

# Independent

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## Balochistan's budget for next Financial Year presented with total outlay of Rs. 750 billion

Over Rs. 437 billion allocated for non-development expenditures with Rs. 229 billion allocated for public sector development program; 4,389 new vacancies created in provincial departments; over Rs. 115 billion allocated for general public services, over Rs. 61 billion for public order & safety affairs, Rs. 42 billion for health sector, Rs. 88 billion for education affairs and services



QUETTA: Balochistan Minister for Finance Engineer Zmarak Khan Achakzai presenting annual budget of 2023-24 in session of Assembly

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The Balochistan's budget for the next financial year 2023-24 was presented in the budget session of the provincial assembly on Monday. With total volume of Rs. 750.478 billion, the province's budget shows the estimated deficit of Rs. 49.058 billion. The Provincial Minister for Finance, Engineer Zmarak Khan Achakzai tabled the budget at the session with the Speaker, Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali in the chair. It was the second budget of the Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus

Bizenjo-led coalition government presented by the finance minister in assembly. As per the budget documents and the speech delivered by the Finance Minister, raises have been made in the salaries and pensions of provincial government employees and pensioners on the pattern of federal budget. The 35 percent raise was proposed for the government servants serving in the grades between 1-16 while 30 percent raise was announced for the employees serving above Grade 17. Similarly, the pension of retired employees was also increased by 17.5 per-

### Balochistan cabinet approves budget for next FY

QUETTA: The Balochistan cabinet approved the province's budget for the next financial year 2023-24 here on Monday. The cabinet met with the Chief Minister, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo in the chair. The Chief Secretary Abdul Aziz Uqaili and other concerned high ups were also in the cabinet meeting. The cabinet was briefed by the Additional Chief Secretary Planning, Hafiz Abdul Basit and Secretary Finance, Qambar Dastgir about the salient features of the budget besides the annual development programme and other related matters.

cent as was done in the federal budget. The minimum wages of the workers were announced as Rs. 32,000 in the next budget of the province. Moreover, in all 4,389 new vacancies have been created in different provincial government departments during the next fi-

financial year budget, the Finance Minister announced. While delivering the budget speech, the Minister Finance total income of the province through different resources has been estimated as Rs. 701.420 billion in the budget with total expenditures shown as Rs. 750.478 billion thus showing the deficit of Rs. 49.058 billion. While over Rs. 437.142 billion were allocated for the non-development expenditures, over Rs. 313.336 billion were allocated for development expenditures including Rs. 229.30 billion proposed for Public Sector Development Programme. The total revenue receipts estimated in the bud-

get are Rs. 645.191 billion. The capital receipts are included Rs. 34.733 billion and state trading - food are Rs. 11.4 billion. Out of the capital receipts, the province would get Rs. 25 billion under the Foreign Project Assistance (loan) and Rs. 9.609 billion would be received from recoveries of the loans, advances and investments. The province would get Rs. 464.705 billion from the divisible pool while it would get Rs. 20 billion from straight transfers.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo signing budget 2023-24 documents after approval from Provincial Cabinet

6 divisional HQs approved costing Rs. 2141 mln:

### 1033 new vacancies created for coastal highway security at cost of Rs. 2234 mn

Budget white paper reveals Levies recruitment completed in 17 districts with 2040 recruited; process underway in 23 districts

#### Independent Report

QUETTA: In all 1033 new vacancies were created for security of the coastal highway at a cost of Rs. 2234 million. The security of highways has been enhanced and movement of buses in the convoys through some parts of Balochistan being carried out for the safe journey. Similarly, proper secu-

city arrangements have also been made for the safe passage of zaireen from Quetta to Taftan and back. These details were shared in the budget speech and white paper issued on the occasion of next financial year budget of the province here on Monday. According to the data shared, the provincial, divisional and district level Apex committees have been constituted to streamline

the intelligence mechanism in the province. Other initiatives as mentioned in the white paper were included: establishment of Eagle Squad, establishment of Counter Terrorism Command (CTC), revamping of CTD, establishment of seven new CTD, etc. In addition to this, six CTD divisional headquarters were approved at a cost of Rs. 2,141 million.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo in a group photo with Provincial Ministers and MPAs after budget session

### PM underlines need to invest in young talent

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday stressed that they had to make huge investments on the country's youth because those nations had always excelled whose youth got skills and requisite degrees in different fields. Addressing a ceremony of the Prime Minister's National Innovation Awards, the prime minister expressed his pleasure over the strides made by the country's youth in different fields by utilizing their talents and skills. The country's future was in safe hands and they had to make investments on the youth's talent as they directly deserved it, he



added. The prime minister said it was a matter of satisfaction as the young people strived during their educational careers and showed their innovative skills in the information technology (IT) sector, biodiesel, traffic lights, motorbikes etc. Under the Prime Minister's National Youth Award Programme, a total of Rs 160 million was distributed among the 100 talented youths who had achieved innovative business projects.

### Terms boat incident national tragedy: All steps to be taken to stop human smuggling: Zia

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove has categorically stated that all steps would be taken for prevention of the human smuggling in the province, and those involved in it would be taken to task. This was stated by the Provincial Minister for Home in an official statement issued here on Monday. In a statement, the Minister Home expressed deep grief and sorrow over the tragic incident of boat capsizing and the loss of lives of people in it. Describing the Greece boat capsizing incident as the national tragedy, Mir Ziaullah Langove said that it is very much condemnable. He said that the day of mourning is being observed on the tragic incident in Balochistan.

### CM satisfied with police action: SHO injured in exchange of fire; two bandits arrested; one succumbs to injuries

QUETTA: The Station House Officer (SHO) Police Station Industrial was injured in an exchange of fire with bandits on Sirki road on Monday. According to the police, two bandits attempting to snatch a motorbike on gun point were also injured, and later arrested. One of them succumbed to his injuries, the hospital sources informed. The reports said that two bandits whose names couldn't be disclosed were making an attempt to snatch a motorcycle from a youngster, when the SHO Industrial PS Shahzad

### Incident of boat capsizing: Day of mourning observed in Balochistan

QUETTA: The day of mourning was observed in Quetta and other areas of Balochistan on Monday, on the tragic incident of boat capsizing in



Greece. The national flag flew at half-mast at all the important government buildings including the Balochistan Assembly, Governor House, Chief Minister House and secretariat, High Court and other ones. Meanwhile, a praying ceremony was held for the deceased persons at the headquarters of Balochistan Boy Scouts Association. The acting Provincial Scouts Commissioner, Amanullah Kanrani and other staff and volunteers participated. They offered fateha for those died in the tragic incident.

### Bright prospects of development of rail network: Deficit of railway can be turned into profit by making rail system effective: Governor

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has opined that the deficit of railway can be changed into profit by making the rail system effective in the province and by ensuring access of the passenger and goods trains to the neighbouring countries. He said that not only the travelling requirements of the people can be met by running trains on the small routes and distances like Quetta to Chaman and Hamai to Sibi, but the access of the things produced in different districts can also be ensured on the other hand. In this way, the railway can prove to be the best source of transportation in the province, he maintained. The Governor was speaking to the Divisional Superintendent of Rail-

### ANF Balochistan drug burning ceremony: Collective efforts needed to make society drug-free, says Shahzain Bugti

QUETTA: The Federal Minister for Narcotics Control, Nawabzada Shahzain Bugti has underlined the need to make collective efforts to make the society drug-free. The Federal Minister exhorted upon the parents, civil society and stars of different fields to join hands with the government against narcotics. This and similar other views were expressed by the Federal Minister Narcotics while speaking on occasion of the drug burning ceremony organized by the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Balochistan on Monday. He said that at a time when Pakistan is heading towards development, we can't afford that our youth are indulged in the menace of narcotics. He said that if the private sector is engaged in process of giving the railway land on lease, then it's income can be increased manifold, he believed.



QUETTA: Federal Minister for Narcotics Control Nawabzada Shahzain Bugti pressing button to burn recovered smuggled narcotics at Kuch-More area.

### Zil Hajj moon sighted, Eid ul Azha on June 29

KARACHI (APP): The Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Pakistan announced on Monday that the Zil Hajj moon has been sighted in Pakistan, adding that Zil Hajj 01, 1444 A.H. will fall on June 20 (Tuesday), thus Eid ul Azha in Pakistan will be observed on June 29 (Thursday). Chairman Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Pakistan Maulana Syed Abdul Khabir Azad announced the decision following a meeting of the committee, held at the Met Complex here after Maghrib prayers to sight the crescent moon.

### Bilawal threat works PM approves Rs 25b funds for flood affectees in Sindh

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chairman PPP and Foreign Minister (FM) Bilawal Bhutto threat has worked and Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has approved Rs 25 billion funds for flood affectees in Sindh. PM had held out assurance to PPP delegation during a meeting on Friday for providing funds. It is pertinent to mention here that Bilawal Bhutto while addressing public meeting in Swata day before had complained against non fulfillment of promises in budget by PPP. He had warned PPP would not allow the budget to be passed if funds were not provided for flood affectees.

### Khawaja Asif calls strong action against illegal human trafficking

ISLAMABAD (APP): Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Monday emphasized the need for firm action against individuals involved in the illegal transportation of people abroad. Speaking on floor of the National Assembly, the minister expressed deep grief and sorrow over the tragic deaths of Pakistani migrants in a recent boat incident near the coast of Greece.

### We have to foil nefarious designs of enemies: Corps Commander highly appreciates role of police in establishing peace

QUETTA: Highly appreciating the role of Balochistan police force in establishing peace in the province, the Corps Commander 12 Corps, Lt. General Asif Ghafoor has stated that the police force has played lead role against terrorism in the province. He said that he recognizes the important role that has been played by the Balochistan police in establishment of peace in the province. He also paid homage to the martyrs and injured of police on their great sacrifices saying that we would not be leaving the heirs of martyrs alone. Rather each and every individual of the motherland is the heir of families of the martyrs. Their sacrifices would always be remembered. The Corps Commander was addressing the passing out parade ceremony of the 14th basic course at ATF training center here on Monday.



QUETTA: DS Railway Balochistan Fared Ahmed meeting with Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

### SC reserves judgment on petitions regarding Reviews of Orders and Judgments Act

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court (SC) on Monday reserved its judgment on petitions pertaining to SC Reviews of Orders and Judgments Act 2023. A three-member bench of the top court headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan and Justice Munib Akhtar heard the case. At the outset of the hearing, Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan argued that there were different judgments of the apex court regarding the powers of the Parliament for legislation. A separate scope had been set for the review of the judgments in cases of Article 184/3, he said. The AGP said before introduction of the act which had not affected the right of anybody, there was no method for review in the cases of Article 184/3. It did not limit the scope of review. He said as per the act it was the court's authority to choose members of the bench for a review case, and that bench should be larger than the bench, which had heard the main case. CJP Bandial remarked that the government could introduce legislation but giving right of appeal in the review cases did not seem appropriate. The government should take a decision on the matter after thorough consideration. He noted that there was also no right of review appeal in India in cases like those of Article 184/3. Justice Munib Akhtar questioned whether the power of review could be compared with civil laws and whether civil laws fell in the jurisdiction of provinces.



## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Death at sea

It is unlikely that more survivors will be found. That means that at least 600 migrants — out of possibly 750 — on the fishing boat that set off from Libya towards European shores, may have perished when their vessel capsized in the Mediterranean on Wednesday.

The details are still sketchy but the passengers largely comprised Pakistanis, Afghans, Egyptians, Palestinians and Syrians. According to some reports, up to 300 Pakistanis may have drowned. It is a recurring tragedy — with no end in sight as economic, political and climate crises compel increasingly large numbers of people to flee their homes.

Who should be held responsible for this incident? The Greek coast guard that were not far off and that had, in fact, communicated with the people on the boat before it sank? If reports are to be believed, they tried to tow the boat. Did this in any way contribute to the tragedy? But the larger question is, why in the presence of maritime authorities did a tragedy of such immense proportions take place?

Only a comprehensive, unbiased investigation can reveal what happened between the time the authorities were first alerted to the presence of the overcrowded boat and when the vessel capsized later at night. Regrettably, the absence of help by the coastal authorities is part and parcel of Europe's larger xenophobic policy that aims to keep migrants out.

However, Fortress Europe alone cannot be blamed for why people in developing countries, such as Pakistan, choose to leave. This is not the first time Pakistani migrants have lost their lives at sea.

There have been several incidents. In a particularly heartbreaking one earlier this year, sportswoman Shahida Raza, who was unable to afford medical treatment for her young son in Pakistan, drowned as the migrant boat carrying her and scores of others crashed against the rocks.

She had been attempting to reach foreign shores to build a better future for her child. Therein lies the tragedy: an inept, uncaring government has made little effort to crack down on a vast network of human smugglers who fleece desperate individuals and put them on a path strewn with hazards. It is telling that in the latest incident, very few of the victims' families registered a complaint against the human smugglers. Perhaps they did not expect anything to come of it or perhaps they feared harassment at the hands of the authorities themselves. It is bad enough that the spectacular failure of the government to fulfil its part of the social contract by providing economic security to its citizens drives desperate individuals — even the educated ones — to leave the country. It is a crime when the government decides to ignore a grave issue that has snowballed into a crisis of deadly proportions.

## Cultural challenges of adoption



Tahera Hasan

In recent years, child adoption has increased across all sections of society. However, the practice often remains concealed, and couples are compelled to live with a web of lies. The adoption journey typically commences due to infertility, which holds significant cultural and social implications. In our society, women are often considered incomplete if they are unable to conceive. The ability to give birth is deemed an essential aspect of being a complete person. Consequently, individuals grappling with infertility not only face personal and relational struggles but also endure intrusive and insensitive questioning that is often masked as well-intentioned concern.

Unless someone has personally experienced the emotional turmoil of infertility, it is challenging to comprehend the depth of the pain it inflicts. Regrettably, the burden of blame usually falls on women, with men being encouraged to remarry in order to have children. Even when the root cause of infertility lies with the man, it is seldom discussed openly. I recall an encounter I had 21 years ago when I met a man from Balochistan who had three wives. These wives, unable to communicate in Urdu, accompanied him to an infertility clinic in Karachi. To his surprise, after medical investigation, he discovered that the issue rested with him, not the women. This realisation left him feeling ashamed for subjecting his wives to undue blame and distress.

Women undergoing countless cycles of IVF and enduring invasive and painful procedures often experience the anguish of repeated failure. Unfortunately, counselling is scarce, and the genuine option of adoption is rarely discussed or encouraged. Adoption has touched my life in various capacities, both personally and professionally. I have interacted with adoptive parents, counselled adopted children, and assisted individuals through the emotional and legal aspects of the adoption process. Throughout this journey, one recurring theme has emerged — the desperate need for answers to the questions that arise and the need to dispel misconceptions.

Cultural and social acceptance plays a pivotal role in adoption. When individuals choose to become parents through adoption, they make a commitment to protect and support their child, regardless of the circumstances. Yet, unwarranted beliefs persist that adopted children are more troublesome and a source of distress. But do biological children not cause parental worries, or refrain from abandoning their parents, indulging in drugs, or engaging in other behaviour that could cause pain? Such concerns apply to all children, irrespective of their biological or adoptive status. The fear of bonding with an adopted child often emerges as a question. It is worth noting that parents who choose adoption have usually endured immense suffering and possess an intense longing for a child. In my experience with over 100 adoption cases, I have never witnessed a lack of bonding between parents and adopted children; however, there can, of course, be challenges. On the other hand, the possibility of postpartum depression and the subsequent rejection of biological chil-

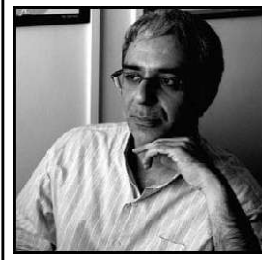
dren rarely surfaces as a concern during pregnancy. The fear that one may not bond with their child is not a valid reason to dismiss the option of adoption.

Managing intrusive questions becomes a necessary skill for adoptive parents. Setting personal boundaries is crucial, as there are aspects of a child's story that are not to be shared with everyone. Those who have undergone the adoption process should become advocates, sensitising others and fostering a more accepting society for our children. To illustrate the kind of questions adoptive parents encounter, let me share an example. Once, someone asked me about my child's 'real parents'. I responded with a smile, saying, 'I am'. However, the person persisted, questioning the authenticity of my role as a parent. I gently took her hand and asked her to touch me, emphasising that I, too, am real. We must learn to assert ourselves and prevent undue intrusion into our lives, as allowing others to treat us poorly is often a reflection of how we permit it.

Addressing the trauma associated with abandonment is another crucial aspect of adoption. Should adoptive parents disclose the truth about their child's adoption? Secrecy surrounding adoption raises ethical concerns. Children should be informed from an early age, gradually incorporating the truth into their daily lives. It is not a single event to be scheduled but an ongoing dialogue based on trust, love and a sense of security. Parents who withhold the truth from their children deny them the opportunity to experience true security. I firmly believe in the resilience of children and the positive impact of being honest with them.

-- Courtesy Dawn

## Guerilla gardening



Zarrar Khuhro

There are those who complain, and then there are those who take action ... and the residents of Kenya's Kericho county fall squarely into the latter category. Kenyan roads are poorly maintained; in the rural areas it's common to see roads that have more potholes than they do tarmac. Even when 'repairs' take place, they usually amount to sand or earth being filled in these craters, a half-hearted patchwork job that doesn't last long.

Fed up, residents of Kericho County decided to make use of these potholes by planting banana trees in them, thus turning a virtually unnavigable road into a virtually unnavigable banana-tree studded road.

The exasperated roads and transport secretary Kipchumba Murkomen sent out a passionate appeal to the locals to stop their activities and asked for patience as the government was committed to improving the roads. In response, Kenyans reminded him that his party had campaigned on the slogan 'We can't eat roads', which deprioritised spending on infrastructure and so he was in no position to complain if the people had decided to turn roads into avenues for food production.

This rather innovative and fairly practical method of protest is by no means limited to Kenya; Bryan Raymond, a resident of Fort Myers, Florida, was so tired of fixing the many recurring potholes on his street that he decided to draw the city authorities' attention by planting a ba-

nana tree in the latest fissure. While this naturally generated a lot of media attention, it's unclear whether it bore any fruit by leading to actual repairs being made.

For others, their foray into pothole farming started as a safety measure. Alarmed by a growing pothole on the side of the road that was big enough for a child to fall into, New Orleans resident Ronnie Mackay decided to fill it with potting soil. Then an idea sprouted in his head: why not plant a few watermelon and corn seeds too? This attracted the attention of neighbours who pitched in to help. One local costume designer even made a miniature scarecrow who is perched above a traffic cone. And so, a pothole became a fun project for an entire neighbourhood.

Ron Finley, the 'urban gangsta gardener' of south-central Los Angeles, has taken guerrilla gardening, as it's known, to another level. South-central LA is known not just for its poverty and high crime rate but, as Finley points out, for being a 'food desert': an area with limited or no access to fresh foods. There are plenty of liquor stores and fast and packaged processed food in the stores, notes Finley, but it's nearly impossible to find fresh fruit and vegetables. The result is obesity, malnutrition and a higher rate of easily preventable diet-related illnesses than in most other areas. So Finley decided to plant a 'food forest' outside his home on a 45-metre by 3m stretch of overgrown land between the road and the footpath. Inviting volunteer gardeners to come and help tend the crops and fruit trees, Finley's forest became a neighbourhood attraction and joint project. Given that the land is owned by the city, Finley was asked to remove the forest, but media attention and online petitions, along with some grassroots organising,

forced the administration to not only give in but to support his plans to create more such forests — from which people in the neighbourhood are free to harvest — on empty lots across the city, and even in homeless shelters, where the residents help out by maintaining the gardens and, in return, get to eat fresh food. Now, he runs the Ron Finley project 'teaching communities how to transform food deserts into food sanctuaries, and teaching individuals how to regenerate their lands into creative business models'. Like he says: "Growing your own food is like printing your own money."

But it's not just about food and finances, it's also about building resilient, cohesive communities. In Finley's gardens, we see a model that isn't just practical but also therapeutic and educational, especially for children.

Similarly, the concept of urban community gardening is picking up pace around the world and, on a recent visit to Canada, I got to see this project up close: small plots of unused city land are gardened collectively by a group of people from the local community, who work on shared or individual plots growing fruits, vegetables, flowers or whatever strikes their fancy. There are now such gardens in many Canadian and American cities, varying in size and complexity — from simple plants in wooden crates, to sprawling gardens. Even rooftops are being employed in dense urban settings where vacant land simply isn't available. The Covid pandemic and Ukraine war have reminded us how fragile global supply chains are and how critical food security is; perhaps the urban areas of Pakistan could benefit from similar projects ... if only we can somehow keep the land mafia at bay. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### Finance Bill 2023: Senate proposes 55 recommendations



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Inter-Governmental Commercial Transactions (CCoIGCT) held in Islamabad.

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate on Monday proposed 55 recommendations related to Finance Bill 2023 and gave 31 recommendations regarding the public sector development program.

The recommendations on the Finance Bill, 2023 would be forwarded to National Assembly which would decide whether or not these recommendations are to be incorporated into the Money Bill.

In the session of the upper house of the parliament on Monday, Senator

Saleem Mandviwala, Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance, presented the Senate's budget recommendations. The Senate recommended to National Assembly that tax of 12 percent of the sale on retailers and brands who are registered with FBR should be maintained, instead of increasing it to 15 percent.

For filers, it was proposed that a tax on credit card transactions should be increased from 1% to 5%, and for non-filers and 2% to 10% for non-filers to be maintained at previous

rates. Under the laptop scheme, mandatory technical training should be provided to those who purchase laptops so that they can earn income through online businesses. It has been proposed to gradually impose taxes on the real estate and agricultural sectors. Government institutions working in loss should be audited, and reform action should be taken against institutions like Pakistan Steel Mills, which have been incurring heavy losses for years. Income-

generating industries should be given tax exemptions and provided with gas supply. It has been proposed to establish tax-free zones for foreign direct investment and rationalize the subsidy mechanism for seeds, fertilizers, solar energy devices, and essential food items.

The Senate proposed to ensure the availability of all items at discounted prices in utility stores, allocate funds for the National Development Volunteer Program in the 2023-24 budget.

### PCJCCI keen to boost Pakistan's dairy sector with China's help

LAHORE (APP): Cooperation between China and Pakistan on dairy industry and multifarious demands for high-quality dairy products in China would provide a contemporary path of development for Pakistan's domestic dairy sector. Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President Moazzam Ghurki stated this in a think-tank session, held here at PCJCCI Secretariat on Monday. He said that Pakistan was among the world's top five largest milk producers with over 60 million tonnes of milk pro-

duction each year. Such ventures and exports could definitely add value to Pakistan's economy.

He added that China learned that Pakistan was the most important exporter and producer of dairy products in South Asia. "Chinese technologies are low-priced, and if we adopt the techniques and technology, used by China, the country can flourish in this industry," he suggested.

PCJCCI Senior Vice President Fang Yulong shared his views by saying, "We are willing to explore more about Pakistani dairy

industry to see if we have the opportunity to be part of it." From 2011 to 2023, China's dairy imports rose at a compound annual growth of 12.3 percent, and the demand was still expanding. Milk powder, liquid milk, high value-added dairy products such as whey, cheese, butter and cream were also in high demand in the Chinese market, he added. PCJCCI Vice President Hamza Khalid said that currently China's dairy imports mainly come from New Zealand (40.44 per cent), the Netherlands (17.15pc) and Australia (7.38pc).

### Dar chairs meeting of CCoIGCT

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Inter-Governmental Commercial Transactions (CCoIGCT), today.

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Syed Faisal Ali Subzwari, Federal Minister for Power Mr. Khuram Dastagir Khan, Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar, SAPM on Revenue Mr. Tariq Pasha, Attorney General of Pakistan,

Secretary Finance, Secretary Maritime Affairs, Secretary Law & Justice, and other senior officers attended the meeting.

The CCoIGCT considered summary of Ministry of Maritime Affairs about the management of operations of Pakistan International Container Terminal (PICT) and was informed that Abu Dhabi Ports (ADP) owned by the Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has shown interest in operating the Container Terminal.



RAWALPINDI: President Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) Saqib Rafique addressing during ceremony regarding 'Chances of Trade in Gilgit'

### Dams play important role in agricultural development: Fazl

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker provincial minister for irrigation, Haji Fazl Elahi on Monday said that dams play an important role in the agricultural development of any country, while the agriculture sector is affected due to the lack of an excellent irrigation system, which results in shortage of food items.

After the completion of the Remodelling of Warsak Canal project, the water flow in the Warsak canals will increase up to 1250 cusecs.

The flow of seven hundred cusecs of water will increase with this project. Most of the areas of Peshawar and Nowshera are irrigated

from the canals coming out of Warsak Dam.

Unfortunately, a lot of our water is being wasted.

He expressed these views during his visits to various ongoing projects of the Irrigation Department in the Khyber and Mohmand districts.

During the visit, Chief Engineer South Yasin Khan, Project Director Remodelling of Warsak Canal Rool ul Mohsin, Superintending Engineer Batoor Zaman Khan and relevant officials of the Irrigation Department were present.

Minister Irrigation visited the pump house of Warsak Canal in Jamrud where he inspected various parts of

the pump house and inquired about their functions.

On this occasion, Project Director Remodelling of Warsak Canal System Roolul Mohsin said during the briefing that the total number of pumps in the pump house is five of which four are in use while one pump is on standby, work is going on for the upgradation of the grade station in the pump house, which will be completed soon.

Meanwhile, minister Haji Fazl Elahi reviewed the work on the tunnel under the Remodelling of Warsak Canal project in Malaguri where the Chinese company is doing development work.

### Seafood exports increase by 17.13% to \$456 mln

ISLAMABAD (APP): The exports of fish and fish preparations increased by 17.13 percent during the first eleven months of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

The country earned \$456.668 million from seafood exports during July-May (2022-23) against the exports of US \$389.873 million in July-May (2021-22), showing growth of 17.13 percent, PBS reported.

In terms of quantity,

the exports of fish and fish preparations increased by 32.65 percent going up from 148,354 metric tons last year to 196,785 metric tons in the first eleven months of last year.

On a year-on-year basis, seafood exports increased by 25.06 percent to \$50.578 million in May 2023 as compared to exports of \$40.444 million during April 2022.

In terms of quantity, the exports witnessed a 32.20 percent increase going up from 16,578 metric tons last year to 22,081 metric tons this year.

### Gold prices decline by Rs.1,000 to Rs220,700 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.1,000 and was sold at Rs.220,700 on Monday against its sale at Rs.221,700 the previous day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.858 to Rs.189,214 from Rs.190,072, whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went down to Rs.173,447.

From Rs.174,232, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

### Yousaf dismissed from LCCI Executive body

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry has dismissed Muhammad Yousaf Shah from the Executive Committee for not renewing the membership within the time stipulated by law, according to the LCCI spokesman here on Monday.

He explained that Muhammad Yousaf Shah failed to renew the membership of his company Al Yousaf Enterprises within the stipulated time period due to which he was no longer a member of the Lahore Chamber and at the same time, his eligibility as a member of the Executive Committee also ended. The

decision would be applicable from March 31, 2023.

"It should be noted that in the LCCI, the registration and membership is obtained by a company or business concern, not by any individual man. On the basis of that company, etc., any individual becomes a member of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry and accordingly he is elected as Executive Committee Member, President, Senior Vice President or Vice President through the election process. If a person does not complete the first basic task i.e. renewal of the company, etc.



## Flood 2022: Roadmap for reconstruction, rehabilitation 'almost devised': Dar informs NA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Monday informed the National Assembly that a comprehensive roadmap to carry out reconstruction and rehabilitation work in the flood-affected areas had almost been devised.

"Immediate relief work has already been done throughout the country with the disbursement of Rs25000 per family through the BISP programme. Almost Rs100 billion have already been spent in addition to the assistance extended by NDMA in kind," the minister said on the floor of the National Assembly while responding to the concerns of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) lawmaker Dr Nafisa Shah.

The finance minister

said the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the cabinet had recently approved Rs12 billion to replenish the stock of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), keeping in view the predicted threats of the monsoon and the cyclone.

Following the widespread destruction caused by the heavy rains and floods, Ishaq Dar said a comprehensive report had been prepared in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank (WB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Union and the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives that suggested the economic and physical losses stood at around \$30.3 billion.

He said funds amount-

ing to \$16.3 billion were required to execute the physical work like repair of damaged houses and infrastructure, under the '4RF' strategy i.e. resilient, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

In the General Donors Conference, the minister said less than \$400 million were received while the pledges were made for bearing 50 per cent financing for the reconstruction and rehabilitation work.

He said a committee, comprising the Sindh Chief Minister, and federal ministers including Khurshid Ahmed Shah, Syed Naveed Qamar and Sherry Rehman, was holding meetings and the roadmap in this regard had almost been devised.

"It (the reconstruction & rehabilitation) will be like a 4-5 year medium-term development plan.



LAHORE: Former Speaker Punjab Assembly Rana Muhammad Iqbal meeting with Punjab Governor Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman.

## KP Governor takes notice of excessive load shedding of gas, electricity

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali here on Monday summoned the meeting of Wapda and Suigas authorities at Governor House Peshawar after people complaints about excessive load shedding of these services and issued a letter to their high-ups to attend it on Tuesday.

The governor directed the Chief Executive of PESCO and the General Manager of SNGPL to come to Governor's House along with concerned staff on Tuesday.

He said people's complaints were being received over several hours of load shedding and the unavailability of gas in Peshawar City and its adjoining areas was a matter of great concern.

Matters related to demand and consumption of electricity and gas besides periods of loadshedding and consumer problems would come under discussion during the meeting.

The governor reiterated that he would make efforts to provide relief to masses during hot weather from load shedding.

## PML-N is the last ray of hope: Shaista

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Divisional president of PML-N women's wing Hazara Jadoon Dr. Shaista Jadoon Monday said that Pakistan League-N is the only ray of hope and will overcome the crises and make the country stable.

She expressed these views while talking to a delegation of PML-N women workers delegation at her residence.

Dr. Shaista further said that after the elections, the party will be reorganized and more active, making Mian Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif the party president and Maryam Nawaz chief organizer is a commendable step.

She further stated that Hazara Division has always been the stronghold of the Muslim League-N and it will also remain a hub of the party, in other parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province the PML-N is being made active.

While directing the women workers the president said that they should spread the manifesto of their leader Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif to everyone.

## Govt provides relief to masses by cutting expenditures: Abbasi

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi Monday said his government after coming into power provided relief to the masses by controlling the price of essential commodities and cutting expenditures.

"In 2018 when we handed over the federal government to PTI wheat flour price was 980 rupees while a year ago when PDM took charge wheat flour price was 2300 rupees and today once again the price is even 50 rupees less than the price of 2022," said the minister.

He was addressing a public gathering here at Abbottabad after the inaugu-

ration of the Sui gas provision project worth 3.8 million rupees. Murtaza Abbasi said the federal government has also approved a huge amount of 800 million rupees for the reconstruction of the Karakoram Highway from Haripur to Manshera which was badly damaged during the past few years and the then government did not pay any attention to this important road.

He stated that PTI lead government was the real enemy of the people of Hazara division particularly Abbottabad as during 2018 PML-N government allocated 500 million rupees in funds for the construction of the Abbottabad Interchange which was cancelled.



LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Information and Culture Amir Mir, along with Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce SM Tanveer addressing a Press conference regarding Punjab's budget at the Civil Secretariat

## ANF seizes over 41 kg drugs in seven operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting seven operations in different areas of the country managed to recover over 41 kg drugs and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday.

It informed that in an operation near Faizabad in Islamabad 140 intoxicated tablets were recovered from the possession of an accused resident of Mardan. In another operation near Thokar Niaz Baig Lahore, ANF

recovered 14.4 kg opium and 15.6 kg charras from the secret cavities of a vehicle while an accused resident of Gujranwala was also arrested. In the third operation at Multan International Airport, 1821 grams charras were recovered from trolley bag of an Abudhabibound passenger, resident of Bannu. The spokesman informed that in the fourth operation, ANF foiled two bids to smuggle drugs from Jiwani to Karachi and recovered 4075 grams weed.

## Delegation of Diamer visits Baltistan region

GILGIT (APP): In a bid to promote inter-region harmony and exchange of ideas, a delegation from district Diamer was hosted by the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) during the visit to the Baltistan region.

The delegation, consisting of religious clerics, community leaders, journalists, and representatives from various sectors, embarked on this journey to gain insights into the successful devel-

opment initiatives of different districts in Baltistan.

The visit, organized by AKRSP, aimed to facilitate an exchange of knowledge and experiences between the two regions, fostering a sense of unity and cooperation.

The delegation from Diamer was particularly interested in understanding the strategies employed by the Baltistan region in promoting sustainable development and community well-being.

## CS GB vows to reform education landscape of Pakistan

GILGIT (APP): Chief Secretary (CS) Gilgit Baltistan (GB) Muhiudeen Wani Monday vowed to reform the education landscape of Pakistan.

The CS GB in an official statement to media here in Gilgit, said, the GB Government and Allah Waly Trust launched the free School Meals Program in the city of Skardu.

He added CEO Allah Waly Trust Shahid Lone and I personally inaugurated the unique initiative. Within two months, we will have extended the program to 30 public schools across Skardu.

"Evidence reveals that free school meal programs have increased school enrollment and child health, and drastically reduced school dropout rates around the world" CS GB said.



PESHAWAR: Rescue 1122 worker using water gun to douse fire in a cargo godown near Ring road.

## CM inspects PIC to review facilities

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi paid a visit to the Punjab Institute of Cardiology (PIC) to assess the medical facilities being provided to the cardiac patients.

He spoke to patients and their attendants in the emergency wards to gather information about the available medical services, with a specific focus on the availability of bypass and angiography facilities.

During his inspection, Mohsin Naqvi took note of the shortage of angioplasty guiding catheters at the PIC and directed the health secretary to ensure their availability.

The CM also inspected the primary angiography facilities for cardiac patients and observed the arrangements made for maintaining cleanliness. He acknowledged the dedicated efforts of doctors and paramedics who continue to provide exemplary service despite the increased demand.

Mohsin Naqvi expressed his commitment to further enhancing the treatment facilities and mentioned that the health secretary had been directed to address the shortage of angioplasty guiding catheters in the ICU.

# International News

## Xi says China, US 'made progress' in Blinken visit

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping said the United States and China had "made progress" on a number of issues on Monday as he hosted US State Secretary Antony Blinken for talks in Beijing.

Blinken's visit is the highest-level trip by a US official to China in nearly five years with ties severely strained between the world's two largest economies. Xi, China's most powerful leader in decades, met Blinken at the capital's Great Hall of the People just after 4:30pm (0830 GMT), Chinese state media and US

officials said.

"The Chinese side has made our position clear and the two sides have agreed to follow through the common understandings US President Joe Biden and I had reached in Bali," Xi told the top US diplomat.

"Two sides have also made progress and reached agreement on some specific issues," he added, without elaborating. "I hope that Secretary Blinken, through this visit, can make positive contributions to stabilising China-US relations," he added.

The meeting, which lasted just over half an

hour, came after Blinken held more than 10 hours of talks over two days with other top officials.

At the ornate Diaoyutai State Guesthouse earlier on Monday, Blinken and China's foreign policy supremo Wang Yi offered polite smiles before talks with their aides, who unlike their bosses wore masks in line with lingering Covid-19 protocols.

Away from the cameras, Wang told Blinken that his trip "comes at a critical juncture in China-US relations", according to state broadcaster CCTV.



US State Secretary Antony Blinken (L) shakes hands with China's President Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

## Five Palestinians killed as Israel deploys helicopters in West Bank

WEST BANK: Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank killed five Palestinians including a militant on Monday, in a raid that saw seven Israeli security personnel wounded and rare helicopter fire.

The sound of gunfire was heard across Jenin as wounded Palestinians continued to arrive by ambulance at the northern West Bank city's Ibn Sina hospital in the early afternoon, an AFP journalist said.

Crowds gathered outside Jenin government hospital, as the funerals of those killed in 11 hours of fighting began.

The Palestinian health ministry said five people had been killed and at least

91 others were wounded in the violence.

It named four of those killed: 15-year-old Ahmed Saqer, Khaled Assassa, 21, Qais Jabareen, 21, Ahmad Daraghme, 19, and Qassam Abu Saria, 29. Meanwhile, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad claimed Abu Saria as a fighter for the militant group. Among the injured was Palestinian journalist Hazem Nasser, who was hospitalised with a gunshot wound, according to the Palestinian journalists syndicate.

Jenin's deputy governor, Kamal Abu-al-Rub, told AFP the Israeli forces had launched the raid at around 4:00am (0100 GMT). "The army stormed the (Jenin refugee) camp and

the city after the dawn prayer in large numbers, and there was intense gunfire," he said.

An AFP journalist at the scene said Israeli forces withdrew from Jenin at around 15:10 (1210 GMT).

The Israeli army said an armoured vehicle had been hit by a "very unusual and dramatic" explosive device at around 7:10am (0410 GMT), during "routine activity" to arrest two "wanted suspects" — one affiliated with the movement Hamas and the other with the Islamic Jihad.

"We had five Israeli border police guys wounded, and two soldiers also lightly wounded," army spokesman Richard Hecht said.

## UN chief urges donors to step up aid response for Sudan

GENEVA: U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appealed on Monday for countries to step up aid pledges for Sudan, where a conflict between rival military factions has forced some 2.2 million people from their homes and sparked a major humanitarian crisis.

The United Nations says about \$3 billion is needed this year for humanitarian relief inside Sudan and for refugees fleeing the country, only a fraction of which has

been funded.

"Without strong international support, Sudan could quickly become a locus of lawlessness, radiating insecurity across the region," Guterres told a fundraising conference hosted by Germany, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt and the United Nations. "I appeal to you all today to provide funding to deliver lifesaving humanitarian aid and support to people living in the most difficult and dangerous conditions," Guterres said.



People board a truck as they leave Khartoum, Sudan.

## Taliban's treatment of women could be 'gender apartheid' - UN expert

GENEVA: A United Nations expert said on Monday that the Taliban's treatment of Afghan women and girls could amount to gender apartheid as their rights continue to be gravely infringed by the country's de facto authorities.

"Grave, systematic and institutionalised discrimination against women and girls is at the heart of Taliban ideology and rule, which also gives rise to concerns that they may be responsible for gender apartheid," U.N. Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, Richard Bennett, told the

Human Rights Council in Geneva.

The U.N. defines gender apartheid as "economic and social sexual discrimination against individuals because of their gender or sex."

"We have pointed to the need for more exploration of gender apartheid, which is not currently an international crime, but could become so," Bennett told reporters on the sidelines of the Council.

"It appears if one applies the definition of apartheid, which at the moment is for race, to the situation in Afghanistan and use sex instead of race.

## Over 10,000 migrants reach UK in small boats this year

LONDON: The number of people arriving in the UK in small boats has reached over 10,000 since the start of the year, UK government figures showed on Sunday.

The provisional total covering the period up to Saturday stands at 10,139, according to data released by the interior ministry, the Home Office.

The figure is down by over 1,000 on that from the same time last year, when there had been

more than 11,300 crossings by June 17.

Last Sunday saw the highest number of crossings on a single day so far this year, with 549 people making the perilous journey. Crossings have picked up in recent days as a result of a hot spell, with a further 486 arriving on Friday and 374 on Saturday.

Britain's Conservative Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has repeatedly pledged to "stop the boats" and made the issue one of his highest profile priorities.

## Cyclone leaves 13 dead in Brazil

SAO LEOPOLDO: A cyclone which tore through southern Brazil has killed at least 13 people and forced thousands from their homes, authorities said on Sunday.

Torrential rain and strong winds on Thursday and Friday caused damage in dozens of towns in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, including its capital Porto Alegre — the latest in a string of weather-related disasters to hit South America's biggest country.



An explosive device left by Palestinians, detonated during an Israeli army raid in Jenin in the occupied West Bank.

## Russia to stay in touch with African peace mission, some ideas workable - Kremlin

MOSCOW: The Kremlin said on Monday that Russia would continue to talk to a group of African countries seeking to mediate in the conflict with Ukraine, notably at a Russia-Africa summit next month, and that some of their ideas were workable.

President Vladimir Putin on Saturday gave the seven-country African delegation that had come to see him in St Petersburg a list of reasons why he believed

many of their proposals were misguided, pouring cold water on a plan already largely dismissed by Kyiv.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Monday that talks with the delegation would continue nonetheless as some of its suggestions could in theory be implemented. He did not say which proposals he was referring to.

"In general, the dialogue with the Africans will continue," said Peskov.

## The UAE and Qatar reopen embassies as Gulf Arab relations improve after a yearslong rift

DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates and Qatar announced the reopening of their embassies on Monday following a yearslong rift.

The two countries issued statements saying the Qatari Embassy in Abu Dhabi and a Qatari Consulate in Dubai, as well as an Emirati Embassy in Qatar's capital, Doha, had resumed operations.



## President Dr. Arif Alvi says: Pakistan's commitment to welfare, voluntary repatriation of refugees remains steadfast

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has said that Pakistan's unwavering resolve and commitment to the welfare and voluntary repatriation of refugees remained steadfast. "It is remarkable that, even after forty years, there have been no untoward incidents or frictions between the refugees and the host communities, exemplifying the harmonious coexistence and mutual respect that prevails," the president said in his message on World Refugees Day annually observed on June 20.

He said the Day reminded of the immense contributions of the government and people of Pakistan in hosting millions of Afghan refugees over the past four decades. He said Pakistan's unparalleled humanitarian efforts in providing refuge to such a large number of displaced individuals, despite limited resources, served as a testament to the country's spirit of brotherhood and compassion. "This day, observed

annually on June 20, brings into focus the hardships endured by refugees and emphasizes our commitment towards supporting them during these challenging times," he remarked. The president said that Pakistan continued to host one of the largest refugee populations in the world. The people and the government of Pakistan opened their arms to Afghan refugees based solely on the principles of humanity and solidarity, and extended support despite the chal-

lenges posed by meagre resources, he added. He said that Pakistan initially received financial and burden-sharing support from the international community during the early years of hosting Afghan refugees, such assistance has waned over time. On its part, he said, Pakistan had extended all possible support to refugees. He said Pakistan's policies ensured their access to education and healthcare, and to have their bank accounts.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo presiding over meeting of Provincial Cabinet



TEHRAN: Secretary Defence Lt. Gen (Retd) Hamood Uz Zaman Khan and Commander Border Guards of Islamic Republic of Iran Brig. General Ali Goudarzi signing MoU.

## Pakistan-Iran sign MoU to enhance Maritime cooperation

Pakistan, Iran agree to expand cooperation in diverse areas

TEHRAN (APP): Pakistan and Iran have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance Maritime cooperation.

The MoU was signed between Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) and the Iranian border guards during the visit of Secretary Defence, Lt. Gen (Retd) Hamooduz Zaman to Iran. It will strengthen relations between PMSA and Iranian border guards. Upon arrival in

Tehran, the Secretary Defence was welcomed by the Iranian Deputy Defence Minister. During interaction, the Iranian Deputy Defence Minister expressed best wishes for Pakistan's political and military leadership.

The Secretary Defence emphasized the importance of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Iran. He also expressed the hope that bilateral relations will continue to evolve on

principles of mutual respect and shared common interests. During talks, both sides aimed to further enhance the collaboration in various areas of common interest including security, joint counter terrorism measures and ensuring regional economic connectivity. Meanwhile Pakistan and Iran have agreed to enhance and diversify bilateral trade and expand cooperation in energy, transport connectivity, education.

## PTI is fully prepared to contest election: Asad

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI leader Asad Umar has said it is mentioned in the constitution election should be held. "It is laid down in the constitution should be held. PTI is fully prepared to contest election. Our party is ready to participate in election whenever they are announced. To a question from a journalist on the occasion of his appearance in District and Sessions Court Islamabad that he will contest election on PTI ticket or on the ticket of some other party, he said if ticket is awarded to him he will contest election at every cost.

Ambiguity was left in Asad Umar reply that ticket means ticket of PTI or from some party other



QUETTA: Former Inspector General Police Dr. Syed Kaleem Imam meeting with Parliamentary Secretary for Law, Parliamentary Affairs, Science & Information Technology Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi

## GoB allocates land for setting up of NIFS: Dr. Rubaba says

QUETTA (APP): Parliamentary Secretary Law and Parliamentary Affairs Science and Information Technology Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi on Monday said that Balochistan government has allocated land for setting up of National Institute of Forensic Sciences (NIFS). "With the establishment of this institute, Balochistan's dependence on the Punjab Forensic Laboratory will end with forensic matters," she expressed these views while talking to the former senior officer of the Police Services of Pakistan Dr. Syed Kaleem Imam (Tamgha Intiaz) and a consultant National Institute of Forensic Sciences called on her here at the Law department. Mr. Kaleem Imam briefed her about the establishment of the National Institute of Forensic Sciences in Quetta and discussed the necessary legis-

lation in this context. Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi said that the provincial government has provided adequate land for the establishment of the first forensic sciences institute. On this occasion, Dr. Syed Kaleem Imam said that an MoU has been inked with the Higher Education Commission regarding the National Institute of Forensic Sciences, while all the administrative and technical issues have been explained in the charter, but the final law prior to the implementation, documents containing the suggestions given by the provincial government can be made. "The institute will hire six highly qualified professionals from Balochistan, including vice-chancellor and professors, he maintained adding that this project would not only ensure educational facilities, but also employment opportunities would be available to talented local people of Balochistan.

## Commander of Iranian Navy calls on CNS Admiral Amjad Niazi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy Rear Admiral Shahram Irani on Monday visited Naval Headquarters Islamabad and called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi.

Upon arrival at Naval Headquarters, Commander of the Iranian Navy was received by the Naval Chief and was presented a Guard of Honour, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

After the wreath-laying at Shuhada monument,

the visiting dignitary was introduced to Principal Staff Officers at Naval Headquarters.

Later, Commander of the Iranian Navy called on Chief of the Naval Staff at his office. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest including bilateral and regional collaborations and maritime security in the region were discussed.

The Naval Chief highlighted Pakistan Navy's initiatives to ensure maritime security and peace through Regional Maritime Security Patrols.

## PTI govt imposed in country to fulfill foreign agenda: Fazal

TANK (APP): Jamiat Ulema Islam Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Monday said he had raised voice against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government which was imposed to fulfill the foreign agenda in the country. He expressed these views while addressing a public gathering after inaugurating mega development projects worth billions of rupees in Tank. On this occasion, Fazl inaugurated a 36-km long Tank to Pezu Road and a link road from Tank to Yarik Interchange of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) at a cost of Rs 4 billion.

Fazl, who is also chief of the Pakistan Democratic

Movement (PDM), said "We have ended the government which was imposed in 2018 rigged elections." He said the role of that evil has been removed from the politics of Pakistan and now that would not be allowed to rise again.

He said, after coming into power in the federation, the JUI-F got approved several projects worth in billions of rupees within only one year. He said JUI-F served the people before and would continue to do so in the future.

On this occasion, Federal Minister for Communications Asad Mahmood said the ten-year period of darkness has been ended in the province.

## MNAs appreciate budgetary measures, seek motorways for Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Members of the National Assembly on Monday appreciated the government for proposing significant relief measures for the common man and allocating unprecedented development funds in the Federal Budget 2023-24.

Participating in the budget debate in the Lower House of the Parliament, they sought development projects especially the missing facilities of motorways for the Balochistan province to end the sense of deprivation of its people.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's Ms Asiya Azeem, while strongly condemning the May 9 riots, demanded that no leniency should be given to the culprits involved in the heinous act. She also expressed deep

grief over the boat accident in which scores of Pakistanis lost their lives.

She said Pakistan had been borrowing massively for the last 75 years as the national economy remained dependent on foreign loans. "We cannot achieve economic stability till date," she added. She said inward foreign remittances also witnessed sharp decrease last year.

Asiya Azeem said a meager amount of Rs 5 billion was earmarked for women in the budget, who were 51 percent of the country's population.

She suggested that a separate ministry for women should be set up and lauded the government for announcing tax exemption for businesswomen.

The PTI MNA also appreciated the government

for enhancing salaries and pensions of the employees, however, urged for taking steps to control inflation which had surged to 38 percent.

Minister of State for Power Division Hashmi Notezai, while expressing grief over the boat tragedy, said the people had to resort to illegal ways to reach the European countries for better job opportunities and due to increasing unemployment tendency in the country.

He said Balochistan was blessed with many natural resources, but the local people were not getting any benefits from them. Their livelihood largely depended on agriculture and border trade as there was no industry in the province, he added.

## Governor grieved over loss of human lives in Greece boat capsizing

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has expressed heartfelt grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives of several Pakistanis in the boat capsizing incident in Greece. In a condolence statement issued the Governor said that the people of province share the grief with the bereaved families.



ISLAMABAD: As a token of appreciation and to thank the people and Government of Azerbaijan for hosting PM Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and his delegation last week, the Prime Minister is holding hand of the Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan H.E. Khazar Farhadov during a ceremony.

## Pakistan's economy to touch \$1 trillion by year 2035: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal on Monday said that the size of Pakistan's economy would be expected to touch \$1 trillion by the year 2035 as the country's economy would become one of the largest in the world.

Addressing 'Master Card Funded Care Ignite Project' ceremony held here, the minister said that the country's economy had the potential to become a major economy in the

world by 2035. Ahsan Iqbal hoped that domestic exports could reach \$100 billion in the next five years and current domestic exports stood at \$30 billion, which was much less than its potential. He said that the current government was following short-term, medium and long-term plans to improve the economy, for which the Economic Council had been formed. Ahsan Iqbal said that the economy of the country had deteriorated due to the wrong planning of the previous Tehreek-e-Insaf.

## Commissioner says Public problems will reduce with best performance of administrative officers

Independent Report

QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Sohail Ur Rehman Baloch said that the role of administrative officers is very important, so only with their best performance, public problems would be reduced and administration affairs will be done better. Best arrangements during the 34th National Games and all the administrative officers deserved praise for taking other measures. The best performance of the officers earns the trust of the public. Therefore, it is very important to encourage the concerned officers for good performance.

He expressed his views on the occasion of the distribution of certificates of appreciation to administrative officers and officials who performed best during the 34th National Games.

On this occasion, Commissioner Quetta Division Sohailur Rahman Baloch apprised Deputy Commissioner Quetta Shahak Baloch, Additional Commissioner Quetta Di-

vision Saeed Ahmed, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Quetta Division, Assistant Commissioner Quetta Division Babar Khan, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Revenue Quetta Ms. Sana Majbeen, Assistant Commissioner City Quetta Ataul Munim, Assistant Commissioner Sariab Nisar Ahmad Longu, and other administrative officers and appreciation certificates were given to the officials.

Commissioner Quetta Division further said that improving the performance of administrative officers will reduce public problems as well as improve administrative affairs. During the 34th National Games, the team consisting of Deputy Commissioner Quetta and other administrative officers worked day and night to prove it. He hoped that all the administrative officers would do their best to bring a good name to the government and reduce the problems of the people by showing excellent performance in the future.

## Jogezai meets Sajid Turi in Islamabad

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Information Secretary of Pakistan Peoples Party Balochistan Sardar Sarbaldan Khan Jogezai met Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Sajid Hussain Turi on Monday in Islamabad.

Malik Mustafa Kakar, a member of the Provincial Executive Committee was also present at the meeting.

## 70th birthday of BB to be celebrated at QPS tomorrow

Independent Report

QUETTA: General Secretary of Pakistan People's Party Balochistan Lala Rozi Khan Kakar has said that the 70th birthday celebration of leader of democracy martyr Ms. Benazir Bhutto will be held at Quetta Press Club instead of Provincial Secretariat on June 21 at 5 o'clock.

In the ceremony, the 70th birthday cake of the leader of democracy Shaheed Benazir Bhutto will be cut.



QUETTA: BNP-Mengal Leaders, Malik Naseer Ahmed Shahwani, Ahmed Nawaz Baloch and others are addressing a Press conference.

## DG BFA says BFA will continue its mission of eliminating food adulteration

Independent Report

QUETTA: Balochistan Food Authority will continue its mission of eliminating food adulteration and providing safe and healthy food to the people across the province, these views were expressed by Director General BFA Muhammad Naem Bazai while talking to newly appointed Food Safety Officers, Lab Technologists and Food Safety Supervisors on the occasion of an introductory meeting.

DG said, "The purpose of the introductory meeting was to introduce the newly appointed officers and officials to the vision, mission, and objectives of Balochistan Food Authority." He emphasized the importance while he informed the new officers and officials about the organizational structure and responsibilities of

Balochistan Food Authority. Apart from this, a four-day training session was also started for the newly appointed officers. On the first day of the session, Director BFA Muhammad Ishaq gave a comprehensive briefing to the participants about better teamwork and the importance of working under a positive strategy.

New officers also expressed their determination that they will use all their abilities to carry forward the mission of Balochistan Food Authority in a better way so that the dream of providing healthy and adulteration-free food to the people of Balochistan will come true. Moreover, the Director General of BFA encouraged the new officers and employees and expressed the hope that they will work together and play their full role for the improvement of the food safety situation throughout Balochistan.



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Sohail Ur Rehman Baloch distributed certificates of appreciation among administrative officers and officials for their best performance during the 34th National Games.