

Independent

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Review and appeal are two different powers: CJP

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Hayat Bandial has remarked there is basic difference between review and appeal.

He further remarked how should the scope of review be increased. The petitioners are of view that the scope of review be increased. But it should not be changed into appeal. The petitioners problem relates to the process of extending the scope. If government has to make review like hearing again then do it. You will have to adopt right legal way in this connection. Review and appeal are two different powers.

The CJP gave these remarks while presiding over

a 3 members bench of SC during the hearing of petitions pertaining to Supreme Court judgment and review order here Thursday.

During the hearing of the case Attorney General (AG) Mansoor Usman Awan argued original powers of article 184 (3) were enhanced for enforcement of the rights in 1973 constitution. First decision under article 184 (3) came in Manzoor Elahi case.

Brothers of Manzoor Elahi filed petitions in Sindh and Balochistan. Manzoor Elahi was taken to tribal areas after his arrest. I will tell after reading the decision how the jurisdiction of 174(3) kept on increasing in the last years.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi getting his biometric verification for driving license at Islamabad Traffic Police F-8 Office.

On retirement from international cricket: CM appreciates services of Naheeda Khan for Pak women cricket team

Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo urges Chairman PCB to hire services of Naheeda Khan for improving women cricket in Balochistan

Independent Report

Morevoer, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo expressed best wishes for the future of Naheeda Khan and adopting the field of coaching in time to come maintaining his association with the game of cricket.

He believed that the courageous and talented Naheeda Khan would also prove her mettle in the field of cricket coaching.

He said that the support of her family for Naheeda Khan in cricket and that in a conservative society is unprecedented. She wholeheartedly represented Balochistan at the national and international level, he commended.



AZERBAIJAN: President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev receives Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif upon his arrival at Zuguiba Palace

JI, PPP clash after Wahab wins Karachi mayor election

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan People's Party's (PPP) candidate Murtaza Wahab appeared victorious in the election for Karachi mayor on Thursday after securing 173 votes and his rival, Jamaat-e-Islami's (JI) Hafiz Naeemur Rehman, got 160 votes as per unofficial results.

The voting for Karachi's new mayor started earlier in the day with elected members of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) City Council taking part in the process.

In the tight contest, Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP) Murtaza Wahab and Jamaat-e-Islami's (JI) Hafiz Naeemur Rehman were facing each other with Salman Abdullah Murad of PPP and Saifuddin Advocate of JI contesting for the post of deputy mayor.

Clashes erupt between JI and PPP workers following the announcement of unofficial

mayoral results, clashes erupted between workers of JI and PPP outside the Arts Council of Pakistan.

According to Express News, during the voting process, the situation outside the premises remained extremely tense. However, the police took control of it but as the results came out, the verbal altercation turned into clashes.

The workers of both parties pelted stones at each other, on which the police and Rangers took action to stop the quarrel. Moreover, law enforcers also detained several workers for pelting stones.

On the other hand, JI cried foul and alleged that the Sindh government has abducted 29 PTI members who were supposed to vote for Rehman in the election.

The party requested the ECP to declare the polls "null and void" and also announce a new schedule for the polls.



BAKU: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev leading their respective sides at a delegation level meeting.

Pak, Azerbaijan agree to enhance trade, energy cooperation, start Baku-Islamabad flights

Pakistan is committed to the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, says PM Shehbaz, appreciated the bravery of country's forces for fighting for Azerbaijan's rights

BAKU (Azerbaijan) (APP): Pakistan and Azerbaijan on Thursday agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in the fields of energy, trade and aviation sectors to reflect the decades-old strong relationship between the two nations.

The bilateral relations were discussed at length in a meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev here at Zugulba Palace.

The prime minister, accompanied by a high-level delegation is on a two-

day official visit to Baku at the invitation of President Aliyev.

At a joint press stakeout following their bilateral meeting, the two leaders told the media of agreeing to introduce flights of Azerbaijan airline between the two capitals, enhance number of military exercises, besides exploring the avenues of cooperation in the areas of energy, investment and education.

Prime Minister Shehbaz, who earlier visited the mausoleum of Azerbaijan first president

Haider Aliyev and the martyrs monument, spoke high of the President Ilham Aliyev's leadership to build the city's infrastructure and impressive horticulture.

Citing the "pleasant surprises" of neatness and beauty of Baku, the prime minister requested the Azerbaijan president to lend their experts in horticulture and waste management to Islamabad.

He told the media persons that during the "wonderful" discussion, there

was a "total unanimity" of views on various bilateral and multilateral issues as the relationship was built on mutual trust and sincerity of purpose.

The prime minister said that the Pakistani flags all across Baku manifested the love between the two people.

"Though our ties are so strong since ages, these do not reflect its intensity through trade and investment, exchange of visits and other important areas of cooperation," the prime minister remarked.

President, first lady visit ITP office for driving license

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi and First Lady Samina Alvi on Thursday visited the office of Islamabad Traffic Police to process their driving licenses.

Both the president and the first lady went through the biometric verification as a prerequisite of the license.

The president also appreciated the ITP for their services to facilitate the citizens.



QUETTA: Federal Secretary Communication and Chairman NHA Captain (Retd) Muhammad Khurram Agha and Chief Secretary Balochistan Abdul Aziz Uqaili attending a meeting to review progress on NHA projects in Balochistan

Fed. Secretary Communication satisfied on preparedness of NHA on account of Biparjioy

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Federal Secretary for Communications and Chairman National Highway Authority (NHA), Captain (Retd) Muhammad Khurram Agha has expressed satisfaction on account of the Cyclone storm "Biparjioy", upcoming Monsoon and constructive / maintenance activities of the post flood of 2022.

However, he directed that required site machinery and human resource availability must be ensured at critical locations to cater for any emergency, ensure uninterrupted traffic flow round the clock.

He further directed that procurement process of reconstruction of damaged bridges in Balochistan must be expedited in order to ensure commencement and completion as soon as possible. The Secretary Communications was in Quetta and had a meeting in the zonal office NHA Quetta on Thursday.

He visited Quetta in compliance with instructions of Prime Minister and Federal Minister Communications.

Mr. Shahid Ihsan Ullah, Member (West Zone) NHA, Balochistan along with General Manager Quetta, Agha Inayatullah, General Manager Khuzdar, Noor Ul Hassan and General Manager Gwadar, Ramesh Raja were in attendance at the meeting.

The Secretary Communications reviewed the actions taken on already issued instructions for proactive measures for the upcoming cyclone, flood season and the status of post flood construction and maintenance.

He was informed that earth moving machinery is standby on all the vulnerable locations to meet any sort of emergency.

Meanwhile Federal Secretary for Communications / Chairman National Highway Authority Capt. Muhammad Khurram Agha held meeting with Chief Secretary Balochistan Abdul Aziz Uqaili and briefed on NHA Balochistan PSPD Portfolio and Flood preparedness for upcoming Monsoon Season on Thursday at Chief Secretary Office at Quetta.

Govt keeps petrol, diesel prices unchanged

ISLAMABAD (APP): Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday said that the government decided to keep the existing prices of petroleum products remain unchanged for the next 15 days to facilitate the masses in the country.

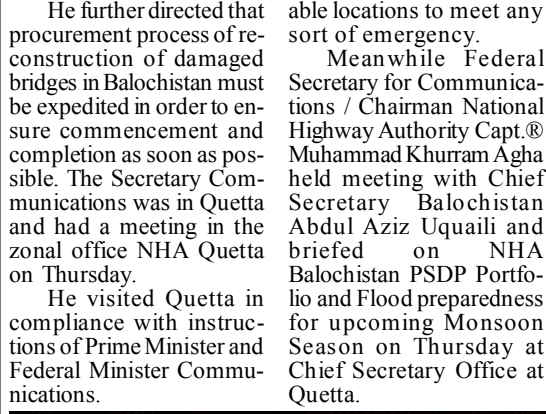
The Minister in a press talk at PTV said Petrol would be available at Rs262 per litre, the price of high-speed diesel is Rs253, while the light diesel oil is Rs147.68, however, prices of kerosene oil have also been kept unchanged at Rs.164.07.

NA Speaker narrowly escapes in road accident

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of the National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf had a fortunate escape from harm in an accident on Mandera-Chakwal Road while returning to Islamabad.

The unexpected presence of a cow startled everyone as the Speaker's car traversed the road. Despite the driver's swift reaction to avoid a potential collision, an unintended contact occurred with the escort cars accompanying the Speaker's vehicle.

Fortunately, by the grace of Allah, both Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf and his dedicated staff emerged from the accident unharmed.



QUETTA: A delegation of Balochistan Medical Teachers Association led by Provincial Minister Mir Asadullah Baloch meeting with Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Imran Gichki

Governor Abdul Wali Kakar says Federal Govt. providing every possible facilities to youth of Balochistan

Appreciates PM Talent Hunt Programme; hopes it would become source of proper grooming of new generation

Independent Report

QUETTA: Appreciating the Prime Minister's Youth Talent Hunt Programme and Sports League started in the country including Balochistan, the Governor, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that the federal government is providing every kind of facilities to the younger generation. He said that the programme would become source of proper grooming of the new generation.

He said that we are proud of our national players and hoped that they would continue to brighten

He on the occasion appreciated the mega event of volleyball being held among teams of different districts in Quetta.

He said that participation of men and women volley ball teams in the event is an important progress towards formation of a healthy society.

He said that there's no dearth of talented players in the province, what's needed is to provide them proper training and facilities.

The Governor maintained that Pakistan has been world champion in different games, and even to-



the name of the country and nation in future as well.

This and similar other views were expressed by the Governor while speaking at opening ceremony of the PM's Talent Hunt Programme here at the Ayub Sports Complex on Thursday.

Mr. Kakar said that the present government is providing every possible facility to the youth having interest in different sports.

Next budget's preparations delayed: BA's budget session deferred till June 19 as Finance Dept seeks "additional time"

QUETTA: The budget session of Balochistan Assembly scheduled to be held today (Friday) has been postponed till June 19, 2023.

According to an official notification issued here by the Balochistan Assembly secretariat on Thursday night, the budget session of the assembly has been rescheduled. As per the revised schedule, the Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has summoned the budget session at 04:00 PM on June 19, 2023.

As per the agenda, the budget for the financial year 2023-24 would be presented in the session of assembly.

Meanwhile, the Provincial Minister for Finance, Engineer Zamarak Khan Achakzai told a section of press that the change in schedule of the budget session is due to non-preparation of the budget. Therefore, the Finance Department has sought more time for preparations of the next financial year's budget of the province.



SAINT PETERSBURG: A group photograph of Pakistan's Ambassador to the Russian Federation, H.E. Shafqat Ali Khan after signing the MoU between Pakistan Customs and the Federal Customs Service (Russian Federation) on the Exchange of Statistical Data on Mutual Trade while Secretary of Commerce, Muhammad Saleh Ahmed Faruqi also present on the occasion.

Pak and Russia sign MoU on Exchange of statistical data between Customs

SAINT PETERSBURG (APP): Pakistan and the Russian Federation on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation between Pakistan Customs and Russia's Federal Customs Service on Exchange of Statistical Data on Mutual Trade.

Pakistan's Ambassador to Russian Federation Shafqat Ali Khan signed the MoU on behalf of Pakistan Customs while Secretary of Commerce Muhammad Saleh Farooqi witnessed the signing ceremony held here on the sidelines of Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum, a press re-

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

CM's remarkable initiatives indeed

During course of last few days, the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has taken certain remarkable initiatives to surprise of many.

While on one hand, the Chief Minister issued standing directives to the provincial ministers and administrative secretaries of all the provincial government departments to issue the appointment letters of the posts within a week time whose tests and interviews have been completed till April 2023.

The Chief Minister also issued directives to the provincial ministers and secretaries to strictly monitor the process of recruitments in their respective departments and ministries ensuring all recruitments purely on merit and that in clean and transparent manner so as to give right to the deserving persons.

It is commendable when the Chief Minister warned of stern action against the secretary and member of the selection committee on receiving any information about the sale of jobs in anyway.

Certainly, this directive of the Chief Minister came on the reports that several thousand recruitments are pending for years in different departments including Health, Education, Public Health, Agriculture, Levies, Finance, Colleges, etc, as also mentioned in an official communique shared with the media recently.

In addition to this, the Chief Minister has also directed to expedite the process of recruitments in the province.

Moreover, in another important move, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has refrained the provincial ministers and government functionaries from making inauguration of public nature and welfare projects in the province.

In a tweet on his social media account, Twitter on Sunday last, the CM categorically stated that people would make inauguration of the public projects now and onward.

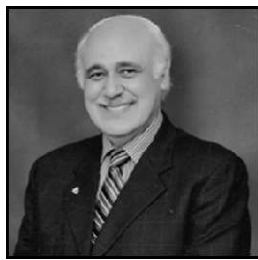
The CM maintained that whether it is school or college, hospital or sports ground, health card or Green bus project, all these are public money. He said that we would not waste our resources merely on the inaugural ceremonies for taking or giving credit of these public projects.

As per the reaffirmation of the CM, inauguration of the schools would be got inaugurated by the students studying in these public institutions.

Worthwhile to mention is that the Chief Executive of the province had already imposed ban on use of the bomb and bullet proof vehicles. After that, he didn't use the bomb or bullet proof vehicles of the CM's secretary. Last but not the least, the CM issued an official memorandum to Chief Secretary for limiting the security arrangements during VVIP movement just because the general public suffer due to the extraordinary security arrangements made for the provincial ministers, members of assembly and other senior government functionaries.

Even he also urged the Governor Balochistan to limit his security protocol during his movement to avoid any inconvenience to the people. Undoubtedly, these initiatives taken by the Chief Minister are remarkable, exemplary, and unprecedented. If implemented with letter and spirit, the CM's initiatives and decisions would set new example in the otherwise most backward province of the country.

Juggling budgets



F.S. Aijazuddin

Mr Ishaq Dar's recent address to the National Assembly on the budget for 2023-24 reminded one of the story of a finance minister who had a nightmare that he was presenting his country's budget, and woke up to find that he was.

Mr Dar can be forgiven for sleeping with his eyes open during his own speech. He tried hard to disguise his ennui, for he has juggled too many such budgets during his four tenures as finance minister (1998-1999; March 2008-May 2008; 2013-2017; and from September 2022 until now).

If the website of the Ministry of Finance is to be believed, Mr Dar "is known for his expertise in macroeconomic issues, balance of payment crises, energy security, bilateral and multilateral debts, food security, diplomatic crises, parliamentary politics, and international dispute settlements for Pakistan." Heady qualifications.

It does not mention a superior one — his relationship as an in-law to three-time prime minister Mian Nawaz Sharif. Nor does it disclose that between 2000-2002, Dar spent almost two years in custody during which he disfigured ('under duress', he insisted later) information that he had laundered \$14.86 million on behalf of Nawaz Sharif. In June 2013, Mr Dar found himself catapulted again into the finance minister's seat and given less than a fortnight to baste a budget already dressed for the oven by his predecessor. Some journalists questioned whether Mr Dar could

manage, to which prime minister Nawaz Sharif is said to have retorted: "What else has he been doing for the past five years?"

This year's budget for 2023-24 has been gestating for nine months, since September 2022 when the government took over our ailing economy. That should have been long enough for anyone (however uncertain their tenure) to present a budget that revealed some visible effort at planning and economic foresight. Instead, the 2023-24 budget bears out the observation of Walter Wriston (a former CEO of Citigroup): "Every line in the government's budget has its own constituency."

In Pakistan's budget, the constituencies could not be more clearly demarcated. Creditors form the largest bloc. Next year, Rs7.3 trillion is owed to them for debt servicing and repayment. This monumental burden may be renegotiated, but that would simply be postponing the inescapable. 'Creditors,' as Benjamin Franklin once observed, 'have better memories than debtors.' The second large constituency (that carries an equally big stick) is Defence Affairs & Services. It extracts Rs1.8tr of flesh from an already emaciated cashless cow.

Those serving the government are a constituency too close not to be appeased. The cost of running the government (Rs714 billion) and pensions (Rs761bn) are shown separately in the budget whereas in fact they belong together. The first is the sum of obligations to current employees, while pensions which include those for retired defence personnel (Rs563bn) are the recurring reward for past service.

The increase therefore of 35 per cent in salaries of government servants of grades 1-16 and 30pc for grades 17-22 are more than open-handed largesse by a nervous

government anxious to buy their help in the next elections. This additional cost will add to the load of future pensions, to be borne by us, the next and subsequent generations of Pakistanis. Pakistan Railways, once the iron horse of our transportation system, will receive a paltry Rs33bn, while the National Highway Authority (a haven for khaki and civil retirees) can expect almost five times as much — Rs157bn.

The allocations for social sectors like population control and management, health (Rs24bn) and education (Rs97bn) receive grudging inclusion in the government's budget. Regardless of whether these are the responsibility of the federal or the provincial governments, they are the real needs of all Pakistanis, regardless of domicile and age (23m of whom are out-of-school children.) To the government, they clearly do not matter because the future is not a constituency.

The government will argue that with this budget, it has tried to fill a half-empty glass. Sceptics see only a glass whose half contents are draining dry. We are a nation that has enough foreign exchange to cover only one month of imports, yet we posture like Dickens's perpetually insolvent Mr Micawber, confident that 'something will turn up' to thwart the spectre of default.

In the 1970s, Mr Ahmed Dawood (then one of Pakistan's richest industrialists) could be seen shopping with a cloth bag in Karachi's Empress Market. That was his way of keeping his finger on prices and the pulse of the economy. Perhaps, ministers should learn from his example. They should do their own household shopping and let their minimum-wage menials run the country instead. The latter are more adept at balancing budgets than any government functionary. — Courtesy Dawn

Fisherfolk misery



Rida Tahir

Sailing the seas in fragile boats to earn a day's living is no easy task. A fishworker, whether in Pakistan or across the border, is exposed to great vulnerability and marginalisation. Fishworkers' communities live in coastal areas where they are affected by the degradation of the ecosystem. Their situation becomes worse when they find themselves arrested and are incarcerated in prisons across the border for years on end. One storm over invisible maritime borders is all it takes for a person to be captured and thrown into prison in an alien country.

It was estimated that 654 Indian fishworkers were incarcerated in Karachi's Malir Jail; 631 arrested fishworkers had already completed their sentences and their nationality had been verified. Meanwhile, 83 Pakistani fishworkers are detained across the border in Indian jails; many of them have completed their sentences, and their nationality, too, has been verified. This information is contained in a joint letter released by the National Fishworkers Forum and the Pakistan-India Peoples' Forum for Peace & Democracy.

It is often said that hope dies last; one cannot lose hope, for if you lose hope, you lose everything. But Pakistani fishworkers languishing in jails across the border for a number of years, had lost all hope. However, with Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari's recent visit to Goa for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation meeting, this

lost hope might be reignited. For the visit prompted the release of several Indian fishworkers from Pakistan's prisons as a gesture of goodwill.

Of the 654 Indian fishworkers mentioned, Pakistan released the first batch of 198 fishworkers on May 11, 2023. The second batch of 200 fishworkers was released on June 2, 2023. A third batch will be released next month.

The Agreement on Consular Access came into force on May 21, 2008, with the objective of ensuring humane treatment for the nationals of both India and Pakistan, who had been arrested, detained, or imprisoned in the other country and for them to have reciprocal consular facilities. Section 5 of the agreement reads: "Both governments agree to release and repatriate persons within one month of confirmation of their national status and completion of sentences."

Moreover, the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (ratified by Pakistan in 1969 and India in 1977) mandates via Article 36 that the country's consular post must be informed if one of its citizens is detained, in custody, or arrested, "without delay", and that the prisoner be informed of his/her legal rights.

Further, the UN Convention against Torture (which India has not ratified but Pakistan did in 2010) mandates that under Article 6 "any person in custody ... shall be assisted in communicating immediately with the nearest appropriate representative of the state of which he is a national" and that when a state "has taken a person into custody, it shall immediately notify the states ... of the fact that such person is in custody and of the circumstances which warrant his detention".

Moreover, the Body of Principles for the Pro-

tection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment and the Model Agreement on the Transfer of Foreign Prisoners and Recommendations for the Treatment of Foreign Prisoners provide important principles and guidelines for the protection of persons under detention or imprisoned in a foreign country.

The national framework regarding the regulation of the entry, movement and removal of foreigners in Pakistan is governed by the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939, the Foreigners Act, 1946, and the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1966. Across these laws and rules, a foreigner is defined as "a person who is not a citizen of Pakistan".

We await a world where humanity, kindness and goodness reign supreme. Why must our marginalised communities continue to suffer when their anguish can end with the simple decision of releasing them from captivity? Why hold someone a prisoner, only because they sailed across the seas to earn their livelihood one tragic day?

Pakistan's gesture of goodwill of releasing the fishworkers is a step in the right direction. A shimmering light has been lit for the fisherfolk community in both countries. India must reciprocate by releasing Pakistani fishworkers languishing in Indian prisons. At the same time, it is important to highlight that it is not enough to have one-off occasions where fishworkers are released and sent home. Rather, the national and international legal framework must work in a systematic and coordinated manner to ensure that nobody languishes in jails across the borders because they had inadvertently found themselves in the other's territory. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Pakistan, Azerbaijan sign document to boost trade cooperation

BAKU (Azerbaijan) (APP): Pakistan and Azerbaijan on Thursday signed a Statement of Understanding to enhance bilateral cooperation, particularly to boost the volume of energy trade.

The document was signed by Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar and Azerbaijan's Minister of Economy Mikayil Jabbarov at a ceremony witnessed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, along with his cabinet members.

The signing of the Statement between Pakistan's Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Economy of Azerbaijan is aimed at promoting bilateral trade.

The document establishes a framework

for fostering closer collaboration between Azerbaijan and Pakistan and promoting trade between the two countries.

Recognizing the importance of expanding their friendship and economic partnership, the ministers expressed their dedication to diversifying trade and enhancing economic development through this agreement.

Under the agreement, both countries will collaborate to create favourable conditions for bilateral trade by sharing information, organizing events, conducting studies to identify exportable products, and promoting economic cooperation.

For this purpose, both countries agreed to

mobilize their efforts to finalize a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) by early August of 2023.

They emphasized the potential benefits that the PTA would bring and affirmed their commitment to working collaboratively to realize the shared goals outlined in the Statement of Understanding. The signing of this agreement marks a significant milestone in the economic partnership between Azerbaijan and Pakistan, strengthening the foundation for increased trade and economic cooperation. It is expected to create new opportunities for businesses, enhance bilateral investment, and contribute to the overall growth and prosperity of both nations.

Pakistan's total foreign reserves reach \$9.378b

KARACHI (APP): The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan stood at US\$ 9,378.2 million while reserves held by the central bank reached US\$ 4,018.7 million.

The State Bank of Pakistan, in a statement issued here on Thursday, informed that foreign reserves of the central bank increased by US\$ 107 million to US\$ 4,018.7 million in the week ended on June 09, 2023.

Meanwhile, net foreign reserves held by commercial banks stood at US\$ 5,359.5 million, it added.

In the previous week ending on June 02, 2023, total liquid foreign reserves held by the country was US\$ 9,334.8 million.

Among them, foreign reserves held by the central bank were US\$ 3,912.2 million while net foreign reserves held by commercial banks were US\$ 5,422.6 million.



BAKU: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif witnesses the signing of Statement of Understanding between Pakistan and Azerbaijan for promotion of trade between the two countries.

Steps underway to uplift national economy: Tasneem

SARGODHA (APP): State Minister for Productions and Industries Tasneem Ahmed Qureshi said on Thursday the incumbent government was striving hard to uplift the national economy which had been ruined due to wrong policies of the past government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf.

Talking to APP, he said that political stability was highly important to strengthen national economy, attract investment, and ensure development and prosperity in the country. "Until there is no political stability, there would not be any economic stability as both are inter-linked with each other," he added. In a situation where there was political instability in the country, the political opponents were hatching conspiracies everywhere and misleading the nation; nobody would be ready to invest in the country, he observed. Putting responsibility of current economic crisis on the past regime, the state minister said it breached its own agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) due to which it was now hesitant to resume its agreement.

Pakistan E-commerce entrepreneurs stand out in UK market

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistani freelancers and entrepreneurs are expanding abroad by establishing a company in the US and UK markets, as data shared by UK government on foreign-owned company establishment shows that Pakistan ranks first, especially in E-Commerce industry. Worky, which provides end-to-end solutions that facilitate company establishment abroad has started to provide services in Urdu to facilitate opening of Pakistani entrepreneurs, especially

those operating in the e-commerce industry and providing freelance services, to global markets.

Pakistani entrepreneurs and freelancers export know-how and services to all over the world by using the possibilities of digitalization. The data by the United Kingdom (UK) government on foreign-owned company establishment shows that Pakistani nationality ranks first in the e-commerce category.

Ayaz Sadiq vows to tackle smuggling, tax evasion for economic growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Thursday reiterated his firm resolve of the government to take all appropriate measures to end menace of smuggling and tax evasion for enhancing revenue collection to attain sustainable economic growth in the country.

Addressing the ceremony of study conducted by Ipsos on "Unveiling tax evasion: A closer look at five sectors in Pakistan", the minister stressed the need of complete harmonization among the federal and provincial tax collecting authorities to plug the tax leakages.

The minister said that government was striving to take all the stakeholders on board for making viable tax policies to stop tax evasion and enhance local revenue collection, besides incentivizing local manufacturing sector to discourage the imports.

He said the unrealistic policies of last government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf have sparked the imports as it jumped to \$85 billion, which not only put huge pressure on local foreign exchange reserves but it also suffered the domestic industry.

First time in the history of Pakistan, the transfer and postings were put on sale during last four years, he said adding that as a result all those who purchased these posts work for their vested interests rather than serving the country. He stressed the need to bring all the industry under track and trace system to stop tax evasion, besides removing tax anomalies at federal and provincial level as well as simplification of tax return by the Federal Board of Revenue to overcome accumulated losses of Rs 500 billion.

The meeting discussed agenda item entailed the presentation and subsequent approval of the Audited Accounts for the

Record cotton cultivation in Rajanpur this year: Minister
LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Punjab Minister for Industries SM Tanveer has said record cultivation of cotton has been carried out in district Rajanpur with the support of the district administration. According to official sources here on Thursday, the minister said this during his visit to Rajanpur, along with Caretaker Provincial Minister Bilal Afzal. Both ministers presided over a meeting of the district officers.

Budget estimates of PC for FY 2023-24 approved

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Privatization Commission (PC) Board on Thursday approved budget estimates of the PC for the fiscal year 2023-24, amounting to Rs1248.8million. The Board met here under the Chairmanship of Abid Hussain Bhayo, which discussed several topics requiring the PC Board's attention, said a press release.

The meeting discussed agenda item entailed the presentation and subsequent approval of the Audited Accounts for the



ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan, Qamar Zaman Kaira addressing a briefing session regarding tax evasion held in Islamabad.

Lawmakers advocate for enhanced incentives, development in Agri sector

ISLAMABAD (INP): Lawmakers in the National Assembly have called on the government to introduce increased incentives in the budget for 2023-24 to bolster the agriculture sector and achieve self-sufficiency in agrarian products. Participating in general discussions on the federal budget lawmakers in the National Assembly have joined forces to emphasize

the need for robust incentives and comprehensive development strategies in the agriculture sector in the budget. Khurshid Ahmed Junejo of the PPP highlighted the urgency of safeguarding agriculture from the adverse effects of climate change and underscored the importance of constructing dams for water reservoir capacity.

No leniency should be shown to any culprit involved in events of May 9: CM Naqvi

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi chaired a meeting at his office on Thursday to review progress made so far on the legal proceedings against the culprits involved in the May 9 events.

The meeting decided that trial of the May-9 accused would take place in jail. Daily hearing of cases registered under the Anti-Terrorism Act would take place, and the relevant departments would be duly informed about the trial proceedings in jail. Consensus was reached in the meeting to expedite legal actions against the culprits involved in the events of May 9.

The CM instructed the police and prosecution department to present strong evidence against the accused and emphasised that no leniency should be shown to any culprit involved in the events of May 9, while innocent individuals should not be subjected to punishment. The CM also ordered to intensify efforts to apprehend the absconding culprits.

The participants were briefed that during investigation, 200 individuals were acquitted after being proven innocent, and strong testimonies were being presented against the culprits. The chief secretary, IG police, CCPO



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi presides over the meeting to review progress of taking action against the elements involved in 9th May vandalism.

Gives Rs 4m cheque to HCBA Kundi demands cancellation of recent population census

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday demanded cancellation of recent population census conducted in Dera Ismail Khan Division.

According to a press release issued here, the minister wrote two letters to the Prime Minister and the Federal Minister for Planning and Development in support of the demand made by the political parties, social organizations and All Parties Conference (APC) held on June 7, against the results of the census in the division.

He demanded that the results of the census should be canceled immediately and action should be taken against the responsible persons involved, adding, the public complaints must be addressed.

Meanwhile, Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi here on Thursday gave a cheque worth Rs 4 million to the leaders of High Court Bar Association (HCBA).

According to a press release issued here, the minister, on behalf of the federal government, handed over the cheque to the recently elected HCBA President Malik Hidayat Ullah Malana and General Secretary Waqar Alam in an event organized by the People's Lawyers Forum here at the High Court Bar.

The minister said the supremacy of law and impartial delivery of justice played a basic role in the development of nations. He said that an independent justice system was necessary for a developed, prosperous and stable Pakistan.

The mutual cooperation of the bar and the bench was indispensable for the improving the justice system, he added.



PESHAWAR: Ambassador of Turkey to Pakistan, Dr. Mehmet Pachaji and other visit Peds Cardiology Ward Up gradation in Peshawar Institute of Cardiology.

LHC disposes of Aleema petition seeking details of cases registered against her

LAHORE (Online): In the light of IG Punjab report, Lahore High Court (LHC) has wrapped up Aleema Khan petition seeking details of cases registered against her. Justice Amjad Rafiq took up Aleema Khan petition for hearing Thursday where by the petitioner had requested for providing to her details of all cases against her.

During the hearing of the case police authorities presented report in the court on behalf of IG

Turkey envoy inaugurates Peds Cardiology Ward at PIC

PESHAWAR (APP): The Ambassador of Turkey to Pakistan, Dr. Mehmet Pachaji on Thursday inaugurated Peds Cardiology Ward at the Peshawar Institute of Cardiology here.

Speaking on the occasion he said that modern machinery has been provided to the hospital and hoped that the patients suffering from heart disease would now be able to get better health facilities.

Man killed over resistance in dacoity bid

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): Unidentified armed outlaws looted cattle and killed a man for putting resistance at Mouza Pakka Naich in the jurisdiction of Saddar Alipur police station on Wednesday night. According to a police spokesman, unidentified armed robbers entered the farmhouse of Sharafat, a resident of Pakka Naich.

ANF seizes 184 kg drugs in seven operations

RAWALPINDI (INP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in their ongoing operations against drug traffickers conducted seven raids across the country and managed to recover over 184 kg of drugs besides netting five accused including two Afghan nationals, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday.

He informed that in an operation, 22.8 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle intercepted near Motorway Toll Plaza Islamabad.

The recovered hashish was concealed in the CNG cylinder of a vehicle. During the operation, an accused resident of Peshawar was arrested. In another operation, two kg heroin and two kg Ice drug concealed in secret cavities of a vehicle were recovered.

The vehicle was intercepted near Sangjani Toll Plaza on G.T Road. Two Afghan nationals were also arrested on the spot.

Jirga meeting of merged areas elders held in Governor House

PESHAWAR (APP): A 60-member Jirga meeting called on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Haji Ghulam Ali at the Governor's House, consisting of tribal chiefs, owners, and elders of the merged district of Bajaur here on Thursday.

The Tribal Jirga apprised Governor Haji Ghulam Ali about the problems and difficulties faced by the business community and the people of the area related to electricity load shedding, educational institutions, hospitals, irrigation, and infrastructure.

"Despite the economic crisis, the federal government has allocated 57 billion rupees for the merged districts in the budget," Haji Ghulam Ali informed the Jirga elders.

"The federal and provincial governments are taking serious steps to ensure the socio-economic development of the merged districts," Haji Ghulam Ali told the Jirga members.

He said, "Tribal districts have become part of the province, problems and difficulties will be solved according to the constitution and law."

"The tribal people have always supported the country's integrity and unity, national institutions, and defense institutions including the Pakistan Army, which is a matter of pride," Haji Ghulam Ali said. "Bajaur is a peaceful area and the land here is also fertile," he said.

He said, "An efficient irrigation system can be implemented with the installation of solar tube wells for the development of the agricultural sector in Bajaur. For the first time, the elders are making the Governor's House like their home and they thanked the Governor for listening to their problems and giving assurance for their solutions."

KP Minister, CEO EZDMC visit Jalozi EZ, inaugurate Aqua Pura Smart Industry

PESHAWAR: KP Minister for Industries, Commerce & Technical Education (IC&TE), Adnan Jilani along with Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KP-EZDMC), Javed Iqbal Khattak, visited the Jalozi Economic Zone on Thursday. The visit was aimed at exploring the thriving industrial landscape within the zone and showcasing the remarkable achievements of the company for the promotion of industrial growth in the province.

During their visit, they inaugurated Aqua Pura Smart Industry, a state-of-the-art facility specializing in advanced drinking water treatment technologies. This cutting-edge enterprise will only contribute to the local economy.

Furthermore, Minister Adnan Jilani and CEO Javed Khattak have had the opportunity to witness the development of Khalid Zubair Chemical Industry that is under construction. This upcoming venture holds great promise for the industrial sector and will play a pivotal role in fostering innovation, job creation, and economic prosperity.

Emphasizing the importance of environmental sustainability, the provincial minister Adnan Jilani and CEO Javed Khattak also planted a tree under the "green plantation drive" campaign. This symbolic gesture underscores the commitment of KP-EZDMC towards creating a greener, cleaner, and more sustainable industrial landscape.

International News

NATO sees no change in Russia's nuclear posture despite Belarus leader's claims

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: NATO sees no sign that Russia has changed its nuclear posture, the head of the military alliance said Thursday, after President Alexander Lukashenko claimed that Belarus has already received some tactical nuclear weapons from Moscow.

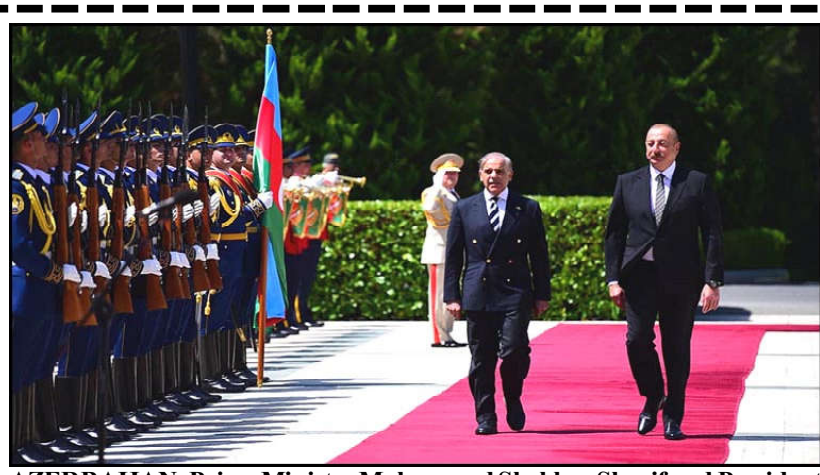
In an interview on state television on Tuesday, Lukashenko brashly warned that he wouldn't hesitate to order their use if Belarus faced an act of aggression. Russian President Vladimir Putin has said the weapons

will be deployed to Belarus next month and will remain under Moscow's exclusive control.

"We are, of course, closely monitoring what Russia is doing. So far, we haven't seen any changes in the nuclear posture that requires any changes in our posture," Stoltenberg told reporters before chairing a meeting of NATO defense ministers at the alliance's headquarters in Brussels.

NATO's secretive nuclear defense planning group is set to meet on Friday. The meeting has long been planned and is not a reaction to recent developments, but the alliance is concerned about Putin's threats and his decisions to pull Russia out of important arms limitation treaties.

"Russia's nuclear rhetoric and messaging is reckless and dangerous," Stoltenberg said. "Russia must know that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought." He noted that "Russia has invested heavily in new modern nuclear capabilities and also deployed more nuclear capabilities."



AZERBAIJAN: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and President of Azerbaijan inspecting guard of honor at Zugulba Palace.

Greece hunts for survivors of migrant shipwreck, at least 78 dead

Monitoring Desk
KALAMATA: Rescuers scoured seas off Greece on Thursday in a massive search operation, as hopes dwindled of finding survivors of a shipwreck that killed at least 78 migrants in one of Europe's deadliest such disasters in recent years. Reports suggested hundreds of people had packed the fishing boat that capsized and sank early on Wednesday in deep waters about 50 miles (80 km) from the southern coastal town of Pylos, while being shadowed by the Greek coast guard.

As dawn broke on Thursday, a coast guard vessels sailed into the nearby port city of Kalamata, transferring victims. After an official count, authorities revised the death toll to 78 from 79. They said 104 people were rescued.

They said it was unclear how many had been aboard, but were investigating one account from a European rescue-support charity that there could have been 750 people on the 20- to 30 metre-long (65- to 100-foot) boat.

The UN's International Organization for Migration said initial reports suggested up to 400 people were aboard.

News portals Proto Thema and Skai TV reported that, according to witnesses, mainly women and children were in the vessel's hold.

Government officials said migrants on the boat, which had set off from the Libyan port of Tobruk, had repeatedly refused offers of help from Greek authorities.

"It was a fishing boat packed with people who refused our assistance because they wanted to go to Italy," coast guard spokesman Nikos Alexiou told broadcaster Skai TV.

"We stayed beside it in case it needed our assistance which they had refused."

The search operation was due to continue until at least Friday morning, according to government sources. Chances of retrieving the sunken vessel were remote, they said, because the area of international waters where the incident occurred is one of the deepest in the Mediterranean.

North Korea fires two missiles off east coast

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korea fired its first missile after two months off its east coast just less than an hour, AFP reported on Thursday citing the South Korean military.

The launching of two short-range ballistic missiles came after Pyongyang had warned of an "inevitable" response to military drills jointly staged by South Korea and the United States.

The two nations, in their response to the increasing threats from the nuclear-armed North, are jointly carrying out large-scale live-fire "annihilation" exercises.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it detected the "two short-range ballistic missiles from the Sunan area into the East Sea between 19:25 and 19:37 (1025 to 1037 GMT)."

"We have stepped up monitoring in case of further provocations and are maintaining readiness in close coordination with the United States," it said, terming the launches as a "grave provocation" violating UN sanctions. The missile launches were also confirmed by Tokyo, saying that they had landed in waters within Japan's exclusive economic zone.

Arab countries account for quarter of Israeli arms exports

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: Israeli defence exports hit an all-time high of \$12.5 billion last year, with Arab countries that recently established ties accounting for nearly a quarter of purchase contracts, officials said on Wednesday.

The defence ministry, which oversees and approves the exports of Israel's defence industries, said one quarter of deals were for drone systems, with "missiles, rockets and

Iran tested suicide drone in Gulf, U.S. official says

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Iran tested a suicide drone against a practice vessel in the Gulf and fired one other missile or drone without warning ships in the area, a U.S. official in the region said.

The one-way drone was launched on Wednesday from the Jask area of Iran 8-9 miles out to sea - within Iran's territorial waters - against a practice barge, the official said, citing U.S. intelligence data. "Essentially practicing hitting merchant vessels."



United States Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, right, greets NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg during a meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group at NATO headquarters in Brussels.

US fighter jets deployed in Middle East to counter Russian aggression

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The United States Central Command (CENTCOM) has announced the deployment of F-22 Raptors to the Middle East due to a rise in unsafe and unprofessional behaviour by Russian aircraft in the region.

The decision aims to demonstrate the US military's ability to swiftly reposition forces and deliver overwhelming power when necessary.

"Russian Forces' unsafe and unprofessional behaviour is not what we expect from a professional air force. Their regular violation of agreed upon airspace deconfliction measures increases the risk of escalation or miscalculation," CENTCOM commander Gen. Michael "Erik" Kurilla said in a news release. "Alongside our partners and allies, we are committed to improving the security and stability in the region."

The F-22 Raptors, hailing from Langley Air Force Base's 94th Fighter Squadron in Virginia, have been integrated with other Coalition forces on the ground and in the air. The move comes in response to Russia's repeated violations of agreed-upon airspace deconfliction measures, which pose an increased risk of escalation or miscalculation, according to CENTCOM Commander Gen. Erik Kurilla. In recent weeks,



Members of the Japanese Self-Defence Force (SDF) are seen around the shooting range where a teenage member of the SDF was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder after a shooting incident, in Gifu, Japan.

US pushing India to seal drone deal

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Ahead of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Washington, the Biden administration is pushing New Delhi to cut through its own red tape and advance a deal for dozens of US-made armed drones, two people familiar with the matter said.

India has long expressed interest in buying large armed drones from the United States. But bureaucratic stumbling blocks have hampered a hoped-for deal for SeaGuardian drones that could be worth \$2 billion to \$3bn for years. US negotiators are counting on Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's White House visit on June 22 to break the log jam. Since the date for Modi's visit was fixed, the US State Department, Pentagon and White House have asked India to be able to "show" progress on the deal for as many as 30 armable MQ-9B SeaGuardian drones made by General Atomics, two sources said. Modi and Biden are also expected to discuss co-production of munitions and ground vehicles.

Two killed in shooting at Japan army base

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: A new military recruit shot and killed two fellow soldiers and wounded a third at a training range in central Japan on Wednesday, the military said, with the 18-year-old suspect detained at the scene.

"During a live-bullet exercise as part of new personnel training, one Self-Defence Forces candidate fired at three personnel," the Ground Self-Defence Force (GSDF) said in a statement, confirming two deaths.



KARACHI: Pak Navy rescue team evacuates local populace from Cyclone BIPARJOY affected areas.

Asset rich Pakistan can survive without IMF support: Ishaq Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday reiterated that Pakistan was an asset rich country and it could survive without any support from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Briefing the Senate's Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue, the minister stated that the annual budget had been prepared without the Fund's consultation, whose reservations could be addressed, according to a press release.

He told the committee, which met with Senator Saleem Mandviwala in the

chair, that the information technology (IT), agriculture and SME sectors were 'drivers of growth' and exemptions given to those sectors were inevitable for the economic growth of the country, which currently stood at 0.29 percent.

He said the annual budget allowed freelancers to retain 35 percent of their revenue. Besides, freelancers earning \$ 2,000 were exempted from sales tax and they could also procure duty free hardware.

He maintained that in the current fiscal year, a return of \$ 2.5 billion was expected from the IT industry, which would reach \$4.5

billion by next year. The exemptions were given to the industry keeping in view its potential growth, he added.

The minister said import restrictions were imposed to curb the massive inflows. The external debt of the country had increased from \$70 billion to \$100 billion in the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf regime, which was clearly an outcome of its financial discipline, he added.

He said expenditure bill should be made by keeping in view the external debt and import restrictions would be lifted by June 30.

Ishaq Dar said as far as prevention of illegal border trade was concerned, coordination among intelligence agencies and the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) was of vital importance and deliberations with authorities concerned had also been conducted for that regard.

Senator Taj Haider proposed that the tariff on tennis and badminton racket and other sports equipment should be exempted.

Ishaq dar said fixation of tariff was a prerogative of the Commerce Ministry and their recommendation would be forwarded to it.

Senators call for Charter of Economy to steer country out of economic crisis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senators on Thursday stressed the need for enhancing the country's revenue, besides inking the Charter of Economy (CoE) like Charter of Democracy (COD) to steer Pakistan out of the economic crisis.

They appreciated the government for announcing various incentives for the agriculture and information technology sectors, overseas Pakistanis and youth.

Taking part in the debate in the Senate, Saifullah Abro of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) said there were so many opportunities available in the country which could help

generate revenue. The Guddu Thermal and Lakra Thermal power plants could be rehabilitated with limited funds and could earn hefty revenue for the country, he added.

However, he alleged that the power sector was intentionally destroyed by representatives of Independent Power Producers (IPPs) setting in the every government. Such 'mafias' had vested interests and they never wanted rehabilitation of state-owned thermal plants, he added.

Senator Abro suggested that the government should allocate Rs 2.5 billion for the purchase of CT

scan and MRI machines in two government own cancer hospitals in Larkana and Nawabshah from the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Rs 450 billion allocation. Many poor patients from both Sindh and Balochistan visited the two hospitals for their treatment, he added.

He was of the view that many lawmakers did not discuss the budget rather they resorted to criticizing their opponent political leaders.

Nuzhat Sadiq of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz termed the budget balanced challenging circumstances.

Pakistan, US agree to enhance cooperation in disaster management

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik held meeting with the delegation of United States Army Central (USARCENT) led by Lieutenant General Patrick D. Frank, Commanding General of USARCENT here at NDMA on Thursday.

The Chairman NDMA gave an overview of Pakistan's hazards and vulnerabilities, disaster management outlook and structure of NDMA and its role in international relief assistance, a news release said. The interactive session also covered ongoing situation of Tropical Cyclone BIPARJOY at Arabian Sea and proactive preparedness to mitigate the possible impact of the cyclone at coastal areas of Pakistan.

He highlighted that Pakistan's resilience and adaptation make it worthy of support and recognition, especially when it has helped Türkiye and Syria.

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ISLAMABAD: Chairman NDMA Lt. General Inam Haider Malik presiding meeting with USARCENT LtG Frank.

Govt working on 5-Es to boost exports, energy, job sectors: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal Thursday said that government was working on 5-Es to boost exports, energy, infrastructure, and job sectors besides taking steps for tackling environmental changes in Pakistan.

The young boys and girls would be provided opportunities for technical skills so that every institution could show progress in a befitting manner, he said while talking to PTV.

"We want to achieve fast growth to make Pakistan a prosperous state," he said. All available resources

would be utilized for benefiting people of all provinces, he added.

Commenting on transparency in the development budget, he said a portal had been developed to ensure transparency in the utilization of funds. He said that general public could click on portal to check transparency in the development projects. The minister said that Imran's party could not pay attention to many sectors during the period of four years.

He said the Pakistan Muslim League-N, had worked on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects.

Khurshid says: Only solution to our problems is agriculture

ISLAMABAD (Online): During debate on budget of fiscal year 2023-24, member national assembly demanded special allocation to deal with climate change as Pakistan number third most vulnerable country to climate disasters.

Federal minister for water resources Khurshid Shah said that only solution to our problems is agriculture.

He said what happened on May 09, has never happened in the history, enemy has not made such damage.

Federal minister of water resources Khurshid Shah said required fund be provided to K-4 project so the project can be completed as soon as possible.

Federal minister for professional education Rana Tanvir Hussain said when we took over the government, economy was so worse that send a hair shuddered.

Zubaida Jalal proposes 25 point economic manifesto for tackle financial crisis

QUETTA (APP) Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) has proposed a 25-point economic manifesto to the government, declaring that in the upcoming elections, we would support political party that would promise to implement this manifesto to get the country out of the current financial and administrative crisis.

The Economic Manifesto suggests that all stakeholders, politicians and bureaucracy must agree on a charter for the economy to save the nation from the worst financial crisis and mismanagement.

These views were expressed by PBF Balochistan Vice-Chairman and Member National Assembly (MNA) Zubaidah Jalal while presenting a 25-point economic manifesto in front of the media on Thursday.

She said that "two important keys to get the country out of the economic crisis were increasing exports and expanding the tax base."

According to the Manifesto, investment in industrialization ensures revenue for the government, employment for the youth, and profit for the entrepreneurs, a win-win situation for everyone in the country so the government should prioritize industrialization first and real estate second.

Ahmed Jawad said that in the manifesto, 20 percent quota should be allocated for businessmen in national, provincial and district policies so that business circles have an opinion in policy making.

He said that the business forum also suggested creating links between industry and academia through a new curriculum and mandating universities to teach entrepreneurship. Besides, it demanded provision of plots in industrial estates in ten-year simple installations and establishment of fast-track arbitration centers in every district for settlement of business disputes, he mentioned.



BAKU: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visits the mausoleum of National Hero and first President of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev. Prime Minister laid a floral wreath at the mausoleum.

Call for introducing constructive reforms in Balochistan's health sector

QUETTA (APP): The provincial leader of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Shams Hamzaai on Thursday urged the Balochistan government to introduce constructive reforms in the health sector to bring the province at par with other provinces.

Talking to APP, the PPP leader stressed the need for taking prompt action for the provision of basic facilities, and cleanliness in the hospitals.

Hamzaai said that the government should take stern action against the ghost and absent doctors and conduct inquiries against staffers and employees of the department for not performing their duties.

He requested the chief minister to take notice of

the poor condition and lack of facilities in the public sector hospitals of the province.

He regretted that the Balochistan government could not initiate its cleanliness drive and renovation of the government hospitals in the province.

Balochistan government, he said had promised to revamp the health sector on modern lines and provide equipment to fulfill the need of the hour but the situation was not conforming to the ground situation.

"The government should expedite efforts to ensure the availability of free medicines in public hospitals of the province as many people could not afford expensive medicines," he added.

PM visits mausoleum of national leader of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, who is on a two-day official visit to Azerbaijan, visited the mausoleum of the national leader of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev in Baku on Thursday.

The Prime Minister paid glowing tribute to the services of the Azri national leader and laid floral wreath on the mausoleum.

Masood appreciates Lindsey for role in Pak, US ties

WASHINGTON (Online): Pakistan's ambassador to the United States Masood Khan has appreciated the role of US Senator Lindsey Graham regarding strengthening Pak-US relations.

This appreciation was given during a meeting held in Washington.

Masood Khan also thanked Lindsey for strong advocacy and support for Pakistan and said Islamabad will never forget this role during the difficult times of floods.

Both also expressed commitment to further strengthen Pak-US relations during the meeting.

Education Ministry approves new National Curriculum of Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training has approved the new National Curriculum of Pakistan after seventeen years of the previous curriculum that was notified in 2006.

A notification in that regard has been issued by the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training.

The task of curriculum development for grades 9 to 12, was carried out in an inclusive manner. Relevant stakeholders were taken on board with all the steps of curriculum development, the notification said.

An intensive consultation exercise was carried out with the stakeholders including policymakers, academics, practitioners, parents, and students from across Pakistan, it added.

For this purpose, not only policy dialogues were conducted across Pakistan but also a number of curriculum workshops were held to take feedback from the concerned.

Pakistan army our red line: Overseas Pakistanis

LONDON (Online): Overseas Pakistanis have declared armed forces of Pakistan red line.

The overseas Pakistanis in England have said army is very strong institution of Pakistan. May 09 incident is preconceived conspiracy against the institutions. This is good that the conspiracy of these people has been exposed.

They held we are if army is. Army is red line of any country. Pakistan army is red line of Pakistan.

They observed miscreants attacked radio Pakistan. They too attacked PTV and parliament. Attack on military installations is unpardonable at all.



KARACHI: PPP Sindh President Nisar Kihro presents sweets to Mayor-elect Murtaza Wahab on his victory at Arts Council.

UoG's syndicate decide to establish CPEC study center

QUETTA (APP): The University of Gwadar's third syndicate meeting was held at the higher education commission regional centre Quetta with Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Abdul Razzaq Sabir in the chair, a hand-out said on Thursday.

The syndicate besides a few new teaching departments decided to establish a CPEC study center and a Center for Marine Affairs and Marine Sciences.

The meeting among others was attended by syndicate members including UG's Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Syed Manzoor Ahmed, Secretary Colleges & Higher and Technical Education Balochistan, Hafiz Abdul Majid Bohair, Registrar Dolat Khan, Director Finance Shafi Muhammad, acting Dean faculty of Management Sciences, Commerce and So-

cial Sciences Prof. Dr. Jan Muhammad and acting controller Examination Dr. Kambar Farooq.

The UG's registrar presented the agenda of the meeting before the house for deliberation and decisions.

The August forum discussed each agenda in detail and decided on important matters such as launching new programs and granting approval to regularize the services of contract employees who have fulfilled all recruitment procedures and completed their probation periods. The members deliberated and resolved all the immediate issues related to the academic, administrative, and finances of the university.

The house confirmed the minutes of the 1st meeting of the Syndicate, the 3rd meeting of the academic council.

Four TTP workers held, hand grenades, arms recovered

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Rangers Sindh and Police, in a joint intelligence-based operation in Manghopir area, arrested four alleged accused of Hizb-ul-Ahrar (banned TTP, Mohmand Group) and recovered hand grenades and illegal arms from their possessions. Arrested were identified as Qari Alamgir, Muhammad Zahid alias Qari, Muhammad Kashif alias Kashi and Muhammad Yusuf, said a news release on Thursday.

The accused used to provide mobile phone numbers, locations of workplaces, houses and transport videos of businessmen from different areas of Karachi to commander of Hizb-ul-Ahrar (banned TTP and Mohmand Group) Muhammad Shoab alias Jan Nisar.

Pak, EU agree to enhance Parliamentary cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and the European Union have agreed to enhance parliamentary cooperation.

The understanding to this effect was reached during a meeting between Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar and EU Chair of delegation for relations with countries of South Asia Nicola Procaccini in Brussels.

The Minister of State stressed that stability in South Asia is imperative for global peace, according to a statement received here on Thursday. Hina Rabbani Khar also held fruitful exchange with Rapporteur of Trade Monitoring Group for South Asia and member Sub-Committee on Human Rights Krah Max. She also met Vice President of European Parliament and Rapporteur of new GSP Plus Heidi Hautala.

Efforts underway to provide facilities to flood victim: DC Jhal Magsi

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Jhal Magsi Muhammad Ramzan Palal on Thursday said that measures were being taken to provide facilities to flood victims in the district.

He said last year the infrastructure of Jhal Magsi district was damaged due to the worst floods in the history and destructive monsoon rains.

He expressed these views while chairing a meeting to review measures for flood victims and asked the welfare institutions to provide all possible relief activities to the victims in Sarkardan district.

In the meeting, provision of health facilities, maintenance of health centers and other issues were discussed while DC was also briefed about the measures in detail during the meeting.

DG Levies orders to cancel process of recruitment in Zhub district levies

By Mohib Tareen
QUETTA: The Director General Levies Force Balochistan, Naseebullah Khan Kakar has ordered to cancel the process of recruitment in Levies force in Zhub district.

According to the reports, the DG Levies ordered the cancellation of recruitment process in Zhub levies on a video got viral on social media showing interference of some Levies personals in the physical test conducted for the recruitments.

The DG Levies expressed his displeasure over the interference of the

PN continues rescue, relief operation at cyclone affected areas of Sindh, Balochistan

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Navy continued wide-scale Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Operations in far-flung coastal areas of Sindh and Balochistan.

In the recent developments, Pakistan Navy Emergency Response Teams in coordination with local administration carried out the evacuation of personnel and provided edibles to the aggrieved populace, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

The Pakistan Navy Emergency Response Teams have so far evacuated over 17,000 inhabitants from various coastal

areas of Keti Bandar, Kharo Chan, Shah Bandar, Baghan, Sujawal, Chuhar Jamali and Jati City. Additionally, 46 fishing boats of local populace of Ormara city have been provided shelter at Ormara Naval Harbour. PN Ships and Emergency Response teams are continuing patrolling at sea and in affected areas to efficiently respond to distress calls of seafarers. Pakistan Navy's ongoing Relief Operation in catastrophe-hit areas of Sindh and Balochistan is a practical manifestation of PN's resolve to provide every possible assistance to fellow countrymen in the hour of need.



QUETTA: Balochistan National Party (BNP) Leader, Sana Baloch expresses his solidarity with Members of Balochistan Government Teachers Association during their hunger strike for acceptance of their demands.

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The DG Levies expressed his displeasure over the interference of the

Levies personals in the recruitment process, which shows a sort of nepotism.

In his official order issued by the DG levies, it was requested to the Commissioner Zhub Division to identify the Levies personals who were allegedly involved in sabotaging the process of recruitments.

The disciplinary action would also be taken against those found guilty in this regard, it was declared. The DG Levies said that the process of recruitment of Levies in Zhub would be rescheduled after inquiry into the matter.