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ISLAMABAD: State Minister of Turkmenistan and Head of TurkmenGaz, Maksat Babayev and Minister of State for Petroleum of Pakistan, Dr. Musaddiq Malik signing TAPI Joint Implementation Plan meanwhile Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif witnesses the signing.

TAPI project to strengthen energy security of Pakistan, region: PM

Pakistan, Turkmenistan sign joint implementation plan to execute TAPI gas pipeline project

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that being a critical component of his government's vision, the TAPI gas pipeline project would ensure energy security, economic growth and prosperity in Pakistan as well as the entire region. The prime minister, in a meeting with a high ranking delegation from Turkmenistan, said the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas project was a manifestation of the strategic cooperation between Pakistan and Turkmenistan in the energy sector. The delegation was headed by State Minister and Head of TurkmenGaz Maksat Babayev, a PM Office press release said. Welcoming the delegation, the prime minister said

Pakistan and Turkmenistan enjoyed brotherly relations underpinned by common history, culture and religion. He said the leadership on both sides had been desirous to further promote economic and commercial relations. He underscored that Pakistan could be a gateway for quick access to Turkmenistan's rich energy reserves. The prime minister renewed the commitment for early implementation of the project and hoped that the TAPI gas pipeline would be completed at the earliest by optimizing all available resources by all relevant parties. In order to expedite work on various components of the project, the prime minister nominated Special Assistant to the

Prime Minister Dr Jehanzeb Khan to work as the focal person from the Pakistan side as the head of the Senior Coordination Committee. The visiting Turkmenistan delegation also included Deputy Minister of Energy Annageldi Saparov, CEO and Chairman of BOD, TPCL, Muhammetmyrat Amanov as well as the Turkmen Ambassador to Pakistan, Atadjan Movlamov. Later, the prime minister witnessed the signing of "TAPI Gas Pipeline Joint Implementation Plan (JIP)" by Minister of State for Petroleum Dr Musaddiq Malik and Maksat Babayev, State Minister and Head of TurkmenGaz, on behalf of their respective governments. The JIP is aimed at accelerating the work on the TAPI Gas Pipeline project.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing the National Vice Chancellors' Peace Conference.

PM approves 'revolutionary program' for uplift of youth, farmers, women in budget

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday approved the inclusion of a 'revolutionary programme' in the upcoming budget 2023-24 for the uplift of youth, women and farmers. As per the prime minister's directives, the funds have been allocated in the upcoming budget for projects on the welfare of youth and women as well as for agriculture tube-wells. According to a PM Office statement, in the next fiscal year, the youth would be provided interest-free loans and endowment

fund would be established for education and sports. The prime minister approved the establishment of Pakistan Endowment Fund for Education on the pattern of Punjab Endowment Fund. Under the Fund, the intelligent but poor students from across the country, would be given educational scholarships. The funds have been allocated Prime Minister Youth Programme to extend small loans to the youth. The government has also specified funds to impart skill training to the youth, including in information technology.

Two policemen among three martyred in Swat

From Arif Ahmad where he succumbed to his injuries. According to police sources, both policemen were posted at Mingora police station. According to SP Farman Khan, the accused fled after the incident and a search operation has been started to arrest them. "Blockades have been imposed on the entry and exit routes of Swat and soon the accused will be caught by the police. This is an incident of terrorism and the terrorists will be arrested soon," he added

SWAT: Three persons, including two police personnel, were martyred in the firing by unknown persons in the main city of Swat, Mingora. According to police sources, three unidentified armed men opened fire on two policemen near Mingora vegetable market, as a result of which police constables Umara Khan and Ashraf were killed on the spot. While Bank Security Guard Musa Khan was injured and shifted to Saidu Sharif Hospital

NAB found more evidence in Al-Qadir Trust case: Irfan Qadir

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Accountability Irfan Qadir on Thursday said the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) had found more evidence in connection with the Al-Qadir Trust corruption case. Addressing a press conference, the SAPM said the accountability watchdog had traced transactions worth Rs 4.50 billion from the accounts of Farhat Shehzadi, the friend of former prime minister's wife, and efforts were underway to bring her and her husband back from abroad for further investigation. The NAB Ordinance stressed for across the board accountability and there was no sacred cow "when it comes to accountability", he added.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Health Abdul Qadir Patel and USAID Deputy Administrator Isobel Coleman with Pakistan and U.S. officials participating in Pak-US Health dialogue.

Unveils Pakistan Economic Survey 2022-23

Govt rescued crippling economy, averted default in face of serious inherited challenges: Dar

Says Rupee's real value is around Rs 240/\$; GDP posted a growth of 0.29% in FY23

ISLAMABAD (Online): The government's economic team headed by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, adding that, "For the restoration of the economy, we have made a plan, our objective is to restore macroeconomic stability, we need to bring it back to what it was in 2017." Higher international commodity prices (crude oil, edible oil, pulses etc), global supply disruptions, damages of major and minor crops due to flood, currency depreciation, administrative price adjustment and political uncertainty are major factors responsible for high inflation, said Ishaq Dar on Thursday. The Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) market capitalisation in 2017 was \$100 billion. "For inclusive and resilient growth, we need a resilient economy," he said. According to the finance minister, the government is working on five E's - exports, equity, empowerment, environment and energy. "The economic downfall has stopped," said Dar. "We are working to restore economic activity now." Circular debt increased per annum was Rs129 billion in our previous government compared to Rs330 billion during FY2019-22, he said. The total public debt rose from Rs 25 trillion in June 2018 to Rs 49.2

trillion in June 2022, representing a significant increase of 97%. "Under the governance of the PTI (Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf) party, the total debt during their tenure surged from Rs 29.9 trillion in FY2018 to Rs 59.8 trillion, marking an approximate doubling of the debt (nearly 100% increase)," lamented the finance minister. He said that the final nail in the economic coffin was when commitments were not kept after the vote of no confidence. Discussing the previous government's performance, Dar said that fiscal

deficit increased from 5.8% in FY2018 to 7.9% of GDP in FY2022, trade deficit worsened to \$39.1b from \$30.9b in FY2018, circular debt increased from Rs 1,148b to Rs 2,467b, public debt increased from 63.7% to 73.9% of GDP and total public debt increased from Rs25 trillion in June 2018 to Rs49.2 trillion in June 2022 (a 97% increase). Global GDP growth has experienced a decline of over 50% since 2021, slowing down from 6.2% in 2021 to 2.8% in 2023. The global inflation rate has seen a significant in-

crease, rising from 4.7% in 2021 to 8.7% in 2022, and is projected to decrease to 7.0% in 2023, although it remains relatively high. Global trade has decreased by more than five times since 2021, with its growth expected to decrease from 9.4% in 2021 to 1.7% in 2023. The economy has been severely impacted by the devastating floods. The estimated damage amounts to \$14.9 billion, with a loss of \$15.2 billion to the GDP and a required investment of \$16.3 billion for the rehabilitation of the damages.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Ishaq Dar presents Economic Survey for fiscal year 2022-23 during a press conference.

Universities must keep students away of extremism, violence

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday called upon the universities to play an active role in preventing intolerance, extremism and violence among students and guide them towards a positive mindset. The universities, he said, should arrange regular capacity-building training sessions for their management and faculty members to inculcate in students the ability to resolve conflicts and extremism. Addressing the National Vice Chancellors' Peace Conference, the president said banning the students' unions in universities was not a solution and stressed that there was a need to change their mindset through proper teaching methodologies. He said the step would ensure the reformation of students to help them contribute towards the country's better future, sustainable peace and prosperity. The two-day conference was jointly organised by Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan, National Counter-Terrorism Authority (NACTA) and Shaour Foundation for Education and Awareness (SFEA).

Cabinet meets today to approve federal budget

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal cabinet will meet today (Friday) under the Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif to accord approval to the federal budget for the next financial year of 2023-24. The meeting will take place in parliament house. Finance Minister (FM) Ishaq Dar along with his economic team will give detailed briefing in the meeting on the salient features of budget. The final decision about enhancement in pay and pension of government employees will be taken and approval thereof will be accorded in this meeting. Multiple proposals on this count will come under discussion in the meeting. The allied parties have given proposal for increasing the pay and pension by 30 percent. However finance ministry is in favor of enhancing pay and pension of government employees from 15 to 20 percent. Final decision will be taken on this matter by the cabinet.

CJP back in action to revive 'pre-May 9 position'

ISLAMABAD (Online): The remarks passed in the last two days suggest that the Supreme Court, led by the chief justice of Pakistan (CJP), is trying to revive its position before the May 9 violence, triggered by the arrest of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman. The May 9 mayhem had even pushed those judges, who had tried hard to hold the elections to the Punjab Assembly on May 14, on the defensive. Later, they had no choice but to show restraint in matters wherein confrontation between the judiciary and other institutions especially the parliament, executive, security establishment, etc, could have worsened. Now it is being witnessed that CJP Umar Ata Bandial has listed petitions

PTI chief's arrogance & ego cause party's disintegration: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting on Thursday said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) disintegrated due to arrogance, ego and stubbornness of its chief who himself had destroyed his own politics. She cited a famous couplet of an Urdu poet on her Twitter handle, referring to the current state of the PTI and its chief. "Dil Kay Phapholay Jhal Uthay Seenay Kay Dagh Sy, Is Ghar Ko Aag Lag Gai Ghar Kay Chiragh Sy," the minister said in the tweet while calling out the PTI chief for his arrogance and ego. "The house of cards based on the idols of arrogance, ego and selfishness has faced a sudden collapse. The PTI is now spiritless with the departure of those who had laid the party's foundations," Marriyum said. She said the "arrogant man" had once stated that joining or quitting of the people did not matter for the party but he himself had now become a lesson for others (after the departure of his party leaders).

Khattak mulls forming 'new political party'

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader Pervez Khattak, who recently resigned from the president of the party's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter over the May 9 violent protest, has decided to form a new political party, sources said on Thursday. Sources privy to the development said PTI defectors are expected to join the new political setup led by senior politician Pervez Khattak. Khattak has claimed that more than 50 former members of parliamentarians (MPs) are in contact with him and would join his new political setup, say sources.



LAHORE: Senior Politician Jahangir Tareen announces new political party named 'Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party' (IPP) during a press conference.

Jahangir Tareen launches Istehkam-i-Pakistan Party with PTI defectors

ISLAMABAD (INP): Senior politician Jahangir Khan Tareen announced the formation of a new political party — Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party — during the party's first joint press conference in Islamabad on Thursday. He was flanked by former PTI leaders Imran Ismail, Aleem Khan and Ali Zaidi, among others during the press conference. A day earlier, nearly 100 former PTI members of the national and provincial assemblies joined the new party, expressing confidence in Tareen's leadership. "Today, we're announcing formation of Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party. Under one platform, we're together and will try to steer Pakistan out of current crises," Tareen said. "Today, our nation needs hope the most so this country could achieve its true potential. No one can be allowed to attack state institutions in shape of mobs. It is not just about attacking institutions but most importantly people are losing hope." "We have to make a Pakistan where establishment, judiciary, political forces and all stakeholders are on the same page. We all want to take Pakistan towards prosperity," he added. "Today, we need to change how politics is conducted in our country. It needs a new direction. We will make joint efforts to achieve that." He emphasised that to take Pakistan out of economic turmoil, focus has to be shifted towards increasing exports and incentivising the IT sector. "I am not conventional politician, but I entered the political arena with a delayed yet genuine purpose.

President for implementation of job quota for differently-abled in govt, private sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday emphasised the need for implementation of job quotas for persons with disabilities (PWDs) in government and private sectors to financially empower and bring them into mainstream of society.

The president, chairing a follow-up meeting on the rights and facilitation of PWDs, said that almost 12-14% of the country's population comprised of PWDs and steps should be taken for their skill development as well as job placement in public and private sectors.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the provincial governments, including Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, as well as the senior officials of the ministries of human rights and federal education and professional training.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi chairing a follow-up meeting on the rights and facilitation of persons with disabilities (PWDs) at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Marri for investing more in nutritional needs of most vulnerable population

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety/Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Shazia Mami Thursday highlighted the need to invest more in the nutrition of the most vulnerable population of the country.

In a statement, the minister said that it was extremely important to invest in the development of a country's human capital from all aspects and nutrition was one of the major aspects that we all need to focus on.

CM Balochistan announces boycott of federal budget session of NA

BAP not to become part of federal budget session:

of the federal budget session.

QUETTA: In yet another major development after boycotting the meeting of National Economic Council (NEC), the President of ruling Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) and Chief Minister, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has announced to boycott of the federal budget session of the National Assembly due to commence today (Friday).

It may be mentioned here that Chief Minister has already boycotted the NEC meeting held in Islamabad couple of days earlier due to "non-cooperative" and "cold" attitude of the federal government towards the province.



ISLAMABAD: CEO Chromatic, Shariq Khan calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Mushaal urges UN, world to declare Yasin prisoner of conscience

ISLAMABAD (APP): Mushaal Mullick, wife of jailed Kashmiri leader Yasin Malik Thursday said that the fascist Indian government was hell-bent to commit a "judicial murder" of her husband and demanded United Nations and the international community to declare him a prisoner of conscience and protective personality to prevent his unlawful execution.

Mushaal, who is also the chairperson of Peace and Culture Organization, urged the UN Secretary-General António Guterres to urgently intervene and avert plot of the judicial murder of Yasin, who was being merely targeted for his political beliefs.

Smoke-free Pak among government's priorities: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that the incumbent government was striving to protect future generations from the unhealthy habit of smoking as a smoke-free Pakistan was among its priorities.

Rs128.9b disbursed under Benazir Kafaalat initiative from July-March FY 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has disbursed a total of Rs128.9 billion under the Benazir Kafaalat initiative from July-March, Fiscal Year 2023.

A total of Rs 400 billion were provided to the BISP to execute the Social Protection programmes in FY2023.

Court adjourns hearing on pleas of Asad Umar, Ali Nawaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): A local court on Thursday adjourned the hearing till June 26 on a petition seeking to remove Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) clauses from a case registered against PTI leader Asad Umar, Ali Nawaz Awan, and others.



LONDON: Minister of State Foreign Commonwealth & Development Affairs UK, Lord, Tariq Ahmed and Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar hold a productive meeting in London to discuss the current political and economic situation in Pakistan as well as trade and investment opportunities between both countries.

Pakistan Navy observes World Oceans Day

KARACHI (INP): The Pakistan Navy celebrated 'World Oceans Day' to focus on the maintenance and development of the oceans and coastal areas.

Changing' which aims to highlight the challenges involved in preserving the health of oceans and measures to maintain an ecological balance.

Sanjrani terms his visit to Russia a historic one

ISLAMABAD (Online): During his four-day visit to Russia, Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani held meetings with Russian Parliamentarians and Government officials to strengthen ties between the two nations.

According to the Economic Survey 2022-23 released on Thursday, BISP is currently disbursing payments to around 9.0 million beneficiaries under the Kafaalat scheme.

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Commission on the Status of Women and UN Women Pakistan announced the release of the 'National Report on the Status of Women in Pakistan, 2023'.

Senate body on Interior meets

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whereas the innocent persons may not be involved in such cases.

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Interior was held on Thursday at Parliament House, Islamabad.

The meeting was chaired by Senator Mohsin Aziz and attended by Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri, Senator Rana Maqbool Ahmed, Senator Faisal Saleem Rehman, Senator Shahdat Awan, Senator Kamal Ali Agha, Senator Seemi Ezedi and Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi and senior officers from the Ministries of Interior and Law and Justice and other concerned departments.

Atta Tarar says: Imran will have to be accountable in Al-Qadir, Toshakhana cases

ISLAMABAD (Online): Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) Atta Tarar has said Imran Khan will have to be accountable in Toshakhana, Al-Qadir and other cases of corruption.

He went on to say I pay salute to those who have quit PTI. They are standing with the state.

PMD indicates chances of rain at few places

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast mainly hot and dry weather with chances of rain in a few parts of the country during the next 24 hours.

The Committee considered and passed with amendments the Christian Marriage (Amendment) Bill 2023 introduced by Senator Kamran Michel, the Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) (Amendment) Bill 2023 introduced by Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri and the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill 2023 introduced by Senator Seemi Ezedi.

Islamabad Police hold open katchehry to address public issues

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: In an effort to prioritize public concerns, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations, Malik Jameel Zafar, emphasized the Islamabad capital police's commitment to organizing open katchehries.

into consideration. Expressing determination to resolve residents' problems, SSP Operations highlighted the significance of these open Katchehries in fostering direct relationships with the public.

Court extends interim bail of Sh. Rasheed till July 8

ISLAMABAD (APP): A local court on Thursday extended the pre-arrest bail of Awam Muslim League (AML) chief and former interior minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed till July 8, in a case registered by Aabpara Police Station.

Young girls education on climate action 'imperative': Speakers

ISLAMABAD (APP): The speakers at a seminar on Thursday emphasised that educating young girls on climate action was imperative for an effective intervention to protect the damaging environment from further deterioration.

government was spending human resources and capital for the plantation but the public was not taking its ownership. "We have an inbuilt passion to protect the mother earth and nature so it's needed to end our selfishness towards nature," she added.

sewers and drains in the cities. Therefore, the nation particularly its young daughters must pledge to end plastics from their lives.

A resolution condemning such incidents was passed unanimously by the Committee with the recommendation that the guilty persons should not be spared and they should be punished under the law by way of summary trial.



ISLAMABAD: Security personnel escort former Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan at High Court.



KARACHI: Administrator Karachi, Dr. Saifur Rehman along with President of Karachi Editors Club (KEC), Mubashir Mir presents shield to newly appointed Consul General of China in Karachi, Yang Yundong in a reception hosted in his honour.

Pakistan will continue to support Kashmiris' struggle: FO

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Foreign Office Spokesperson, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, has said that Pakistan will continue to extend its moral, political and diplomatic support to the Kashmiris in their just and peaceful struggle for settlement of the Kashmir dispute.

Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said, "We are reminded of the plight of the Kashmiri children, who continue to suffer because of continued siege and brutal oppression by the Indian forces."

Addressing the weekly press briefing in Islamabad on Thursday, she expressed concern over the prevailing situation in