

# Independent

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Gwadar

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No new taxes for the upcoming year

## Govt presents Rs14.46 trillion relief, growth-oriented budget

**Announces ad hoc relief allowance of 35% for grade 1-16 officers and 30% for grade 17-22; Okayed an increase in pensions by 17.5%; Increases the minimum wage to Rs. 32,000; Proposes an allocation of Rs950 billion for development; Country's defence and civil administration, Rs 1.8 trillion and Rs 714 billion would be provided respectively; No increase in duties on import of essential items;**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 15-month-old coalition government on Friday presented its second business-friendly, relief and development-oriented Federal Budget for the fiscal year 2023-24, with a total outlay of Rs14.46 trillion, aimed at coping with the inherited economic challenges and laying the foundation for a sustainable, inclusive and resilient economy.

sufferings of the inflation-hit common man, transform the agriculture sector, promote Information Technology, increase exports and boost business activities. Unveiling the budgetary measures, the minister announced the government's major relief to increase the salaries of government employees from 30 to 35 percent on ad-hoc basis and 17.5 percent enhancement in the pensions of the retired persons realizing their financial hardships due to the increased inflation.

Besides, the government fixed the minimum pension at Rs 12,000 and increased minimum monthly wage from Rs 25,000 to Rs 32,000 within the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). The minister said there was a proposal to enhance the pension of Employees' Old-Age Benefits Institution (EOBI) from Rs 8,500 to Rs 10,000.

It would itself pay up to Rs 1 million loans of the Housing Building Finance Corporation (HBFC) owed by the widows of government employees. The minister said the deposit limit of CDNS (Central Directorate of National Savings) Shuhada Account and Behood Saving Certificates would be increased from Rs 5 million to Rs 7.5 million. To achieve the sustained path of progress and prosperity, he said a real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth target of 3.5 percent had been fixed for the next fiscal year against the existing GDP rate of 0.29 percent after the government put the national economy in the right direction with tough and timely corrective decisions.

(FBR) for the next fiscal year had been fixed at Rs 9.2 trillion, including provincial share of Rs 5.276 trillion. The federal non-tax revenues, he added, would be Rs 2.963 trillion while total income of the Federal Government would be Rs 6.887 billion.



### Highlights of PSDP 2023-24

- ISLAMABAD (APP): Following are the highlights of allocations under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for various ministries and divisions for the fiscal year 2023-24 announced by the federal government here on Friday:
- Total outlay of the PSDP for the fiscal year 2023-24 is Rs 2,709 trillion.
- The share of the federal PSDP is Rs 1,150 billion while that of the provincial PSDP is Rs 1,559 trillion.
- Rs 5,450 million has been earmarked for Aviation Division.
- Board of Investment will get Rs 1114.760 million.
- Rs 90,120 million has been earmarked for Cabinet Division.
- The Climate Change Division will get Rs 4,050 million.
- Rs 1,100 million has been earmarked for Commerce Division.
- Rs 360,390 million are allocated for Communication Division (other than NHA).
- Rs 3,400 million has been earmarked for Defence Division.
- Rs 2,000 million has been allocated for Defence Production Division.
- Rs 840 million are allocated for Establishment Division.
- The Federal Education and Professional Training Division will get Rs 8,500 million.
- Rs 3,220 million has been allocated for Finance Division.
- Rs 167,900 million has been earmarked for Provinces and Special Areas.
- The Higher Education Commission (HEC) will get Rs 59,700 million.
- Rs 40,680 million has been earmarked for Housing and Working Division.
- Rs 814 million will be provided to Human Rights Division.
- Rs 3,000 million has been earmarked for Industries and Production Division.
- Rs 2,000 million are allocated for Information and Broadcasting Division.
- Rs 6,000 million will be provided to Information Technology and Telecom Division.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif signing Budget 2023-24 documents after its approved by the Cabinet to be laid before the National Assembly.

### Kakar visits Gwadar Varsity & Pak-China Institute: Governor calls for preparing comprehensive strategy to cope with challenges

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has underlined the need to prepare a comprehensive strategy to tackle the present challenges being faced by the province. He said that the policy of taking all on board can put the country and province on path of sustainable development.

He also inspected different parts of the Institute and had interaction over the available facilities with the students there. He said that the world has turned into global village thanks to the information technology. He said that our competition is with the youth and people of the modern world, as such we have to impart quality education and training to our youth in view of the future day needs.

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Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar presiding over a ceremony in Gwadar. Deputy Commissioner Gwadar Izzat Nazir Baloch is also present

### 31 containers carrying goods of cold storage reach Gwadar port

Independent Report QUETTA: In all 31 containers carrying construction material for the cold storage reached at the Gwadar port the other day. According to the reports reaching here, the containers load of the cold storage cargos arrived from China at the Gwadar free zone. The cargo includes the construction material used for cold storage of the raw material of different medicines. The goods material would be used for construction of the cold storage units in the Hengang Agriculture Park. It may be mentioned here that this is second consignment of the cargo this year. The first consignment had reached in January this year. The third consignment is due to arrive from China in next couple of months.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjarani, MNA Muhammad Khalid Magsi and Senator Naseebullah Bazai called on the Prime Minister Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif. Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazir Farar was also present in the meeting.

### Directs to release arrears of PPL immediately: PM constitutes high powered committee for solution of financial issues of Balochistan

Committee comprising members of provincial and national assembly to meet on Monday; recommendations of committee to be included in federal budget

Independent Report QUETTA: The Prime Minister Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif has constituted a high-power committee for resolving the financial issues of Balochistan. The committee comprising the members of provincial and national assemblies would meet on upcoming Monday to discuss the financial situation of the province besides other related matters. The recommendations of the parliamentary committee would be included in the federal budget. The development came during the important meeting of the Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjarani and parliamentarians of Balochistan Awami Party

(BAP), MNA Nawabzada Khalid Khan Magsi and Senator Naseebullah Bazai with the Prime Minister in Islamabad on Friday. The meeting was held ahead of the federal budget session. Needless to mention here that the Chief Minister and BAP President, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo had announced boycott of the federal budget session because of the province's reservations and apprehensions over the federal government's response towards the financial issues. During the course of meeting, the financial matters facing Balochistan were discussed threadbare. The reservations raised by the Chief Minister Bizenjo also

came up for discussion during the meeting. On the occasion, the Prime Minister directed to release the arrears of PPL to Balochistan immediately. Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister said that BAP is our strong ally in the federation, and as such all reservations of the province would be removed. He said that the development of Balochistan is our top priority. The members of delegation told that the BAP is working for protection of the public interests and prosperity of the province under leadership of its President and Chief Minister, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo.

### Hearing JI plea on Panama Papers Establishing offshore firms 'no crime' says SC judge

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Supreme Court's Justice Sardar Tariq Masood observed on Friday that establishing offshore companies is "no crime", while hearing a Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) plea seeking action against all 436 Pakistanis named in the 2016 Panama Papers. On Nov 3, 2017, the JI had, through an application, reminded the court of its pending petition filed by party emir Sirajul Haq in August 2016. The hearing today was presided over by a two-member bench comprising Justice Masood with Justice Aminuddin Khan. Advocate Ishtiaq was representing the JI in court. During the proceedings, the JI counsel requested the court to form a judicial commission to investigate those named in the Panama Papers. However, Justice Masood raised the question of how it could be done when other institutions existed to be approached for the matter. Subsequently, the apex court adjourned the hearing for a month. At the outset of the hearing, the JI counsel requested the apex court to constitute a judicial commission to further probe the

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ISLAMABAD: Government Employees holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands during the Federal Budget Session 2023-24, outside Parliament House in Islamabad.

### BA approves draft law of Holy Qura'an as compulsory education

Independent Report QUETTA: The Balochistan Assembly has approved the draft law regarding compulsory education of the Holy Qura'an and a resolution for making legislation about National Commission on Non-Muslims in its session here on Friday. The draft law about compulsory education of the Holy Qura'an and resolution was tabled by the Parliamentary Secretary for Minorities and Religious Affairs, Khalil George. The session of assembly was resumed with Deputy Speaker Sardar Babar Khan Musakhail in the chair on Friday. The resolution tabled by Khalil George demanded legislation for forming National Commission on Non-Muslims. In addition to this, the

draft law (amended) of the Balochistan Public Finance Management was also approved in the session. The draft law was tabled by the Provincial Minister for Finance, Engineer Zamarak Khan Achakzai. Earlier, Deputy Speaker Sardar Babar Musakhail summoned the secretaries of Finance and Education on the issue of protest and hunger strike of the government teachers outside the assembly building. Meanwhile, the Provincial Minister Home, Mir Ziaullah Langave said that ours' most of the issues are related to the federal government. He said that the construction and repair of the national highways is to be done by the National Highway Authority (NHA).

### Nawaz Sharif accepts request to lead party in general election

ISLAMABAD (Online): Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah has said Nawaz Sharif has accepted the request to lead party in general election. "He will return to Pakistan 60 to 90 days before election. If PML-N gets majority then Nawaz Sharif will decide about prime minister", he said this talking to media men before federal cabinet meeting.

He went on to say no political engineering is being done at present. Nor any non political engineering is being done too. If one is going to some party on one's own then one cannot be stopped from doing so. He indicated Nawaz Sharif will return to Pakistan before election. He will run election campaign. Mian sabb has to give the date for returning to Pakistan.

### Global terrorist 'mysteriously' dies in Afghanistan

KABUL (INP): Sanaullah Ghafari, commonly referred to as Shahab al-Muhajir, specially designated global terrorist, has met his demise in Afghanistan's Kunar, said authorities on Friday. The death of this high-profile figure marks a major victory in the fight against terrorism, as Ghafari was not only wanted in Pakistan but also internationally.





### Parliamentarians say Govt increases salaries despite financial constraints

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a surprising and generous move, the government has announced a significant increment in the salaries of the employees, despite facing financial constraints. The decision has been hailed by all sections of society, as it demonstrates the government's commitment to supporting the middle class and alleviating their financial burdens, said parliamentarians in the National Assembly on Friday. According to the official announcement, the government has increased salaries by 35 percent for employees in Grade-1 to 16, and by 30 percent for those in grade-17 and above. Additionally, the pension has been raised by 17.5 percent, benefiting retired government personnel. Furthermore, employees with wages would receive Rs.30,000. The decision to increase salaries and pensions comes at a time when many countries including Pakistan are grappling with economic challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath. The parliamentarians said the increment in salaries and pensions is expected to have a positive impact on the lives of the government employees and their families. With the rising cost of living, this move will provide much-needed relief and help mitigate the financial woes faced by the middle class and downtrodden segment of society, they added.



QUETTA: Provincial Health Minister Syed Ehsan Shah offering Dua after inaugurating ENT Department in Civil Hospital

### Senator Qadir terms budget for FY2023-24 people-friendly

QUETTA (APP): Chairman Standing Committee Petroleum, Senator Abdul Qadir on Friday hailed the balanced development approach of the federal government and termed the budget for the Fiscal Year 2023-24 as balanced and people-friendly. Talking to APP, the senator said that, though it was hard to prepare a balanced budget, in view of the prevailing economic crisis, but the sincere and concerted efforts of the incumbent government made it possible to live up to the expectations of the people. Highlighting the salient feature of the FY budget 2023, he hailed the decision of a 30 to 35 per cent increase in the salaries of government employees. "Due to the skyrocketing prices of the daily commodities, government employees were living hand to mouth," he said, adding that an increase of a sizeable amount in the salaries of the government employees will provide utmost relief to them. The senator also welcomed the cut in the import of raw materials of different commercial products as saying the effect of the cut in such products will trickle down to the ordinary and low-income class of the country. The chairman standing committee on petroleum also hailed the federal government's approach of balanced development across the country. The balanced approach pursued by the federal government will remove the sense of deprivation among its federating units, including Balochistan, which always remained on least priority of the previous regimes.

### PBF endorses NEC's decision to close markets, commercial centers by 8pm

QUETTA (APP): Pakistan Business Forum has supported the decision of the National Economic Council to close the markets and commercial centers till 8 pm from July 1, saying that this will be the first step towards a civilized society. Vice Chairperson PBF Balochistan Sana Khan Durrani while talking to the media, said that the measures proposed under the plan to conserve energy, such as closing shops and commercial centers by 8 pm, switching to LED lights to save more energy, could help the country save up to \$1 billion a year. "Even wealthy coun-



TURBAT: Member Chief Minister Inspector Team Shah Irfan Gharsheen inspecting process of test conducted for appointment of teachers

### PTA conducts successful raids against illegal internet service providers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) in coordination with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), carried out two successful raids in Ethad Park Chungi Amer Sidhu, Lahore, and Tehsil Chowk Sarwar Shaheed, District Kot Addu, against illegal internet service providers, operating without a valid license from PTA. During the raids, operational internet setups and allied equipment were confiscated, said a news release. Three persons were arrested by FIA (one in Lahore and two in Kot Addu). The culprits have been taken into custody for further investigation. The successful efforts against illegal internet service providers can be attributed to PTA's unwavering commitment, continuous monitoring, and persistent efforts to curb illegal internet services. These actions are crucial in preventing tax evasion and revenue misreporting, thus curtailing the loss to the national exchequer.



GWADAR: Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar different sections of Pak-China Technical & Vocational Institute

### PM links economy with political stability

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said a country's sound economic growth was linked with its political stability. "Without political stability, even billions of budget could not make a difference in improving the economic situation," he said at the cabinet meeting, which approved the budgetary proposals of the fiscal year 2023-24. The prime minister said the common man was bearing the brunt of inflation, however, the government was taking steps to provide them relief in the budget. The government, he said, accepted all the requirements of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and hoped that a staff-level agreement would be reached in near future. Since assumption of power 14 months ago, he added, it had to deal with the challenge of IMF, post-flood situation and global inflation, he added. He expressed satisfaction that the current deficit in 10 months was reduced to \$3.3 billion and hoped that the agriculture sector would boost. The prime minister appointed Rohail Sheikh as his adviser and expressed the hope that he would fulfill his responsibilities with diligence. The cabinet also accorded approval to the Finance Bill 2023. Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar will present the budgetary proposals with an estimated outlay of Rs 14 trillion in the National Assembly in the evening. This is the second budget in 14 months being presented by the coalition government under the banner of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM). The government in its Economic Survey unveiled on Thursday highlighted its significant economic gains in terms of improved external and fiscal indicators. Even with a significant increase in debt servicing, the fiscal deficit reduced to 4.6 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in July-April FY 2022-23 against 4.9 percent for the same period last year, while the primary balance reversed from deficit to surplus. During the first 11 months of the outgoing fiscal year, the trade deficit was narrowed down by 40 percent and the current account deficit by 76 percent during July 2022-April 2023.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary Malik Naeem Khan Bazzi meeting with Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly Sardar Babar Khan Musakhail

### IGP directs to take action against illegal petrol pumps all over Balochistan

QUETTA: The Inspector General of Police Balochistan, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh has directed the concerned police officials to take action against the illegal petrol pumps operating in the province. According to an official communique issued here on the directives of Inspector General of Police, it was mentioned that several illegal petrol pumps are operating in the province. As these petrol pumps are operating illegally and without valid licenses, these are posing threat to the public and environment. In this regard, the Deputy Inspector General of Police of all ranges and senior Superintendents of Police have been directed to take action against all such illegal petrol pumps, as mentioned in the official letter. Moreover, the IGP also asked the concerned police high ups to submit the report of compliance of crackdown against the illegal petrol pumps within three days.



QUETTA: Senior Vice President Chamber of Commerce and Industries Quetta Agha Gul Khilji addressing a press conference at CCIQ.

### Ahsan Iqbal for excelling in digital technology for national development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday highlighted the importance of getting expertise in the field of digital advancements to match the development pace taking place in the modern world. "In today's world, the digital revolution is re-defining all aspects of life whether it is the living style, way of getting education, doing jobs, governance system. So there is the need of producing such a human resource that fully exploits its potential and attains the second-to-none capabilities in the field of digital technology," he said while addressing an EDTECH conference here. The minister said the nations that adopted the digital revolution achieved success and development, but those who did not embrace faced failure. Ahsan Iqbal said there was a need to align the country's education system with fast-changing trends in technology so that educated and skilled manpower is produced to meet the international standards and get due share in the world markets. He was of the view that creativity and innovation was the key to achieving the required goals of development, and human resource with 'critical thinking' was a must to match the pace of digital technology.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Abdul Aziz Uqailli being briefed about development projects under Quetta Dev. Package

### 5E to be game changer in Pakistan's economic development: Maryam

ISLAMABAD (Online): Information minister Maryam Aurangzeb said 5E will prove game-changer in Pakistan's economic development. Exports, Water and food security, climate, energy, are pillars of equity turn around Pakistan. She said this new frame work will increase imports, and appreciate business and employment. In statement on Friday information minister said Pakistan's development path will pave by promoting education, health and control over population. Cheap and uninterrupted provision of energy will speed up economy and business. Climate will improve through water reserves and food security, she added. Information minister said youth will be developed through E-Pakistan. They will be empowered. She said GDP deficit decreased from 4.9% to 4.6% which proves government right policy. 76% decreased in current account deficit is the sign of right economic policy. 40.4% decrease in trade deficit expressed right economic steps. Trade deficit which was \$43.4 billion is now \$25.8 billion. This is the beginning of improvement, she added. Import decreased by 29.2% which influenced the economic improvement. Imports decreased from \$72.3 billion to \$51.2 billion, which she called a step to betterment. Further Maryam maintained that Rs.6210 billion tax collected which was 348.2 billion Pkr last year. Current fiscal year despite the target of 7 lacs.



QUETTA: Provincial Advisor for Information Mitha Khan Kakar, Deputy Consul General of Iran Faridon Peer Lorin, President Chamber of Commerce Wali Muhammad Noorzai inaugurating International Property Expo.

### Kanrani demands Judicial Commission on murder of Abdul Razzaq Shar

QUETTA: The senior lawyer and former President Supreme Court Bar Association, Amanullah Kanrani Advocate has demanded of the authorities to form a judicial commission to probe into the brutal killing of senior lawyer Abdul Razzaq Shar. This demand was made by Amanullah Kanrani while addressing a press conference at the High Court Bar Room on Friday. It may be mentioned here that Amanullah Kanrani was the lawyer in the constitutional petition filed by Abdul Razzaq Shar in the treason case against former Prime Minister and PTI chief, Imran Khan. He told that Abdul Razzaq Shar was brutally murdered a day before the hearing of his petition in the High Court. He said that the Judicial commission should be formed to ascertain the motives behind the brutal assassination of Shar. He said that it must be ascertained that who benefited from the murder. It may also be mentioned here that Abdul Razzaq Shar was gunned down by unknown armed men on June 6 while he was on his way to the courts from his residence. His son had registered murder case against Imran Khan and others.



COLOMBO: Pakistan Navy Ship Shahjahan visits Colombo.

### Information Secretary vows to resolve media workers' issues on priority

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Sohail Ali Khan on Friday vowed to resolve the issues faced by the media workers on priority. Addressing a dinner reception held in honour of the newly elected office-bearers of the All Pakistan Newspaper Employees Confederation (APNEC) and senior officers of the ministry, he said minimum wage for a worker was being increased in the budget for the next financial year. Terming the media a strong pillar of state, he said its independence in Pakistan was being acknowledged at international level. He said the government had allocated Rs one billion for the health insurance of media workers and journalists in the budget for fiscal year 2023-24.

### PTI's Ali Muhammad arrested once again

MARDAN (Online): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Ali Muhammad Khan was arrested once again on Friday right after being released on the orders of the Peshawar High Court (PHC) from a day earlier. The PTI leader's lawyer told reporters that the current arrest was made on corruption charges; he was subsequently transferred to the Toru police station. Yesterday, the PHC had order Khan's release after hearing a petition against his arrest under Section 3 of the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) after nationwide protests broke out on May 9 following the PTI chief's arrest. Today's relief came in a case related to terrorism charges. However, the court had observed that Khan may be arrested again if he was wanted in any other cases. The former minister of state was arrested again as soon as he left the court premises. Khan has so far been arrested five times in different cases. Earlier, as Khan appeared before the court he told reporters that his party's chief "has always subscribed to a peaceful political struggle and stood by the rule of law".