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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

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

The bilateral relations were discussed at length in Minister Shehbaz Sharif Ilham Aliyev here at Zugulba Palace.

The prime minister, accompanied by a high-level

BAKU (Azerbaijan) (APP): delegation is on a two-day the mausoleum of invitation of President Haider Aliyev and the mar-

> out following their bilateral Aliyev's leadership to meeting, the two leaders build the city's infratold the media of agreeing structure and impressive to introduce flights of Azerbaijan airline between the two capitals, enhance the areas of energy, investment and education.

Prime Shehbaz, who earlier visited

official visit to Baku at the Azerbaijan first president tyrs monument, spoke high At a joint press stake- of the President Ilham horticulture.

Citing the "pleasant surprises" of neatness a meeting between Prime number of military exer- and beauty of Baku, the cises, besides exploring the prime minister requested and Azerbaijan President avenues of cooperation in 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.

Review and appeal are two different powers: CJP

JI, PPP clash after

Wahab wins Karachi

mayor election

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Hayat Bandial has remarked there is basic difference between review

sons that during the "won-

was a "total unanimity" of

on mutual trust and sincer-

said that the Pakistani flags

the love between the two

The prime minister

ity of purpose.

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

The CJP gave these remarks while presiding over in the last years.

KARACHI (INP): Paki-

candidate Murtaza Wahab

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

deputy mayor.

În the tight contest, Pa-

The voting for Karachi's

ISLAMABAD (Online): a 3 members bench of SC during the hearing of peti-tions 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

Following the announcement of unofficial

mayoral results, clashes

erupted between workers of

JI and PPP outside the Arts

News, during the voting process, the situation out-

side the premises remained

extremely tense. However.

the police took control of it

but as the results came out,

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

cried foul and alleged that the

Sindh government has ab-

ducted 29 PTI members

who were supposed to

On the other hand, JI

The workers of both

into clashes.

According to Express

Council of Pakistan.

Denmark to cooperate Pakistan in developing green energy infrastructure

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

cious 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

initiatives and projects in PM greets Chinese **President** Xi Jinping on his birthday

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

"It is my great pleasure to extend heartiest felicita tions to H.E. President X Jinping on his birthday," the prime minister, who is cur rently 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 broth erhood" 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 SLAMABAD (APP): Fi nance Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday said that the government decided to keep the existing prices of petroleum products remai unchanged for the next 15 days to facilitate the masses in the country. The Minister in a press talk at PTV said Petrol would be available at Rs262 per litre, the price of high-speed diesel is Rs253 while the light diesel oil is Rs147.68, however, prices of kerosene oil have also been

Speaker of the National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf had a fortunate es cape from harm in an accident on Mandera-Chakwal Road while returning to Islamabad.

ence of a cow startled everyone as the Speaker' car traversed the road. De spite the driver's swift re action to avoid a potentia collision, an unintended contact occurred with the escort cars accompanying the Speaker's vehicle.

renewable energy and green cooperation," he added.

He said under the green framework agreement, the The minister hoped that policies would be fortwo countries would work mulated on behalf of the together to overcome the challenge of climate change. federal government to encourage international com-It would also help create a panies to invest in healthy partnership in Pakistan's wind and other green framework that green energy sectors. He said Pakistan was would also create more economic opportunities be-

facing climate change chaltween the two countries. The agreement, he said lenges and last summer, historic floods hit the country would also help Pakistan to resulting in the loss of prebecome 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.



AZERBAIJAN: President of Azerbaijan Ilham Alivev 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 cal data on mutual trade, 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 statistiexcept 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.

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): chair, that the information

Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator and SME sectors were Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq dar on Thursday reiterated that Pakistan was an asset rich Pakistan was an asset rich Thursday reiterated that Pakistan was an asset rich Pakistan was a country and it could survive without any support from the International Monetary

Briefing the Senate's nance 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,

the economic growth of the country, which currently

stood at 0.29 percent. He said the annual budget allowed freelancers Standing Committee on Fi- 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 indus-

which met with Senator saleem Mandviwala in the Seleem Mandviwala in the billion by next year.

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 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

President, first lady visit ITP office for driving license

ISLAMABAD (APP): fice of Islamabad Traffic Police to process their driv-

ing licenses. Both the president and the first lady went through the biometric verification as a prerequisite of the li-

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 Kenya

from 2019 to 2023. High Commissionerdesignate 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.



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): In- against the sacred elements terior Minister Rana Sanaullah 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

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 ntent from social media. Furthermore, in order to prevent blasphemy

of Islam, a consensus was reached to enhance capacity and efficiency of the existing institution, enabling it to effectively carry out its It was also agreed in the

meeting to take steps toward the formal establishment of the Counter Blasphemy 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 repa-

Additionally, 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)

kept unchanged Rs.164.07. NA Speaker narrowly escapes in road accident ISLAMABAD (APP)

The unexpected pres-



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

Daily soice of Masse Independent

CM's remarkable initiatives indeed

During course of last few days, the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has taken certain remarkable initiatives to surprise of many.
While on one hand, the Chief Minister issued stand-

ing 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

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 Paki-Heady qualifica-

It does not mention a tionship as an in-law to three-time prime minister ning the government Mian Nawaz Sharif. Nor (Rs714 billion) and pendoes 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

whether Mr Dar could

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

In Pakistan's budget, the constituencies could not be more clearly demarcated. Creditors form the largest bloc. Next year, Rs7.3 trillion is owed to them for debt servicing and repayment. This monumental burden may be renegotiated, but that would simply be postponing the inescapable. 'Creditors,' as Benjamin

has its own constituency.

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 constitusuperior one — his rela- ency too close not to be appeased. The cost of runsions (Rs761bn) are shown separately in the budget whereas in fact they belong together. The first is the sum of obligations to current employees, while pensions which include those for retired defence personnel (Rs563bn) are the recurring reward for past service.

The increase therefore of 35 per cent in salaries of government servants of grades 1-16 and 30pc for grades 17-22 are more than open-handed largesse by a nervous 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 Railways, once the iron horse of our transportation system, will receive a paltry Rs33bn, while the National Highway Authority (a haven for khaki and civil retirees) can expect almost five times as much – Rs157bn.

The allocations for social sectors like population control and management, health (Rs24bn) and education (Rs97bn) receive grudging inclusion in the government's budget. 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 domicile and age (23m of whom are out-of-school children.) To the government, they clearly do not matter because the future is not a constituency.

The government will argue that with this budget, it has tried to fill a 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. In the 1970s, Mr

Ahmed Dawood (then one

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

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 everything. But Pakistani fishworkers languishing in jails across the border for a number of years, had lost all hope. However, with Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari's recent visit to Goa for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation meeting, this

a gesture of goodwill.

fishworkers mentioned, ment of Foreign Prison-Pakistan released the first ers provide important 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 1966. Across these laws them to have reciprocal consular facilities. Section 5 of the agreement reads: "Both governments agree to release and repatriate tional 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 post must be informed if one of its citizens is detained, in custody, or arrested, "without delay", and that the prisoner be informed of his/her legal

Further, the UN Convention against Torture community in both coun-(which India has not rati- tries. India must reciprofied but Pakistan did in cate by releasing Paki-2010) mandates that under Article 6 "any person in guishing in Indian priscustody ... shall be assisted in communicating important to highlight that immediately with the nearest appropriate representative of the state of which he is a national" and that when a state "has taken a person into custody, it shall immediately notify the states ... of the fact that such person is in custody and of the circumstances which warrant his detention".

Moreover, the Body of Principles for the Pro-

lost hope might be reig- tection of All Persons unnited. For the visit der Any Form of Detenprompted the release of tion or Imprisonment and several Indian fishworkers the Model Agreement on from Pakistan's prisons as the Transfer of Foreign Prisoners and Recom-Of the 654 Indian mendations for the Treatprinciples 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, the other country and for and rules, a foreigner is defined as "a person who is not a citizen of Paki-

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

Pakistan's gesture of goodwill of releasing the fishworkers is a step in the right direction. A shimmering light has been lit for the fisherfolk stani fishworkers lanons. At the same time, it is 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 between the two countries. bilateral cooperation, particularly to boost the volume of energy trade.

The document was Commerce Syed Naveed Minister of Economy Mikayil Jabbarov at a ceremony witnessed by Prime Minister Shehbaz both countries will Sharif, along with his cabinet members.

Statement Pakistan's Ministry of organizing events, Commerce and the conducting studies to Ministry of Economy of identify Azerbaijan is aimed at products, and promoting bilateral investment, and promoting bilateral trade.

Unveiling Tax Evasion

A Closer Look at Five

document establishes a framework

and promoting trade early August of 2023.

Recognizing the importance of expanding through this agreement.

collaborate to create favourable conditions for The signing of the bilateral trade by sharing foundation for increased tement between trade information, trade and economic economic cooperation.

For this purpose, both countries agreed to

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

They emphasized the potential benefits that the PTA would bring and their friendship and affirmed their commitment economic partnership, the to working collaboratively signed by Minister for ministers expressed their to realize the shared goals dedication to diversifying outlined in the Statement Qamar and Azerbaijan's trade and enhancing of Understanding. The economic development signing of this agreement marks a significant Under the agreement, milestone in the economic partnership between Azerbaijan and Pakistan,

strengthening events, cooperation. It is expected to create new opportunities exportable for businesses, enhance contribute to the overall growth and prosperity of both nations.

Pakistan's total foreign reserves

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

The State Bank of Pakistan, in a statement issued here on Thursday,

US\$ 5,359.5 million, it added

In the previous week ending on June 02, 2023,

Among them, foreign 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.



Minister for Productions and Industries Tasneem Ahmed Qureshi said on Thursday the incumbent government was striving hard to uplift the national economy which had been ruined due to wrong policies of the past government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. Talking to APP, he said that political stability was highly important to strengthen national economy, attract investment, and ensure development and prosperity in the country. "Until there is no political stability, there stability as both are inter- resume its agreement.

In a situation where

there was political instability in the country, the political opponents hatching conspiracies everywhere and misleading the nation; nobody would be ready to invest in the country, he observed. Putting responsibility of current economic crisis on the past regime, the state minister said it breached its own agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) due to which would not be any economic it was now he sitant to

Pakistan E-commerce entrepreneurs stand out in UK market

Pakistani freelancers and entrepreneurs are expanding abroad by establishing a company in the US and UK markets, as data shared by UK government on foreigncompany

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

ISLAMABAD (Online): those operating in the ecommerce industry and providing freelance services,

> entrepreneurs carried out in district freelancers export know-Rajanpur with the support of the district administration. possibilities According to official sources digitalization. The data by here on Thursday, the minister said this during his visit to Rajanpur, along with Caretaker Provincial company Minister Bilal Afzal. Both Pakistani nationality ranks ministers presided over a first in the e-commerce meeting of the district

Ayaz Sadiq vows to tackle smuggling, tax evasion for economic growth ISLAMABAD (APP): provincial tax collecting domestic industry.

Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Thursday reiterated his firm resolve of the government to take all appropriate measures to end menace of smuggling and tax evasion for enhancing revenue collection to attain sustainable economic manufacturing sector to stressed the need to bring growth in the country.

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 but it also suffered the losses of Rs 500 billion.

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker

Punjab Minister for Industries

SM Tanveer has said record

cultivation of cotton has been

officers.

authorities to plug the tax

take all the stakeholders on board for making viable tax policies to stop tax evasion and enhance local revenue collection, incentivizing discourage the imports.

polices of last government tax evasion, besides of Pakistan Tehreek-e- removing tax anomalies at Insaf have sparked the federal and provincial level imports as it jumped to \$85 as well as simplification of billion, which not only put huge pressure on local Board of Revenue to foreign exchange reserves overcome accumulated

history of Pakistan, the The minister said that transfer and postings were government was striving to put on sale during last four years, he said adding that as a result all those who purchased these posts work for their vested besides interests rather than serving the country.He all the industry under track He said the unrealistic and trace system to stop tax return by the Federal

Budget estimates of PC Record cotton cultivation in for FY 2023-24 approved Rajanpur this ISLAMABAD (APP): The fiscal year 2013-2014. The year: Minister

Privatisation Commission Board 2023-24, amounting to Committee and PC Rs1248.8 million. The Board management in finalizing the met here under the audited accounts. The Board requiring the PC Board's remaining years on priority. attention, said a press release.

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

(PC) Board on Thursday appreciation for the approved budget estimates extensive deliberations of the PC for the fiscal year carried out by the Audit Chairmanship of Abid emphasized the importance Hussain Bhayo, which discussed several topics audited reports for the These estimates, categorized under various heads of expenditure, will undergo further approval by 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 ISLAMABAD (INP): the need for robust Assembly have called on the increased incentives in the in agrarian products. Participating in general discussions on the federal

Lawmakers in the National incentives comprehensive government to introduce 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 budget lawmakers in the importance of constructing National Assembly have dams for water reservoir joined forces to emphasize capacity.

reach \$9.378b

informed that foreign reserves of the central bank increased by US\$ 107 million to US\$ 4,018.7 million in the week ended on June 09, 2023. Meanwhile.

foreign reserves held by commercial banks stood at

total liquid foreign reserves held by the country was US\$ 9,334.8 million.

to global markets. Pakist

how and services to all over the world by using the the United Kingdom (UK) government on foreignowned establishment shows that

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

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 testimonies were being minister emphasised the

Institute of Cardiology.

details of cases registered

against her.Justice Amjid

Rafiq took up Aleema Khan

petition for hearing Thursday whereby the

petitioner had requested for

providing to her details of

all cases against her.

The CM instructed Lahore, the police and prosecution department to present strong evidence against the attended the meeting. 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. intensify efforts to cultural landmarks of the apprehend the absconding culprits.

The participants (WCLA). were briefed that during Reco investigation, individuals were acquitted

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 police. It was told in the

light of IG Punjab report, Lahore High Court (LHC) registered by Punjab police

has wrapped up Aleema against Aleema Khan. One Khan petition seeking case is registered against

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

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 The CM also ordered to management of historic and province to the Walled City of Lahore Authority

Recognising the mesmerizing allure and profound historical profound after being proven significance of Punjab's innocent, and strong cultural heritage, the chief legal actions against the culprits involved in the events of May 9.

presented against the culprits. The chief these architectural gems to secretary, IG police, CCPO 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 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 Nagyi 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 Planning and Development in support of the demand made by the political parties, social organizations and All Parties Conference (APC) held on June 7, against the

results of the census in the

Anti-Narcotics Force

(ANF) in their ongoing operations against drug

country and managed to

recover over 184 kg of

spokesman here on

an operation, 22.8 kg

hashish was recovered

He informed that in

near Motorway Toll Plaza spot.

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

The vehicle was

intercepted near Sangjani

Toll Plaza on G.T Road.

Two Afghan nationals

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.

> 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 underage drivers, 164 pedestrians and 479 passengers were among the from a vehicle intercepted were also arrested on 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 Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Haji Ghulam Ali at the of the province, problems Governor's House, and difficulties will be consisting of tribal chiefs, solved according to the 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 development of the merged their solutions.'

told the Jirga members.

He said," Tribal districts have become part House, and difficulties will be 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 ensure the socio-economic and giving assurance for

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

PESHAWAR: KP Minister for Industries, Commerce & Technical Education (IC&TE), Adnan Jalil, along 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 prosperity 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.

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

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

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

accused including two and two kg Ice drug

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

recovered.

The

RAWALPINDI (INP): Islamabad.

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

case is registered against Aleema Khan in Multan

with reference to property.

The court was informed through the

report Aleema Khan arrest

is not wanted by Punjab

The court disposed

Police at present.

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

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

Israel's defence industries,

said one quarter of deals

were for drone systems,

with "missiles, rockets and

next month and will remain under Moscow's exclusive

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

Ministry

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 capabilities.

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

Monitoring Desk air defence systems" mak-DUBAI: Iran tested a suiing up another 19 per cent. figures show total exports have doubled over the past nine

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

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. official 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 deadli-

est 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

revised the death toll to 78 from 79. They said 104

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

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

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

Government officials said migrants on the boat, which had set off from the

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

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-

lion to \$3bn for years. US negotiators are counting on Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's White House visit on June 22 to break the log jam. Since the date for Modi's visit was fixed, the US State Department, Pentagon and White House have asked India to be able to "show" progress

on the deal for as many as 30 armable MQ-9B SeaGuardian drones made by General Atomics, two sources said. Modi and Biden are also expected to discuss co-production of munitions and ground

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

"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 mili-

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

WASHINGTON: 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

Monitoring Desk

power when necessary. "Russian Forces" unsafe and unprofessional behaviour is not what we expect from a professional air force. Their regular violation of agreed upon airspace deconfliction measures increases the risk of

escalation or miscalculation," CENTCOM commander Gen. Michael "Erik" Kurilla said in a news release. "Alongside our partners and allies we are committed to improving the security and stability in the region." The F-22 Raptors, hailing from Langley Air Force Base's 94th Fighter Squadron in Virginia, have been integrated with other Coalition forces on the ground and in the air. The move comes in response to Russia's repeated violations of agreed-upon airspace deconfliction measures which pose an increased risk of escalation or miscalculation. according to CENTCOM Commander Gen, Erik Kurilla In recent weeks

Ahsan Iqbal launches data portal for PSDP projects

Federal Minister for Planning Development and Spe- of Pakistan Space & Upcial Initiatives, Professor Ashan Iqbal on Thursday launched Pakistan's pioneering PSDP

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-

Commission, the Chairman per Atmosphere Research Commission SUPARCO and other stakeholders, said a press release issued

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, promote public awareness tal.

(SLAMABAD (Online): try, Members Planning of the government's development course and priori-

> Through the digital platform, citizens will have greater insight into the development projects being undertaken across the coun-

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

Ahsan Iqbal termed this initiative a 'landmark' in the country's history which will ensure transpar ency in the PSDP projects while engaging the citizens improve governance, and directly through this por-



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 Aftor make Bilateral Political

КАКАСНІ (АРР): Ракі-

stan Navy continued wide-

scale Humanitarian Assis-

tance and Disaster Relief

(HADR) Operations in far-

flung coastal areas of Sindh

ments, Pakistan Navy

Emergency Response

Teams in coordination with

local administration carried

out the evacuation of per-

sonnel and provided edibles

to the aggrieved populace,

a Pakistan Navy news re-

Emergency Response

Teams have so far evacu-

ated over 17,000 inhabit-

ants from various coastal

The Pakistan Navy

In the recent develop-

and Balochistan.

operation at cyclone affected

areas of Sindh, Balochistan

Affairs, Belgium Ambassador Jeroen Cooreman," a Foreign Office press release

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 Bel-PN continues rescue, relief

Chan, Shah Bandar, Baghan,

Sujawal, Chuhar Jamali and

Jati City. Additionally, 46

fishing boats of local popu-

lace of Ormara city have

been provided shelter at

Ormara Naval Harbour. PN

Ships and Emergency Re-

sponse teams are continu-

ing 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.

fairs, Ministry of Foreign 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

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 Paki-

Bosnia and Herzegovina enjoyed historic and friendly relations. He appreciated the services of the Bosnian ambassador for enhancing relations

Two Corona

Govt. presents optimized budget to between the two countries, during his stay in Pakistan. tackle eco. challenges

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Speaker National Assem-

bly Zahid Akram Durrani and Convener SDGs

Task Force Ms. Romina Khursheed with SDGs

Good Will Ambassador Famous Cricketer Haris

Rauf inaugurating the pictorial exhibition of SDGs

Minister for Federal Education and Professional Hussain, expressed his satis faction with the recently unveiled budget, considering it the best possible outtough economic condi-

at Parliament House.

speech in National Assembly, he said that huge dam- from Prime Minister's ofage 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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): us in 2021 on the state of

Reflecting on the ef-Training, Rana Tanveer forts of the PML-N government from 2013 to 2018, he highlighted their successful endeavors to overcome various chalcome given the prevailing lenges, particularly in the energy and power sectors. Furthermore, he criticized During his budget the circumstances that led to Nawaz Sharif's removal fice, citing the controversial Aqama case and the subsequent formation of a Joint Investigation Team

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

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 y the National Institute of Health (NIH), the case positivity ratio was 0.12 percent

> hours while 1,621 Covid-19 tests were conducted. Meanwhile, Minister for National Health Services, Regulations, and Co-ordination, 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

while seven patients were in

critical condition. No death

was reported from the

Coronavirus in the last 24



(USARCENT) led by Lieutenant General Patrick D. Frank, Commanding General of USARCENT

Pakistan, US agree to enhance cooperation in disaster management

ter 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.

NDMA gave an overview of Pakistan's hazards and

Chairman National Disas- 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 Pakistan. He highlighted that

Chairman Pakistan's resilience and adaptation make it worthy of support and recognition, esvulnerabilities, disaster management outlook and pecially 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 afprevious 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 online portal.

curriculum development, the notification said.

An intensive consultation exercise was carried out with the stakeholders including policymakers, ter seventeen years of the academics, practitioners, parents, and students from across Pakistan, it

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



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

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the Senate Committee on Delegated Legislation was held on Thursday at Par-

liament 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.

Committee adopted reports of the subCommittees 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.

Indonesian Dy Minister says:

Strong bilateral ties, cultural similarities with Pakistan can promote tourism, trade

ISLAMABAD (APP): In-donesian Deputy Minister beople exchanges as both an essential need for Musfor 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

PM visits mausoleum of national leader of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev ISLAMABAD (Online):

Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, who is on a twoday official visit to Azerbaijan, visited the mausoleum of the national leader of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev in Baku on Thurs-

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

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.

countries have the majority of Muslim populations. Regarding connectivbetween 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 bal Muslim Travel Index in and halal foods, which taste

"We are confident to promote our Moslemfriendly destinations, with the highlight of our awardwinning designated halal destination, tourism 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 Glo-



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

Traffic Police to ensure road discipline in city

Acknowledging the

esteemed status

Officer Islamabad stressed

that every person entering

the city looks up to them.

He commended the dedica-

tion of every officer and

young official who tire-

lessly serve the citizens

day and night, even in chal-

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Chief Traffic Officer (CTO)

providing an opportunity for attendees to present their suggestions.

Islamabad has stressed upon the personnel of the force to accomplish their re- Islamabad Capital Police as sponsibilities in a profes- a role model, Chief Traffic sional 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 meet-

lenging weather conditions such as cold, heat, rain, and He urged them to up-



and other police officials as

The meeting, held folowing directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ÎCCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, aimed partmental 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 mito discuss personal and de- nor 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 gets. It comprises 36

(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 occupa-

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 its policies, country programmes and bud-

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 NICEF has responded to both human-made

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

Islamabad capital police launches 22nd Summer Camp Summer Camp, with more

As part of community policing efforts.

Independent Report 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 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 as-

sistance, archery, and self-defense sessions. The Summer Camp curriculum also includes workshops on handicrafts, shooting, martial arts, and other recre-



ational activities. All these than 250 participant's curactivities are conducted on a non-profit basis, with the rently attending, and further expenses being borne by the participating individuals. The Islamabad Capital Police has been organizing the Summer Camp since 2002, successfully completing 22 editions of this program. Furthermore, optional self-defense courses were introduced in 2021 with eight courses conducted so far. Both women and men have actively participated in these courses,

> structors In addition to the Summer Camp, the Islamabad Capital Police has consistently organized similar initiatives to foster community engagement. Notably, 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

benefiting from the exper-tise of trained police in-

activities and approves

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