by the business community in implementing the firefighting rules of MCI and stressed for amending them to make them affordable and implementable for business community. —APP

## Alvi asks OPs to contribute more for country progress

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi has called upon Overseas Pakistanis to contribute more to the progress and prosperity of the country by sharing their knowledge, experience, intellect, and expertise in different fields.

Addressing an event regarding Overseas Pakistanis in Islamabad on Wednesday, he said Pakistan desperately needs educated, trained, refined and highly productive human resource. He called upon all stakeholders, government and private sector to take concrete and meaningful steps to create enabling conditions for the retention of productive human resource. He noted the physical resources of a country remain unexploited due to a shortage of trained manpower.

Appreciating the efforts and contributions of overseas Pakistanis, the President said there are around ten million Pakistanis living abroad and they are all ambassadors of Pakistan. He asked them to use formal banking channels for the transfer of remittances so that their hard earned money could properly be used for the progress of the country. Arif Alvi said that right to vote through internet is possible and it is the need of the hour to facilitate overseas Pakistanis to exercise their right. —Online

## Sinovac Global VP visits PCJCCI Secretariat

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Chinese delegation, led by Gao Qiang, Vice President of Sinovac Global met S.M Naveed, Chairman Special Economic Zones/ former President PCJCCI and Salahuddin Hanif at Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) Secretariat late Wednesday.

S.M Naveed, Chairman SEZs/former President PCJCCI shared that the CM Punjab said that the Sinovac Company will be provided land on a priority basis in CPEC Industrial Estate Faisalabad. All the required facilities will be provided to the company in Punjab; he said and added that this project will not only benefit Punjab but the whole of Pakistan and it will be carried forward on a fast-track basis to ensure early completion.

He further added that we thank Sinovac Company for supplying vaccines to Pakistan during the Corona epidemic. Planning a factory to manufacture plasma medicine products in Punjab is a big step, and we hope that this project will definitely help in saving the lives of people at massive scale.

Gao Qiang, Vice President Sinovac Global said that we are going to invest 200 million dollar (about 45 billion rupees) in Punjab by setting up a factory to manufacture plasma medicine products in Punjab which will cost about 45 billion rupees. It will also export items worth 500 million dollar. This project will create new employment opportunities and will become a new example for Pakistan-China friendship, he added.

Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) said that there is a dire need to take notice of the resources and provide maximum support to the developers in order to succeed and achieve our targeted goal. He added that Pakistan could look at China's experience which has drawn the arbitration rules from the West. He added that I feel so proud that SEZs are flourishing this way under the leadership of S.M Naveed and definitely open up new vistas of opportunities for the business community.



ISLAMABAD: Meeting of the Minister for Economic Affairs, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq with Ms Henny Fokel de Vries, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands.

## IHC CJ Minallah stresses 'judiciary not scared of criticism'

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice Athar Minallah Wednesday maintained that criticism improves judges, but also spoke about its ineffectiveness on the judiciary.

"We will also be accountable. We are not scared of criticism," the chief justice reiterated after inaugurating and laying the foundation of the Legal Facilitation Centre of Islamabad High Court's newly-constructed building. The ceremony was attended by the IHC chief justice, newly-appointed Law Minister Ayaz Sadiq, former law minister Azam Nazir Tarar, high court judges, and session judges. Justice Minallah admitted that the judiciary is facing several challenges.

"We cannot change the 70-year-old system with a magic wand. There is a need to strengthen the justice system through reforms. I hope the state will fulfil its promise to provide inexpensive justice to citizens," he said, stressing on the need to change the system. In relation to the reform system, the IHC's top judge informed that he has done the paperwork and has taken the federal government on board.

The chief justice congratulated lawyers at the occasion, highlighting that these buildings are meaningless if petitioners do not get inexpensive and expeditious justice. "Our existence is for the petitioner. Are we trusted by the petitioner as we should be?" the chief justice told lawyers, admitting that it is not the case.

He also requested political leaders to

play their role in restoring public trust. The IHC's top judge shared that he found out through Article 7 that there is no mention of the judiciary in the state's interpretation.

"People should get inexpensive and expeditious justice. This is our goal. Restoration of trust is our intention, as it is the petitioner's right," Justice Minallah said asserting the need to restore the nation's trust in the judiciary. During his address, he insisted that judges and lawyers exist for the petitioner, and it was their goal to serve the public. "This should not stop at [constructing] buildings. The state will fulfil its commitment to provide inexpensive and expeditious justice to the citizens," the chief justice said, addressing the ceremony.

Also speaking at the ceremony, Law Minister Sadiq emphasised on the need for strengthening democratic institutions in the country. "If anyone of us is aggrieved by any court decision, we may criticise or disagree with the judgment and not the entire institution, as by doing so we may weaken our judiciary," the minister said, adding that political pressures should not be imposed on the judiciary to ensure rule of law.

The minister said that those who get the decision in their favour feel happy, while those who don't criticise the judiciary. "Judiciary should be respected," he remarked during his address. Law Minister Ayaz Sadiq addressing the inauguration event of the Legal Facilitation Centre of Islamabad High Court's newly-constructed building in Islamabad, on November 2, 2022. — YouTube/PTVNewsLive. Informing attendees about his second day since assuming of-

office as the law minister, Sadiq shared his delight to be present during the inauguration.

The minister said that a lot changed after General Musharraf's era and lawyers stood up for rule of law. Commenting on PTI Chairman Imran Khan's remarks on martial law a day earlier, the minister said: "Sad to hear statements regarding martial law. We need to strengthen the democratic system. Leaders who talk about martial law should learn from the past."

The minister also congratulated Justice Minallah and Justice Aamer Farooq for their Supreme Court nomination.

**Sehat Sahulat Card statistics released**  
On the direction of Punjab Health Minister Dr. Yasmin Rashid, the Department of Specialized Health and Medical Education has released the statistics related to Sehat Sahulat Card. According to the statistics, more than 25 lacs 78 thousand people in Punjab have received free treatment facility through Sehat Sahulat Card.

So far, the people of Punjab have received free treatment of more than 56 billion and 94 crore rupees through sehat sahulat card. 792 government and private hospitals have been empaneled to provide free treatment facilities to the people of Punjab through sehat sahulat card. Provincial Health Secretary Muhammad Usman said that the people of Punjab are getting free treatment facilities from 184 government and 608 private hospitals through Sehat Sahulat Card. More than 5 lacs and 59 thousands people have got free facility of dialysis in Punjab through sehat sahulat card.

## SC wants Imran Khan to explain May 25 incidents

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Imran Khan has been directed by the Supreme Court to give an explanation on the incidents of May 25, 2022, over the government's contempt of court plea against the former prime minister. Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial questioned the circumstances surrounding the conveyance of judicial orders to the Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI) chair during the May 25 long march of PTI.

The federal government filed a contempt of court plea against Khan regarding his party's long march to Islamabad. In its petition, the government has contended that "Imran Khan is making announcements to attack Islamabad", which it claimed was a violation of a court order. It urged the apex court to direct the Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI) chief to ensure the implementation of its orders related to protests and sit-ins.

A five-member bench, headed by CJP Umar Ata Bandial was hearing the case, while SC Bar Association President Ahsan Bhoon appeared in court. Bhoon informed the court that he is representing PTI lawyers Babar Awan and Faisal Chaudhry, who had been served notices.

At this, CJP Bandial said that the court didn't serve any notices but only sought replies from the two lawyers. He said that the court will hear the arguments by the government's lawyer and the replies will be examined later. During the hearing, Additional Attorney General Amir Rehman maintained that Imran Khan has sought time for a detailed response.

"Khan had given a surety but he has expressed unawareness towards any assurance or the judicial orders," he said.

At this, CJP Bandial inquired about the difference of time between the first and second orders of the court on May 25.

After the response by the additional at-

torney general, the CJP remarked that the time between the two orders was for taking directives. The court wasn't informed about from whom the directives were taken, he added. At this, Rehman told the court that as per Faisal Chaudhry, the directives were taken from Asad Umar as he couldn't speak to Khan.

CJP Bandial asked why wasn't the court informed if anyone couldn't be contacted.

"This needs to be explained. The court had trusted Babar Awan and Faisal Chaudhry. None of them said that they didn't get the directives," CJP Bandial said.

Justice Umar Ata Bandial remarked how did Imran Khan know about the court order. He said that the assurance was given by senior PTI leadership assured and it starts from Imran Khan. "Imran Khan sought time for a detailed answer," he added. The court sought an explanation from Imran Khan on the incidents that occurred on May 25.

## Awareness Session on Punjab Rozgar Scheme held

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) on Wednesday organised a session on "Punjab Rozgar Scheme in collaboration with Punjab Small Industries Corporation at LCCI.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar, Senior Vice President Chaudhry Zafar Mahmood, Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt, Project Director of Punjab Rozgar Scheme Shahzeb Hssan Kirmani and experts from different sectors spoke on the occasion. Project Director of Punjab Rozgar Scheme Shahzeb Hssan Kirmani said that Punjab Rozgar Scheme is a flagship initiative of Government of the Punjab designed with the total cost of Rs. 30,000.00 million (Rs. 30 billion) to provide subsidized credit facilities to the micro, small and medium (MSMEs) startups and existing business in collaboration with Commercial Banks. Government of the Punjab will provide Markup Support and Risk Coverage to minimize cost of commercial loans for the MSMEs, and to overcome pandemic effect of COVID-19 on existing business. He said that Punjab Rozgar Scheme has been designed with special focus on generating employment opportunities for the youth by creating economic activities. University Graduates with Entrepreneurial Skills and Diploma / Certificate holders of Technical / Vocational Training Institutes, as well as existing businesses hit by COVID-19 will be considered.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar said that the Punjab Rozgar Scheme launched by Government of Punjab will support the new start-ups and also mitigate the harmful impacts caused by COVID-19 on existing businesses. It was good to know that The Bank of Punjab has collaborated with Punjab Small Industries Corporation for this useful initiative of the Govt.

## 'Bloody march continues to claim innocent lives'

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Wednesday said innocent people were losing lives due to the "bloody march" of Imran Khan, "who is bent upon creating chaos and anarchy to satisfy his ego in achieving ulterior motives".

"The people are fully aware that Imran Khan is a thief, dacoit, liar, incompetent and foreign-funded Fitna," she said in a news statement while reacting to Imran Khan's addresses to the long march. She said the "foreign funded Fitna" had admitted that he was in pain for not getting an opportunity to appoint the new army chief. Marriyum said Imran Khan's conspiracies would not work as it was Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif who had legal and constitutional rights to appoint the new army chief.

The minister said Imran Khan had already admitted that he had offered a lifetime extension to the army chief for saving his government. The "mark of disgrace" was clearly visible on his (Imran) face, she added. "Whether he whines, screams or bemoans, nothing will matter as it is Shehbaz Sharif who holds the government (in center)," she asserted. She asked Imran Khan why he had failed to produce a single piece of evidence against PM Shehbaz Sharif in a court of law to prove the false cases filed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) government against the latter.

## Murree tragedy: LHC bans illegal constructions

From Our Staff Correspondent

RAWALPINDI: The Lahore High Court (LHC), Rawalpindi bench on Wednesday while announcing a reserved verdict over the Murree tragedy banned the illegal construction there.

It is pertinent to mention that on January 7, at least 22 tourists stranded in their vehicles succumbed to the extreme weather during a snowstorm in Murree. The LHC's Justice Chaudhry Abdul Aziz announced the verdict, which was reserved on May 7 after 24 hearings.

In its verdict, the court ordered that compensation should be increased for the people who were martyred in the Murree tragedy and also directed efforts to improve the waste management system in the city. The court also banned cutting trees and directed officials to eliminate encroachments, regulate hotels, and residential flats in Murree.

## China to back stabilising Pak financial situation

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Chinese companies for addressing the water shortage in Karachi. PM Shehbaz thanked Chinese companies for taking "special interest" in Pakistan's development projects, particularly the Gwadar port and Main Line-1 railway track.

He expressed confidence that "strong business and investment linkages between Pakistan and China will lead to further cementing of bilateral relations," the PMO said. PM Shehbaz assured the businessmen and investors of foolproof security to Chinese personnel working in Pakistan, especially those working on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). "Across-the-board security will be ensured for those deputed on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project and other joint initiatives," the PMO statement quoted him as saying, adding that he also extended condolences over the deaths of

Chinese men and women who had lost their lives while working in Pakistan.

PM Shehbaz concluded the meeting by expressing gratitude for the "generous support" extended by China in the wake of massive floods in Pakistan. This is PM Shehbaz's first official visit to China since he became premier in April. He is heading a high-level delegation, including federal ministers, special assistants as well as the Sindh Chief Minister. The premier is among the first world leaders to visit China following the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China that re-elected Xi as the party's general secretary last month.

**Steps taken to improve Chinese Nationals' security: PM**

Prime Minister Shehbaz said on Wednesday the steps are being taken to improve the security of Chinese Nationals. All the Chinese Nationals security level will be the same, he said. During the meet-

ing with Chinese investors, Prime Minister expressed condolence over the death of Chinese brothers and sisters. Culprits of killed Chinese Nationals have been arrested, he said, and the exemplary punishment will be awarded to them. The security of Chinese Nationals working on CPEC and other projects will be made sure. He also said that the lives of Chinese brothers and sisters are dear to us like our own brothers and sisters.

**PM holds talks with Chinese President in Beijing**

PM Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday held a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, at the Great Hall of People in Beijing and discussed a wide range of bilateral matters, the prime minister's office said.

The Chinese president announced an additional assistance package of RMB 500 million for Pakistan's post-flood relief and rehabilitation efforts, according to a statement. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif con-

gratulated President Xi on his reelection as General Secretary of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

He also thanked him for China's invaluable assistance to Pakistan's relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in the wake of devastation caused by super floods in the country. The two leaders reviewed the progress in Pakistan-China bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest.

They reaffirmed their commitment to the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between the two countries that has withstood the test of time. The two nations have stood firmly side by side, in realizing their shared vision of peace, stability, development and prosperity. Reaffirming Pakistan's unique historic ties with China and salience of bilateral friendship for regional peace and stability, PM Shehbaz strongly reaffirmed. —Agencies