Turkey ready to further strengthen Türkiye-Pakistan relations: Erdoğan

## **ANKARA**

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif of Pakistan held a joint press conference following their meeting at the Presidential Complex on June 1.

"We stand ready to further strengthen the Türkiye-Pakistan relations with a strategic perspective and in line with the history, friendship and potential between the two countries", Erdoğan said.

He recalled that 2022 marked the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between Turkey and Pakistan.

"We are pleased with the tangible cooperation projects recently developed with Pakistan in the area of defense industry. Our jointly-built corvette as part of the MILGEM Project sets an important example in this sense", he added.

He underscored that the bilateral trade between the two countries had been boosted despite the pandemic, and that the bilateral trade volume had for the first time since 2011 exceeded 1 billion dollars.

Erdoğan thanked the Pakistani officials for the measures, taken against the FETO's structuring in Pakistan, and the support provided to Turkey's fight against this terrorist organization.

"We support Pakistan in its fight against terror in all its forms", he said.

He also touched upon the situation in Afghanistan.

"Lasting stability in Afghanistan is of critical importance in terms of averting such threats as terrorist acts and new irregular migration waves in the region"

"We exert joint efforts to help the Afghan people and overcome the repercussions of the humanitarian crisis in the country", he said.