

# Independent

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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 Shehbaz, appreciated the bravery of country's forces for fighting for Azerbaijan's rights

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

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

The prime minister, accompanied by a high-level

delegation is on a two-day official visit to Baku at the invitation of President Aliyev.

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

Prime Minister Shehbaz, who earlier visited

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

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

He told the media per-

sons that during the "wonderful" discussion, there was a "total unanimity" of views on various bilateral and multilateral issues as the relationship was built on mutual trust and sincerity of purpose.

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



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

## Review and appeal are two different powers: CJP

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

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

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

The CJP gave these remarks while presiding over

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

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

The CJP gave these remarks while presiding over

## Denmark to cooperate Pakistan in developing green energy infrastructure

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Danish Minister for Development Cooperation and Global Climate Policy Dan Jorgensen on Thursday agreed to enhance cooperation in building climate-resilient green energy infrastructure including wind energy to overcome the challenge of climate change and to resolve energy problems in Pakistan.

Talking to the media here after exchanging Joint Action Plan under Green Framework Engagement Agreement, the foreign minister said the agreement would set the stage for joint initiatives and projects in

renewable energy and green transition.

The minister hoped that policies would be formulated on behalf of the federal government to encourage international companies to invest in Pakistan's wind and other green energy sectors.

He said Pakistan was facing climate change challenges and last summer, historic floods hit the country resulting in the loss of precious lives and property.

Bilawal said despite challenges, the two countries were working towards an energy transition and creating green resilient infrastructure for the people. "There are a lot of areas that we can benefit from this

cooperation," he added.

He said under the green framework agreement, the two countries would work together to overcome the challenge of climate change. It would also help create a healthy partnership in green framework that would also create more economic opportunities between the two countries.

The agreement, he said would also help Pakistan to become an energy independent and economically prosperous country.

The foreign minister said the Danish government had been a leading voice and leading advocate for the green energy transition of climate agenda within Europe and Pakistan.



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

## Asset rich Pak can survive without IMF support: Dar

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

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

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

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

He said the annual budget allowed freelancers to retain 35 percent of their revenue. Besides, freelancers earning \$ 2,000 were exempted from sales tax and they could also procure duty free hardware. He maintained that in the current fiscal year, a return of \$ 2.5 billion was expected from the IT industry, which would reach \$4.5 billion by next year.

## President, first lady visit ITP office for driving license

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

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

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

## 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 statement.

Before being nominated for Pakistan, Jane Marriott was the High Commissioner in Kenya from 2019 to 2023.

High Commissioner-designate Jane has extensive experience in diplomacy, internal, administrative 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 Afghanistan Richard Holbrooke.

## JI, PPP clash after Wahab wins Karachi mayor election

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

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

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

Clashes erupt between JI and PPP workers

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

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

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

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



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

## Second round of talks between TLP, government held

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Rana Abdullah and Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Ayaz Sadiq held the second round of talks with the negotiation committee of the Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan (TLP) on Thursday.

The TLP committee was comprised of Dr Shafiq Ameeni, Ghulam Abbas Faizi, Mufti Muhammad Umeer Al-Azhari, Maulana Ghulam Ghaus Baghdadi, and Jeelan Shah.

During the talks, both sides agreed to conduct an impartial and speedy trial for the individual who blasphemed against Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

They also agreed to install a filtering system to remove profane and indecent content from social media.

Furthermore, in order to prevent blasphemy

against the sacred elements of Islam, a consensus was reached to enhance capacity and efficiency of the existing institution, enabling it to effectively carry out its work.

It was also agreed in the meeting to take steps toward the formal establishment of the Counter Blasphemy Department.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry would issue a letter to the American government within three working days to seek the release of Dr Aafia Siddiqui, and the government would take more serious measures toward her release and repatriation.

Additionally, they agreed to de-notify all PEMRA and PTA notifications against TLP, and the accused under 295C would also be charged under the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) section 7.

## PM greets Chinese President Xi Jinping on his birthday

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 heartfelt felicitations 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 dynamic leadership of President 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.



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

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

Pakistan's Ambassador to Russian Federation Shafiq Ali Khan signed 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, Shaikat Hayat Cheema, was also present on the occasion.

In order to implement

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 commercial 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. Shaikat Ali Khan after signing the MoU between Pakistan Customs and the Federal Customs Service (Russian Federation) on the Exchange of Statistical Data on Mutual Trade while Secretary of Commerce, Muhammad Saleh Ahmed Faruqi also present on the occasion.

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

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

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

He further directed that procurement process of reconstruction of damaged bridges in Balochistan must be expedited in order to ensure commencement and completion as soon as possible.

The Secretary Communications was in Quetta and had a meeting in the zonal office NHA Quetta on Thursday.

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

According to a press release issued here, the minister, on behalf of the federal government, handed over the cheque to the recently elected



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

## Turkey envoy inaugurates Peds Cardiology Ward at PIC

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

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

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

During the hearing of the case police authorities presented report in the court on behalf of IG Punjab. It was told in the report no case has been registered by Punjab police against Aleema Khan. One case is registered against Aleema Khan in Multan with reference to property.

## Man killed over resistance in dacoity bid

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

## ANF seizes 184 kg drugs in seven operations

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

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

## 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 hours.

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.

During their visit, they inaugurated Aqua Pura Smart Industry, a state-of-the-art facility specializing in advanced drinking water treatment technologies.

This cutting-edge enterprise will only contribute to the

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The analysis showed that 597 drivers, 49 underage drivers, 164 pedestrians and 479 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes.

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 hours.

# International News

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

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

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

will be deployed to Belarus next month and will remain under Moscow's exclusive control. "We are, of course, closely monitoring what Russia is doing. So far, we haven't seen any changes in the nuclear posture that requires any changes in our posture," Stoltenberg told reporters before chairing a meeting of NATO defense ministers at the alliance's headquarters in Brussels.



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

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

**Monitoring Desk**  
KALAMATA: Rescuers scoured seas off Greece on Thursday in a massive search operation, as hopes dwindled of finding survivors of a shipwreck that killed at least 78 migrants in one of Europe's deadliest such disasters in recent years.

Reports suggested hundreds of people had packed the fishing boat that capsized and sank early on Wednesday in deep waters about 50 miles (80 km) from the southern coastal town of Pylos, while being shadowed by the Greek coast guard.

As dawn broke on Thursday, a coast guard vessels sailed into the nearby port city of Kalamata, transferring victims. After an official count, authorities

## North Korea fires two missiles off east coast

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

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

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

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

## Arab countries account for quarter of Israeli arms exports

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

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

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

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

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



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

## US fighter jets deployed in Middle East to counter Russian aggression

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

The decision aims to demonstrate the US military's ability to swiftly reposition forces and deliver overwhelming power when necessary. "Russian Forces' unsafe and unprofessional behaviour is not what we expect from a professional air force. Their regular violation of agreed-upon airspace deconfliction measures increases the risk of escalation or miscalculation," CENTCOM commander Gen. Michael "Erik" Kurilla said in a news release.



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

## US pushing India to seal drone deal

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

India has long expressed interest in buying large armed drones from the United States. But bureaucratic stumbling blocks have hampered a hoped-for deal for SeaGuardian drones that could be worth \$2 billion to \$3bn for years. US negotiators are counting on Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's White House visit on June 22 to break the logjam.

## Two killed in shooting at Japan army base

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

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

## Ahsan Iqbal launches data portal for PSDP projects

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday officially launched Pakistan's pioneering PSDP portal.

For the first time in the country's history, the data of Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) projects (ongoing and previous year) worth Rs 1.1 trillion has been made available at the PSDP portal which has been formally launched on Thursday for the citizens to ensure transparency.

The event was attended by the Additional Secretary Planning Minis-

try, Members Planning Commission, the Chairman of Pakistan Space & Upper Atmosphere Research Commission SUPARCO and other stakeholders, said a press release issued here.

It is noted that the PSDP, which constitutes the Federal Development Budget, serves as a crucial framework for the government's development agenda, setting sectoral and regional priorities under the national plan. This strategic move aims to harness the potential of digital technologies to enhance transparency, improve governance, and promote public awareness

of the government's development course and priorities.

Through the digital platform, citizens will have greater insight into the development projects being undertaken across the country.

It enables them to understand the objectives, scope, and impact of each project, promoting public engagement and participation.

Ahsan Iqbal termed this initiative a 'landmark' in the country's history which will ensure transparency in the PSDP projects while engaging the citizens directly through this portal.



The Second Session of Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) between Pakistan and Belgium was held in Islamabad. The Pakistan delegation was led by Ambassador Muhammad Saleem, Additional Foreign Secretary (Europe) while the Belgian delegation was led by Ambassador Jeroen Cooreman, Director General, Bilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Belgium.

## Pakistan, Belgium discuss collaboration at int'l forums, regional developments

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Second Session of Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) between Pakistan and Belgium was held here Thursday wherein two sides discussed collaboration at international forums, including at the United Nations and important regional and global developments.

The Pakistan delegation was led by Additional Foreign Secretary (Europe) Ambassador Muhammad Saleem while the Belgian delegation was led by Director General, Bilateral Af-

fairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Belgium Ambassador Jeroen Cooreman," a Foreign Office press release said.

The two sides reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations and set the agenda for bilateral engagement and cooperation for the next year.

The additional foreign secretary stressed the need for continued high-level engagement and dialogue between Pakistan and Belgium. The two sides agreed to make Bilateral Political

Consultations a regular annual feature of bilateral engagement. The next round of consultations will be held in Brussels next year at mutually convenient dates.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Belgium. Pakistan remains committed to further expanding and deepening ties with Belgium in the areas of trade, investment, academic and cultural cooperation, tourism and labour mobility.

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

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

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

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

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



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Speaker National Assembly Zahid Akram Durrani and Convener SDGs Task Force Ms. Romina Khurshed with SDGs Good Will Ambassador Famous Cricketer Harris Rauf inaugurating the pictorial exhibition of SDGs at Parliament House.

## Govt. presents optimized budget to tackle eco. challenges

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Rana Tanveer Hussain, expressed his satisfaction with the recently unveiled budget, considering it the best possible outcome given the prevailing tough economic conditions.

During his budget speech in National Assembly, he said that huge damage was inflicted on the economy during the tenure of the PTI government. He revealed that even PTI members themselves had expressed concerns about the struggling economy in their tenure and sought its revival.

The minister said the situation was even more challenging than initially anticipated, as revealed during the initial briefing to

us in 2021 on the state of the economy.

Reflecting on the efforts of the PML-N government from 2013 to 2018, he highlighted their successful endeavors to overcome various challenges, particularly in the energy and power sectors. Furthermore, he criticized the circumstances that led to Nawaz Sharif's removal from Prime Minister's office, citing the controversial Aqama case and the subsequent formation of a Joint Investigation Team (JIT).

He recalled that during Nawaz Sharif's last tenure as Prime Minister, foreign reserves stood at around 22-23 billion US dollars, inflation was approximately two percent, and the exchange rate was Rs. 105 per dollar.

## Alvi okays Daycare Centres Bill for capital's offices

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday signed the Daycare Centres Bill 2023, under which such setups for minor children will be established at the public and private departments in Islamabad.

The president inked the document in line with Article 75 of the Constitution, the President's House said in a statement.

According to the Bill, the federal government will ensure the setting up of daycare centres at the departments having at least 70 employees.

In case of violation of the law, a fine up to Rs 0.1 million will be imposed after the first warning.

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

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

The minister said Pakistan and 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.

## Two Corona cases reported in last 24 hrs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Health officials on Thursday said that two new Coronavirus cases were reported during the last 24 hours across the country.

As per the data shared by the National Institute of Health (NIH), the case positivity ratio was 0.12 percent while seven patients were in critical condition. No death was reported from the Coronavirus in the last 24 hours while 1,621 Covid-19 tests were conducted.

Meanwhile, Minister for National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination, Abdul Qadir Patel said the government has strengthened the role of Border and Health Services in Pakistan to deal with any sub-variant of Covid-19.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman NDMA Lt. General Inam Haider Malik holds meeting with delegation of United States Army Central (USARCENT) led by Lieutenant General Patrick D. Frank, Commanding General of USARCENT

## Pakistan, US agree to enhance cooperation in disaster management

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

The Chairman NDMA gave an overview of Pakistan's hazards and vulnerabilities, disaster management outlook and

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

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

## Education Ministry approves new National Curriculum of Pakistan

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

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

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

curriculum development, the notification said.

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

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

Moreover, all concerned were also invited to share their feedback via an online portal.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain addressing the launching ceremony "Leadership for Inclusion" School Leadership programme in Federal Schools.

## Senate body on Delegated Legislation meets

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

Chaired by Senator Mian Raza Rabbani, the meeting was attended by Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani, Senator Rubina Khalid, Senator Keshoo Bai, Senator Syed Ali Zafar and senior officers from the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, Ministry of Aviation and Ministry of Law and Justice along with all concerned.

The Committee adopted reports of the sub-

Committees and analysed sub-ordinate legislation of the attached departments of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training that included the Federal College of Education, the Federal Directorate of Education and the Inter-Board Committee.

After detailed deliberation the Committee was of the view that no irregularities were found in the documentation of the Federal College of Education and Federal Directorate of Education. In the case of the Inter-Board Committee the Committee took strong notice of the position of present rules.

## As part of community policing efforts. Islamabad capital police launches 22nd Summer Camp

ISLAMABAD: In line with its commitment to promote community policing and foster trust between the police and the public, the Islamabad Capital Police has initiated the 22nd Summer Camp. The camp, which commenced today, is part of an ongoing series of activities aimed at bridging the gap between the police and the community.

Children aged 4 to 14 years from different sections of society have enthusiastically enrolled in the

Summer Camp, with more than 250 participants currently attending, and further enrollments ongoing. The camp aims to impart positive and constructive skills to the children through various engaging activities.

During the month-long program, the children will receive comprehensive training in basic medical assistance, archery, and self-defense sessions. The Summer Camp curriculum also includes workshops on handicrafts, shooting, martial arts, and other recreational activities.

In addition to the Summer Camp, the Islamabad Capital Police has consistently organized similar initiatives to foster community engagement. Notably, a winter camp was held in 2022, and various activities with public representation have been planned in accordance with the directives of Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer.



## Indonesian Dy Minister says: Strong bilateral ties, cultural similarities with Pakistan can promote tourism, trade

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indonesian Deputy Minister for Tourism and Economic Creativity, Ni Made Ayu Marthini, has said that Indonesia and Pakistan have strong bilateral relations and cultural similarities, providing tremendous opportunities for both countries to promote bilateral tourism, mutual trade and ensure investment opportunities in the hoteling sectors.

Talking to APP in an exclusive interview after the inauguration of the Bali Beyond Travel Fair (BBTF) in Bali on Thursday, she said there are multiple common characteristics culturally and religiously between Indonesia and Pakistan that can

help enhance people-to-people exchanges as both countries have the majority of Muslim populations.

Regarding connectivity between the two countries, the deputy minister said that direct air flights are essential to promote bilateral tourism between Indonesia and Pakistan. She added that both countries are working on starting the flights soon, which ultimately enhances our people-to-people relations.

She further stated that tourists from Pakistan have multiple opportunities and plenty of destinations. Indonesia provides convenient access to mosques and halal foods, which taste

similar to Pakistan's cuisine, an essential need for Muslims.

"We are confident to promote our Moslem-friendly destinations, with the highlight of our award-winning designated halal tourism destination, Lombok, which has beautiful sea sights and sceneries. Located in one of five Super Priority Destinations, Lombok provides unique destinations and simplicity for Moslem Tourists. Halal services' excellence has led Lombok to achieve the first rank for the World's Best Halal Tourism Destination, according to the Global Muslim Travel Index in 2019.



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

## Traffic Police to ensure road discipline in city

ISLAMABAD: Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Islamabad has stressed upon the personnel of the force to accomplish their responsibilities in a professional manner and work hard for maintenance of a better image of the force.

In a meeting held here at Traffic Headquarters, he asked policemen to adopt courteous attitude with the public and make more efforts for the equal implementation of traffic laws on roads showing politeness and firm attitude. The meeting was attended among

providing an opportunity for attendees to present their suggestions.

Acknowledging the esteemed status of Islamabad Capital Police as a role model, Chief Traffic Officer Islamabad stressed that every person entering the city looks up to them. He commended the dedication of every officer and young official who tirelessly serve the citizens day and night, even in challenging weather conditions such as cold, heat, rain, and storms.

He urged them to uphold decency and manners



others by all zonal DSPs and other police officials as well as jawans.

The meeting, held following directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, aimed to discuss personal and departmental improvements,

in all situations and ensure the resolution of parking issues and the enforcement of the law. In particular, the Chief Traffic Officer emphasized the importance of maintaining ethical conduct, highlighting how even a minor mistake could tarnish the department's reputation.

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

UNITED 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 occupation.

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-19 pandemic and those stemming from conflicts and climate change.

The Executive Board reviews UNICEF activities and approves its policies, country programmes and bud-

gets. 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 has responded to both human-made crises,

and natural disasters," Ms. Qureshi, third secretary at the Pakistan Mission to the UN, told the Board.

A prime example, she cited UNICEF's help to Pakistan during its recent climate-induced floods. UNICEF, with its field offices and four operational hubs, functioned as a frontliner in the rapid needs