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

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

BAKU (Azerbaijan) (APP): delegation is on a two-day the mausoleum of Thursday agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in the fields of energy, trade and

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

The prime minister, accompanied by a high-level

official visit to Baku at the invitation of President

to introduce flights of Azerbaijan airline between the two capitals, enhance cises, besides exploring the avenues of cooperation in the areas of energy, investment and education.

Prime Shehbaz, who earlier visited

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi getting his biometric verification for

erupted between workers of

JI and PPP outside the Arts

the verbal altercation turned

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

On the other hand, JI cried foul and alleged that the

Sindh government has ab-

ducted 29 PTI members

who were supposed to

vote for Rehman in the elec-

The workers of both

into clashes.

Council of Pakistan.

driving license at Islamabad Traffic Police F-8 Office.

JI, PPP clash after

Wahab wins Karachi

Mayor election

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan People's Party's (PPP)
candidate Murraya Wahah

appeared victorious in the

election for Karachi mayor

on Thursday after securing

173 votes and his rival,

Jamaat-e-Islami's Hafiz

Naeemur Rehman, got 160

votes as per unofficial re-

new mayor started earlier in

the day with elected mem-

bers of the Karachi Metro-

politan Corporation (KMC)

City Council taking part in

kistan Peoples Party's

(PPP) Murtaza Wahab and

Jamaat-e-Islami's (JI) Hafiz

Naeemur Rehman were fac-

ing each other with Salman

Abdullah Murad of PPP and

Saifuddin Advocate of JI

contesting for the post of

Clashes erupt between

In the tight contest, Pa-

the process.

deputy mayor.

JI and PPP workers

The voting for Karachi's

Azerbaijan first president Haider Aliyev and the martyrs monument, spoke high At a joint press stake- of the President Ilham aviation sectors to reflect the decades-old strong relationship between the two

> 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

Minister management to Islamabad He told the media per



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

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

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

women cricket team

Independent Report

sons that during the "won-

derful" 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

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has highly appreciated the services of International female cricketer, Naheeda Khan belonging to Balochistan province for the Pakistani women cricket team.

In a message on the retirement of Naheed Khan from the International cricket, the Chief Minister said that her services for the national women cricket team are praiseworthy.

He also appreciated Naheed Khan for becoming a role model for the women

Moreover, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo expressed

cellent career.

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 sup-

port 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

of Balochistan and her ex- level, he commended. Governor Abdul Wali Kakar says

Federal Govt. providing every possible facilities to youth of Balochistan

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 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.

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

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

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

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 "Biparjoy", upc0ming Monsoon and constructive / maintenance activities of the post flood 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 pos-

sible. 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 atten dance 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

PM greets Chinese **President** Xi Jinping on powers: CJP his birthday ISLAMABAD (Online): a 3 members bench of SC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday extended his greetings to Chinese President Xi Jinping on his birthday.

"It is my great pleasure to extend heartiest felicita-tions to H.E. President Xi Jinping on his birthday," the prime minister, who is currently on a two-day visit to Azerbaijan, wrote on Twitter.

He said under the dy-namic leadership of Presi-dent Xi, China had emerged as a global leader advancing international solidarity peace and cooperation.

He said the "iron brotherhood" between China and Pakistan entered a new era of enhanced cooperation since his visit to Pakistan in 2015 and had been going from strength to strength

ever since.

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 coun-

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.

Pak, Bosnia enjoy historic, friendly ties: **Bilawal**

ISLAMABAD (APP) Ambassador of Bosnía Herzegovina Sakib Foric paid a farewell call on Minister for Foreign Affairs Bilawal Bhutto Žardari here on Thursday and exchanged views on bilateral relations.

The minister said Pakiand Bosnia Herzegovina enjoyed historic and friendly relations.

He appreciated the services of the Bosnian ambassador for enhancing relations between the two countries, during his stay in Pakistan.

NA Speaker narrowly escapes in road accident

ISLAMABAD (APP) Speaker of the National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashrafhad 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 staffemerged from the accident unharmed.

Review and appeal are two different

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 re-

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 marks while presiding over in the last years.



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

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

(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 singed the MoU on behalf of Pakistan Customs while Secretary Commerce Muhammad Saleh Farooqi witnessed the signing ceremony held here on the sidelines of Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum, a press release issued by the Ministry of Commerce said.

Minister of Trade and Investment at Pakistan's Embassy in Moscow, Shaukat Hayat Cheema, was also present on the occasion.

In order to implement

SAINT PETERSBURG the memorandum, the two parties will cooperate in the sphere of exchange of information on the methodology used for the maintenance of foreign trade statistics, its significant changes as well as the exchange of statistical data on mutual trade. except the data, not subject to disclosure or constituting a state or com-

mercial secret. The purpose of the exchange of information on the methodology used for the maintenance of foreign trade statistics, as well as the exchange of statistical data defined in the memorandum, will be to provide both parties with the necessary information on mutual trade. According to the MoU, the statistical data will be exchanged every quarter and the parties will provide each other with the statistical data for the corresponding quarter no later than 70 days after the end of the relevant period.



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 Sualeh Ahmed Faruqui also present on the occasion.

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

Independent Report

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



OUETTA: 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 Ralochistan

President, first lady visit ITP office for driving license ISLAMABAD (APP)

President Dr Arif Alvi and candidate Murtaza Wahab mayoral results, clashes First Lady Samina Alvi on Thursday visited the office of Islamabad Traffic Police to process their driv-

According to Express ing licenses. News, during the voting Both the president and process, the situation outthe first lady went through side the premises remained the biometric verification extremely tense. However, as a prerequisite of the lithe police took control of it but as the results came out,

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

UK appoints Jane Marriott as news HC to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (Online): Britain has nominated Jane Marriott as the new High Commissioner to Pakistan. Jane, the first female High Commissioner nominated for Pakistan, will take charge in mid-July, said British High

Commission in a state Before being nominated for Pakistan, Jane Marriott was the High Commissioner in Keny

from 2019 to 2023. High Commissioner designate Jane has exten sive experience in diplo macy, internal, administra

tive and foreign affairs. Jane Marriott has also held diplomatic responsibilities in Yemen, Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan. Designated High Commissioner Jane, also advisor to the late US Special Representative for Pakistan and Afghanistar Richard Holbrooke.

CM's remarkable initiatives indeed

During course of last few days, the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Ouddus Bizenio 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

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 prov-

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 secretariat. 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



Friday June 16, 2023

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

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 qualifica-

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 disgorged ('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

minister Nawaz Sharif is said to have retorted: "What else has he been doing for the past five This year's budget for 2023-24 has been gestating for nine months, since ways, once the iron horse

September 2022 when the government took over our ailing economy. That should have been long Highway Authority (a haenough for anyone (however uncertain their tenure) to present a budget that revealed some visible effort Rs157bn. at planning and economic 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, them for debt servicing and repayment. This monumental burden may be renegotiated, but that would simply be postpon-

ing 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 whether Mr Dar could largesse by a nervous tesy Dawn

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 Railof our transportation system, will receive a paltry Rs33bn, while the National ven for khaki and civil retirees) can expect almost five times as much -

The allocations for foresight. Instead, the social sectors like population control and management, health (Rs24bn) and education (Rs97bn) receive grudging inclusion in the government's budget. Regard-less of whether these are the responsibility of the federal or the provincial governments, they are the real needs of all Pakistanis, regardless of do-Rs7.3 trillion is owed to micile 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 halfempty 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.

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 minimumwage menials run the country instead. The latter are more adept at balancing budgets than any governmore than open-handed ment functionary. -- Cour-

In the 1970s, Mr

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

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 evervthing. 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 reig-nited. For the visit der Any Form of Detenprompted the release of tion or Imprisonment and 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.

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

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 asimmediately 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-

several Indian fishworkers the Model Agreement on from Pakistan's prisons as 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 regu-The Agreement on lation 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 post must be informed if 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 sisted in communicating 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

(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 organizing events, Commerce and the conducting studies to Ministry of Economy of identify Azerbaijan is aimed at products, and promoting promoting bilateral trade.

document

Azerbaijan and Pakistan and promoting trade early August of 2023. 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 information, exportable

For this purpose, establishes a framework both countries agreed to

(Azerbaijan) for fostering closer mobilize their efforts to Pakistan and collaboration between finalize a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) by

> 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 foundation for increased

trade and economic cooperation. It is expected to create new opportunities for businesses, enhance bilateral investment, and economic cooperation. contribute to the overall growth and prosperity of both nations

reserves reach \$9.378b

total liquid foreign reserves 9,378.2 million while

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

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

of the past government of nobody would be ready to invest in the country, he Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. Talking to APP, he said that observed. Putting

Azerbaijan for promotion of trade between the two countries.

Steps underway

to uplift national

economy: Tasneem

SARGODHA (APP): State linked with each other," he

Minister for Productions added.

and Industries Tasneem

Thursday the incumbent instability in the country, government was striving the political opponents hard to uplift the national were hatching economy which had been conspiracies everywhere ruined due to wrong policies and misleading the nation; political stability was highly responsibility of current important to strengthen economic crisis on the past national economy, attract regime, the state minister investment, and ensure said it breached its own development and prosperity agreement with the in the country. "Until there International Monetary is no political stability, there Fund (IMF) due to which would not be any economic it was now he sitant to stability as both are inter- 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-

company establishment shows that Pakistan ranks first, especially in E-Commerce industry. Workhy, which provides endto-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 ecommerce industry and providing freelance services,

entrepreneurs freelancers export knowhow and services to all over the world by using the possibilities of digitalization. The data by the United Kingdom (UK) government on foreignowned company

category

to global markets. Pakist

establishment shows that Pakistani nationality ranks first in the e-commerce

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a situation where Minister for Economic Ahmed Qureshi said on there was political 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, collection to attain sustainable economic growth in the country.

BAKU: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif witnesses the signing of Statement of Understanding between Pakistan and

Addressing the ceremony of study conducted by Ipsos on 'Unveiling tax evasion: a close look at five sector in Pakistan", the minister stressed the need of complete harmonization among the federal and

provincial tax collecting domestic industry. authorities to plug the tax

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

of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf have sparked the billion, which not only put but it also suffered the losses of Rs 500 billion.

First time in the history of Pakistan, the The minister said that 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

He said the unrealistic polices of last government tax evasion, besides removing tax anomalies at federal and provincial level imports as it jumped to \$85 as well as simplification of tax return by the Federal huge pressure on local Board of Revenue to foreign exchange reserves overcome accumulated

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 fiscal year 2013-2014. The

attention, said a press release. The meeting discussed

agenda item entailed the presentation and Audited Accounts for the

Privatisation Commission Board (PC) Board on Thursday appreciation for the approved budget estimates extensive deliberations of the PC for the fiscal year carried out by the Audit 2023-24, amounting to Committee and PC Rs1248.8 million. The Board management in finalizing the met here under the audited accounts. The Board Chairmanship of Abid emphasized the importance Hussain Bhayo, which of promptly completing the discussed several topics requiring the PC Board's audited reports for the remaining years on priority. These estimates, categorized under various heads of expenditure, will undergo further approval by the subsequent approval of the federal government as required by PC Ordinance, 2002



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

Lawmakers in the National incentives government to introduce increased incentives in the in agrarian products. Participating in general discussions on the federal budget lawmakers in the National Assembly have joined forces to emphasize capacity.

ISLAMABAD (INP): the need for robust Assembly have called on the comprehensive development strategies in the agriculture sector in the budget for 2023-24 to budget.Khurshid Ahmed bolster the agriculture sector Junejo of the PPP and achieve self-sufficiency highlighted the urgency of safeguarding agriculture from the adverse effects of climate change and underscored the importance of constructing dams for water reservoir

Pakistan's total foreign

KARACHI (APP): The of Pakistan stood at US\$ 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.

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

Meanwhile.

Among them, foreign

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

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief
Minister Punjab Mohsin

The CM instructed the police and prosecution department to present 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

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 presented against the events of May 9.

Institute of Cardiology.

against her.Justice Amjid

petitioner had requested for providing to her details of

all cases against her.

The CM instructed Lahore, 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

The participants were briefed that during investigation, individuals were acquitted after being proven innocent, and strong testimonies were being culprits involved in the events of May 9.

presented against the culprits. The chief secretary, IG police, CCPO

PESHAWAR: Ambassador of Turkey to Pakistan,

Dr. Mehmet Pachaji and other visit Peds

Cardiology Ward Up gradation in Peshawar

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) registered by Punjab police registered by Punjab police

has wrapped up Aleema against Aleema Khan. One

Khan petition seeking case is registered against details of cases registered Aleema Khan in Multan

petition for hearing Thursday whereby the petitioner had requested for the petitioner had requested

During the hearing of of the petition in the

the case police authorities light of report presented

presented report in the by police on behalf of court on behalf of IG IG Punjab.

prosecution, commissioner Lahore, and others attended the meeting.

Friday June 16, 2023

Meanwhile, meeting held under the chairmanship of caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi at his office decided in principle on Thursday to hand over the management of historic and cultural landmarks of the province to the Walled City of Lahore Authority (WCLA).

Recognising the mesmerizing allure and profound historical significance of Punjab's cultural heritage, the chief minister emphasised the imperative of restoring these architectural gems to their original magnificence.

Turkey envoy inaugurates Peds Cardiology Ward at PIC

PESHAWAR (APP): The Ambassador of Turkey to Pakistan, Dr. Mehmet Pacaci on Thursday inaugurated Peds Turkey to Planning and Development in support of the demand made by the political 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



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi presides over the meeting to review progress of taking action against the elements involved

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

parties, social organizations and All Parties Conference (APC) held on June 7,against the results of the census in the

Anti-Narcotics Force

(ANF) in their ongoing

country and managed to

recover over 184 kg of

accused including two

Thursday.

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

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

hashish was concealed in

resident of Peshawar was

arrested. In another

and two kg Ice drug

The vehicle was

recovered

He demanded that the HCBA President Malik Hidayt 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 Meanwhile, Minister supremacy of law and State for Poverty 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.

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

11 dead, 1,229 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least 11 persons were killed and 1,229 others injured in 1,186 road traffic crashes in Punjab during the last 24 As many as 690

seriously injured people were shifted to different hospitals, while 539 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams. The analysis showed

that 597 drivers, 49 He informed that in intercepted near Sangjani underage drivers, 164 an operation, 22.8 kg Toll Plaza on G.T Road. hashish was recovered Two Afghan nationals pedestrians and 479 passengers were among the victims of road traffic

Jirga meeting of merged areas elders held in Governor House

PESHAWAR (APP): A 60- districts," Haji Ghulam Ali member Jirga meeting called on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Haji 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 in frastructure.

"Despite 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 their solutions.

told the Jirga members. districts have become part Ghulam Ali at the 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

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

Independent Report for Industries, Commerce & Technical Education (IC&TE), Adnan Jalil, along with Chief Executive Officer with Chief Executive Officer
(CEO) Khyber
Pakhtunkhwa Economic
Zones Development and
Management Company
(KP-EZDMC), Javed Iqbal
Khattak, visited the Jalozai

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-ofthe-art facility specializing in advanced drinking water treatment technologies. This cutting-edge enterprise will only contribute to the landscape.

PESHAWAR: KP Minister Furthermore, Minister Adnan Jalil 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 en viron mental sustainability, the provincial minister Adnan Jalil 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

from a vehicle intercepted near Motorway Toll Plaza spot. International News

ANF seizes 184 kg drugs

in seven operations

operations against drug the CNG cylinder of a traffickers conducted vehicle. During the seven raids across the operation, an accused

drugs besides netting five operation, two kg heroin

Afghan nations, said an concealed in secret ANF Headquarters cavities of a vehicle were

The

RAWALPINDI (INP): Islamabad.

spokesman here on recovered.

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

with reference to property.

is not wanted by Punjab

The court disposed

Police at present.

BRUSSELS: NATO sees no sign that Russia has under Moscow's exclusive 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

Monitoring Desk

JERUSALEM: Israeli de-

fence 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 con-

tracts, officials said on

Wednesday.
The defence ministry,

which oversees and ap-

proves the exports of

İsrael's defence industries,

said one quarter of deals

were for drone systems,

with "missiles, rockets and

next month and will remain 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

air defence systems" mak-

ing up another 19 per cent.

show total exports have

doubled over the past nine

Ministry figures

A breakdown of the re-

Arab countries account

for quarter of Israeli

arms exports

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

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

DUBAI: Iran tested a sui-

gions to which the goods are The one-way drone was launched on Wednesexported showed a leap among Abraham Accords countries from \$853 million (nine per cent) in 2021 to \$2.96 billion (24pc) in 2022. The US-brokered Abraham Accords from 2020 saw Israel normalise ties with the United Arab Emirates. ting merchant vessels.

Monitoring Desk

cide drone against a practice vessel in the Gulf and fired one other missile or drone without warning ships in the area, a U.S. of ficial in the region said.

day 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 hit-



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.



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 vessel sailed into the nearby port city of Kalamata, transferring victims. After an official count, authorities which had set off from the

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 Interna-

tional 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,

Libyan port of Tobruk, had repeatedly refused offers of help from Greek authori-

"It was a fishing boat packed with people who refused our assistance because they wanted to go to Italy," coast guard spokesperson 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.

US pushing India to seal drone deal **Monitoring Desk** lion to \$3bn for years. US

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 bil-

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

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

The two nations, in their response to the increasing threats from the nuclear-armed North, are jointly carrying out largescale 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.



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 Com-

mand (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 In recent weeks.

escalation or miscalculation," CENTCOM commander Gen. Michael "Frik" 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

Asset rich Pak can survive without IMF support: Dar

Mohammad Ishaq dar on Thursday reiterated that Pakistan was an asset rich country and it could survive without any support from the International Monetary

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 emptions given to those 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

and SME sectors were tial growth, he added. The 'drivers of growth' and ex- minister said import restrictions were imposed to curb sectors were inevitable for 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 indiscipline, he added.

He said expenditure bill should be made by keeping in view the external debt and import restrictions would be uplifted by June 30. Ishaq Dar said as far as prevention of illegal border trade was concerned, coordi nation among intelligence agencies and the Federal Board of



ISLAMABAD: Chairman NDMA Lt. General Inam Haider Malik presiding meeting with US ARCENTLTG Frank.

Zubaida Jalal proposes 25 point economic manifesto for tackle financial crisis

QUETTA (APP) Pakistan 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-Chairperson 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 increas-

According to the Business Forum (PBF) has 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 industri-

alization first and real es-

tate 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 installments and establishment of fast-track arbitration centers in every district ing exports and expanding for settlement of business

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

stan Navy continued widescale Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Operations in farflung 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 re-

The Pakistan Navy Emergency Response Teams have so far evacuated over 17,000 inhabit-

KARACHI (APP): Paki- 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 ReliefOperation 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



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.

DG Levies orders to cancel process of recruitment in Zhob 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

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

pressed his displeasure

cruitment process, which shows a sort of nepotism.

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

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 recruit-The DG Levies ex- ment of Levies in Zhob would be rescheduled after over the interference of the inquiry into the matter.

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 agricul-

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 pos-

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

in disaster management structure of NDMA and its role in international relief assistance, a news release said. The interactive session also covered ongoing situation of Tropical Cy-clone BIPARJOY at Arabian Sea and proactive preparedness to mitigate the possible impact of the cyclone at coastal areas of

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



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

intentionally destroyed by

representatives of Indepen-

dent Power Producers

(IPPs) setting in the every

government. Such 'mafias'

had vested interests and

two government own can-

Pakistan, US agree to

enhance cooperation

mal powers, he added.

try, he added

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 agricultue 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 Nawabshah from the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Rs 450

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Chairman National Disas-

ter Management Authority

(NDMA) Lieutenant Gen-

eral Inam Haider Malik held

meeting with the delegation

of United States Army

Central (USARCENT) led

by Lieutenant General

Patrick D. Frank, Com-

manding General of USARCENT here at

NDMA gave an overview

of Pakistan's hazards and

vulnerabilities, disaster

Chairman

NDMA on Thursday.

The

billion allocation. Many could be rehabilitated with poor patients from both Sindh and Balochistan vislimited funds and could earn hefty revenue for the counited the two hospitals for However, he alleged their treatment, he added. that the power sector was

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 Leaguethey never wanted rehabilitation of state-owned ther-Nawaz termed the budget balanced challenging cir-Senator Abro sugcumstances gested that the government

She said 30 to 35 per cent raise in the salaries and should allocate Rs 2.5 billion for the purchase of CT 17.5 per cent in the penscan and MRI machines in sions of government employees was a big relief for them, she added. cer hospitals in Larkana and

Nuzhat said the government had also announced special incentives for overseas Pakistanis.

PM visits mausoleum of national leader of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev

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

The Prime Minister



OUETTA: A delegation of traders of Balochistan led by President All Pakistan Anjum Tajiran Ajmal Baloch meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

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 US flood relief assistance to Pakistan and said Islamabad will never forget this role during the difficult times of

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

Four TTP workers held, hand grenades. arms recovered

KARACHI (APP): Paki-

stan Rangers Sindh and Police, in a joint intelligencebased 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

news release on Thursday. The accused used to provide mobile phone num bers, locations of work places, houses and transport videos of businessmen from different areas of Karachi to commander of Hizb-ul-Ahra (banned TTP and Mohmand Group) Muhammad Shoaib alias Jan Nisar.

Kashif alias Kashi and

Muhammad Yusuf, said a

Pak, EU agree to enhance Parliamentary cooperation ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- stressed that stability in

kistan and the European Union have agreed to enhance parliamentary coop-

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.

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 Rapaccini in Brussels. porteur of new GSP Plus The Minister of State Heidi Hautala.

stakeholders were taken on

board with all the steps of

curriculum development

tion exercise was carried out

with the stakeholders in-

cluding policymakers, aca-

demics, practitioners, par-

ents, and students from

An intensive consulta-

the notification said.

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

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

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



GADDANI: DHO Dr. Qamar Ronjha briefed GOC Gwadar Major General Ahsan Waqas about medical camp set up under supervision of district administration

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. Ármy 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.

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 mon-

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

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

Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Igbal Thursday said that government was working on 5-Es to boost exports, energy, infrastruc-ture, 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.

fast growth to make Paki-

ISLAMABAD (APP): 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 We want to achieve Muslim League-N, had worked on China Pakistan stan a prosperous state," he said. All available resources projects.

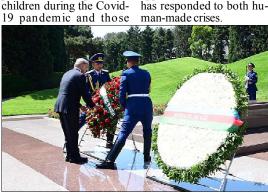
Pakistan urges **UNICEF** to boost efforts to meet needs of world's children in crisis situations

NATIONS (APP): Pakistan has urged United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to step up its efforts to address the needs of children in humanitarian crises, including natural disasters, conflicts and situations of foreign occu-

Speaking in the UNICEF's Executive Board meeting, Pakistani delegate Hadiqa Qureshi also urged international donors to provide sustainable and adequate funding to UNICEF to enable it to fight the unprecedented impacts on children during the Covid-

stemming from conflicts and climate change

The Executive Board reviews UNICEF activities and approves its policies, country programmes and budgets. It comprises 36 members, representing the five regional groups of member states at the UN. Its work is coordinated by a Bureau, comprising the President and four Vice-Presidents, each officer representing one of the five regional groups. "Despite all the challenges the world is facing today, we note with appreciation how UNICEF



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

Call for introducing constructive reforms in Balochistan's health sector

OUETTA APP): The provincial leader of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP)
Shams Hamzazai on ThursShams Hamzazai 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 cleanness in the hospitals.

Hamzazai 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

He requested the chief minister to take notice of the poor condition and lack

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 ful-fil the need of the hour but the situation was not conforming to the ground situ-

"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,



KARACHI: PPP Sindh President Nisar Khuhro 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 Ouetta with Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Abdul Razzaq Sabir in the chair, a handout 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