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Govt unveils Pakistan Economic Survey 2022-23 Restoring macroeconomic stability top priority: Ishaq

Real GDP posted a growth of 0.29% in FY23; GDP at current market prices stood at Rs84,657.9 billion, showing a growth of 27.1% over last year (Rs66,623.6 billion); Per capita income stood at \$1,568 as compared to \$1,765 last year.; Investment to GDP ratio stood at 13.6% in FY23 compared to 15.6% in FY22; Growth of agriculture sector estimated at 1.55%



ISLAMABAD (APP): Launching the important pre-budget document of Pakistan Economic Survey 2022-23 on Thursday, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar said restoring macroeconomic stability was the top priority of the incumbent government. Addressing the survey launching press conference, the minister said the national

economy suffered huge damages during the PTI government's four-year rule, which dragged it to the brink of collapse. The launching ceremony among others was attended by Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal, Minister of State for Finance Dr Aisha Ghaus Pasha and senior officers.

"Our condition is that the economy of Pakistan that was the 24th big economy [of the world] in 2017, unfortunately, it became the 47th economy in 2022," he said while stating the condition of the economy in one sentence. "Our objective is to restore macroeconomic stability," the minister said, adding there was a dire need to put the economy on the path of progress at a fast pace, and the government would "try to get the same pace of national growth as was witnessed in 2017." Initially, he said the government first wanted to take the national economy to the position of 2017 and then lead it towards further development and get it included in the G20 premium group, an opportunity that was lost due to unwise policies of the previous government.

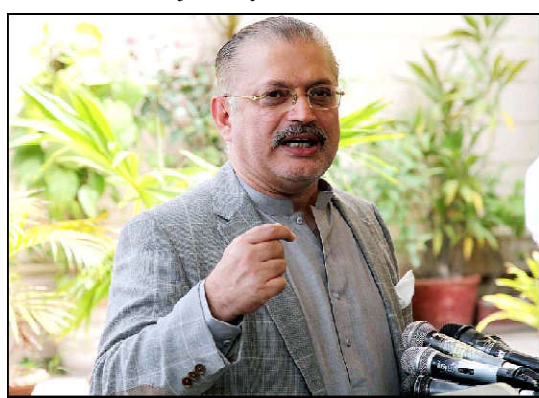


KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with Auditor General of Pakistan, Mohammad Ajmal Gondal during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

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

ISLAMABAD (Online): The remarks passed in the last two days suggest that the Supreme Court, led by the chief justice of Pakistan (CJP), is trying to revive its position before the May 9 violence, triggered by the arrest of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman. The May 9 mayhem had even pushed those judges, who had tried hard to hold the elections to the Punjab Assembly on May 14, on the defensive. Later, they had no choice but to show restraint in matters wherein confrontation between the judiciary

and other institutions especially the parliament, executive, security establishment, etc, could have worsened. Now it is being witnessed that CJP Umar Ata Bandial has listed petitions against the federal government's formation of an inquiry commission, led by SC's Justice Qazi Faez Isa, to investigate the audio leaks in relation to judges. While the hearing of the audio leaks commission case was under way, CJP Bandial wondered who had planted the audio leaks on social media.



KARACHI: Sindh Minister of Information, Transport, and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon addresses to media persons during press conference held at Sindh Assembly premises in Karachi.

Shazia Marri for investing more in nutritional needs of most vulnerable population

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety/Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Shazia Marri Thursday highlighted the need to invest more in the nutrition of the most vulnerable population of the country. As a partner in the current unity government, Pakistan Peoples Party has been constantly pushing the adaptive social protection agenda and emphasizing the need to focus on the economic needs of the people. In a statement, the minister said that it was extremely important to invest in the development of a country's human capital from all aspects and nutrition was one of the major aspects that we

all need to focus on. She further explained that through an intervention by BISP, the government looks after the nutrition of its most vulnerable population but more needs to be done. Under the Benazir Nashonuma Conditional Cash Transfer Program, the assistance is linked with health and nutrition which addresses stunting prevention and promotes dietary diversity during the first 1000 days window of opportunity, she added. Moreover, she explained, "This increases the uptake of health and nutrition services for its beneficiaries through provision of Specialized Nutrition Food (SNF) for Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLWs) and children from 6 months to 23 months.

Cabinet meets today to approve federal budget

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal cabinet will meet today (Friday) under the Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif to accord approval to the federal budget for the next financial year of 2023-24. The meeting will take place in parliament house. Finance Minister (FM) Ishaq Dar along with his economic team will give detailed briefing in the meeting on the salient features of budget.

The final decision about enhancement in pay and pension of government employees will be taken and approval thereof will be accorded in this meeting. Multiple proposals on this count will come under discussion in the meeting. The allied parties have given proposal for increasing the pay and pension by 30 percent.

Pakistan's total foreign reserves reach \$9.33bln

KARACHI (APP): The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan stood at US\$9,334.8 million while reserves held by the central bank reached US\$3,912.2 million. The State Bank of Pakistan, in a statement issued here on Thursday, informed that foreign reserves of the central bank decreased by US\$179 million to US\$3,912.2 million due to external debt repayment in the week ended on June 02, 2023.

Meanwhile, net foreign reserves held by commercial banks stood at US\$5,422.6 million, it added.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting on Thursday said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) disintegrated due to arrogance, ego and stubbornness of its chief who himself had destroyed his own politics. She cited a famous couplet of an Urdu poet on her Twitter handle, referring to the current state of the PTI and its chief. "Dil Kay Phapholay Jhal Uthay Seenay Kay Dagh Sy, Is Ghar Ko Aag Lag Gai Ghar Kay Chiragh Sy," the minister said in the tweet while calling out the PTI chief for his arrogance and ego. "The house of cards based on the idols of arrogance, ego and selfishness has faced a sudden collapse. The PTI is now spiritless with the departure of those who had laid the party's foundations," Marriyum said.



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

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

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

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

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

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

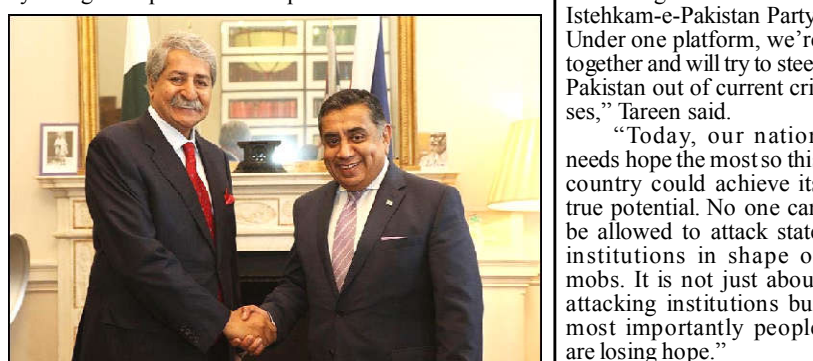


LAHORE: Senior Politician Jahangir Tareen announces new political party named 'Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party' (IPP) during a press conference.

Hina urges int'l community to join hands to realize much-elusive SDGs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar on Thursday stressed the dire need for the international community to join hands to realize the much-elusive sustainable development goals (SDGs), face the impending climate-related crises and avert the possible next pandemics. The minister of state, addressing Annual Meeting of the European Council for Foreign Relations in Stockholm, regretted that at a time when the world needed to confront modern challenges with a united front, it was presenting a picture of a house divided due to great power competition. The minister of state was the key-note speaker at the Public Panel on "what the next world order could look like". She underscored that developing countries, in particular, felt threatened by the global power contestation.

The major reason, she explained, was that instead of bringing the world together to meet common threats, the major powers were preoccupied with dividing the world into "us" and "them" in a race for political supremacy. The minister of state called for a competition for finding solutions to common problems faced by the international community, instead of a competition for political hegemony. Hina Rabbani Khar called for addressing the unresolved disputes and legitimate aspirations of developing countries for a more inclusive and representative world order. She said that the liberal International order was witnessing stresses marked by unmet expectations and mistrust due to the selective application of norms, and re-emergence of great power contestation.



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

Tessori, Gondal discuss strategies to enhance collaboration between AGP, Governor's Office

Independent Report KARACHI: The Auditor General of Pakistan, Mr. Muhammad Ajmal Gondal had the honor of meeting with the respected Governor of Sindh Kamran Tessori. This meeting focused on reinforcing the importance of accountability and oversight in governmental operations. They discussed strategies to enhance collaboration between the Auditor General's Office and the Governor's Office to ensure effective financial management, compliance with regulations, and the implementation of audit recommendations. The Auditor General expressed his gratitude to the Chief Minister and the Governor for their

warm reception and their commitment to advancing financial accountability and transparency in the province of Sindh. He emphasized the shared goal of fostering a culture of integrity and good governance, highlighting the importance of collective efforts in achieving these objectives. This visit signifies the commitment of the Auditor General of Pakistan to strengthen partnerships and collaboration with the provincial government of Sindh in pursuit of financial accountability and transparency. It underscores the Auditor General's Office's dedication to ensuring effective financial management, internal controls, and adherence to regulatory frameworks.



KARACHI: Sindh Governor, Kamran Khan Tessori along with others are laying Foundation Stone during ceremony of the new building of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation, held in Karachi.

Sherry Rehman hosts USAID delegation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Sherry Rehman on Thursday welcomed a delegation from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for a high-level meeting at the Climate Ministry. The USAID delegation was led by USAID's Deputy Administrator for Policy and Programming, Ambassador Isobel Colkman, a news release said. In her introductory remarks, Minister Rehman said, "We deeply appreciate your commitment to addressing the challenges faced in building climate resilience in Pakistan, particularly at the intersection

of climate, health, food security and water-related rebuilding challenges. "During your visit to the affected areas, you witnessed firsthand the landscape of extreme vulnerability that is difficult to convey through written reports or any other means." "I am sure it became evident, that after a flood event that impacted 33 million people, building resilience within a society and among communities that have been displaced and impoverished is extremely onerous. The great flood impacted every sector in Pakistan, especially the economy which withstood a massive exogenous shock, impacting the capacity of the country to recover and rebuild."



KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Health, Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho witnesses an MoU signing between the Sindh Health Department and International Rescue Committee to use a simplified and cost effective way to counter malnutrition in the province by mobilizing community health workers beyond health facilities during ceremony held in Karachi.

Meeting held to review performance of department, security measures

KARACHI (APP): Additional Inspector General of Police - Karachi Javed Alam Odho on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting at Karachi Police Office (KPO) to review the performance of the department and security measures. Zonal Deputy IGs, DIGP - Admin, DIGP CIA, DIGP - Traffic, District SSPs, SPs Headquarters, SPs Investigation and other senior police officers attended the meeting. The zonal DIGPs briefed the police chief about the performance of their zones and informed about the security measures of police lines and headquarters and other important installations. During the meeting, the law and order situation,

and actions against fugitives and proclaimed offenders were also considered. The officers concerned were directed to take stern actions against the elements involved in drug peddling, gambling, gutka business and other social evils including street crime. The police chief issued orders to further tighten the security of police headquarters, police lines and police offices, buildings and other important installations and to strictly monitor their entrances and exits. Strict security orders were issued for cattle markets established in the city. Ghulam Nabi Memon instructed that the security of the foreign nationals in Karachi,

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Qureshi returns

PTI vice chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi has been granted his freedoms back. Given how brazenly the state has targeted the party's leadership while denying them due rights and liberties, one wonders why.

On Tuesday, he simply walked out of Adiala Jail after a Lahore High Court bench set aside his detention order. There was no police escort waiting for him outside to whisk him away on an erstwhile unknown charge, as has been the norm for other PTI leaders.

Nor did he address a press conference to denounce Imran Khan, the PTI, or politics altogether — the usual price for liberty paid by those who have deserted.

Instead, Mr Qureshi used his brief appearance before the media to reiterate his commitment to stand by the PTI chief's side and to assert that he still holds "the flag of justice" in his hands and wishes to see the party succeed.

Those speculating that Mr Qureshi had only been allowed to walk because he was needed to relay an important message to Mr Khan may be on to something.

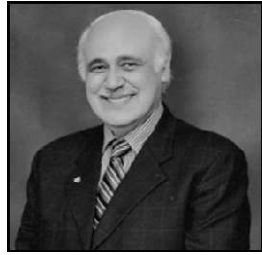
Mr Qureshi had announced a planned meeting with the PTI chairman on Wednesday, in which, he said, he would be sharing his political analysis and seeking guidance from Mr Khan on the path forward.

There was speculation that the message he was actually taking to Mr Khan was simple: excuse yourself from politics, or continue to watch your party be decimated by the state.

If true, this would be a tricky dilemma for Mr Khan. Mr Qureshi was named heir by Mr Khan himself; choice number one would see him seize the prize of the campaigning and considerable effort put in by Mr Khan into reviving his party post the 2022 vote of no-confidence. Choice number two could leave Mr Khan isolated and perhaps years away from a comeback to mainstream politics. Presenting a popular public leader with such choices is, of course, unfair; not to mention it is unlikely to dent his actual power. The 'minus-ing' of popular politicians has been tried many times before, with the usual result that it creates lasting problems and resentments instead of providing enduring solutions.

What our powerbrokers continue to not understand is that political legitimacy is not conferred by the state that it can be taken away by it too. It is drawn from public support and can only be contested through the democratic process. Taking the PTI chief out of the elections process may satisfy a few egos, but doing so will also make those who are lawfully entitled to make the decision regarding his political future resentful of the state. Why would anyone risk alienating a very youthful population for very short-term goals? One hopes there are better options on the table instead.

Au revoir, Noah



F.S. Aijazuddin

The Biblical scriptures tell us that Noah loaded his Ark with a pair of every species, especially rodents. He calculated that if his Ark was ever in danger of sinking, rats would be the first to jump ship.

The recent exodus of the senior leadership from the PTI is unparalleled in the history of Pakistani politics. Over the seven decades of our dyslexic democracy, every political party, whenever it came under pressure, has challenged it, or withstood it, or made sacrifices despite it. None more so than the Pakistan Peoples Party, to whom prison became a home away from home.

Never before, though, have so many in the PTI owed so much to so few; in fact, to one sole benefactor — their leader Imran Khan. Yet, they have deserted him with unseemly alacrity. Even the leadership of the Nazi Party in Germany waited until it was clear that the Second World War had been lost before they abandoned Hitler.

Here, the PTI high command when in government had postured, pretending to be leaders with a lofty mission to effect 'true change' in the country. Then, suddenly on a caprice, they quit parliament, effectively abandoning their constituencies, and, after the shameful events of May 9, within days, one by one, they betrayed their modern messiah. Gethsemane became a rout. Disciples became turncoat Judases — all but one, that is. The only one who remains by him — his senior vice chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi — continues to

pledge his feigned allegiance. What must Imran Khan be feeling now, when even a nonentity like Usman Buzdar, whom he disinterred from obscurity and made chief minister Punjab, resigns from the PTI? Buzdar's elevation in 2018 inevitably drew comparisons with the legendary nomination by the Roman emperor Caligula of his horse, Incitatus, to the Roman Senate. Mr Z.A. Bhutto's selection of GM. Khar as governor Punjab in 1971 evoked similar derision amongst those who understood the pun on his name.

Was the elevation of both Khar and Buzdar a deliberate slight to the Punjabi elite, or simply an extreme example of cronyism?

Imran Khan's faulty selection of his team (some of whom are padding up to play for the other side) makes one appreciate why the Pakistan Cricket Board uses a panel to select players who will play for the nation. Favouritism has no place in any game, especially not in one as dangerous as politics.

Recent machinations have made it clear that Mr Jahangir Tareen — the Croesus kingmaker who helped make Imran Khan prime minister in 2018 — is mobilising his resources to create another realm. For whom? For himself? Before he can enter the fray, though, he needs to be rid of the ban that prohibits him and Nawaz Sharif (PML-N's king across the waters) from contesting elections.

Once these gilded handcuffs have been removed from both of them — it has to be before the next general elections — one should expect to see Nawaz Sharif reigning in the presidency and Jahangir Tareen (health permitting) ruling if not from, then certainly behind the throne in Islamabad.

Switching loyalties

or changing parties is not a Pakistani phenomenon. It has happened wherever there is a functioning democracy and a choice of causes — in India, the United States, even in the United Kingdom, where, in that mother of parliaments, the father of parliament Winston Churchill began as a Conservative, crossed the floor to become a Liberal, and then returned to the Conservatives.

Do such changelings have a 'predictably insecure future'? As Churchill's subsequent career demonstrated, apparently not. In Pakistan, being a political turncoat is almost a qualification. Take the revolving door loyalties of Sheikh Rashid: 1988, the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad; 1990, against IJI ticket; in 1993, PML-N; then PML-Q; his own brainchild the Awami Muslim League; and, most recently, cohabitation with the PTI.

Or the voluble Fawad Chaudhry? All Pakistan Muslim League; PPP, 2012; PML-Q, 2013; PTI, 2016.

The list is endless, as is the queue to quit the PTI.

Now, the issue in Pakistan is not who wins the next general election but who thinks he is another Kemal Ataturk or Recep Erdogan, with a mandate strong enough to rehabilitate the economy, to modernise a hierarchical society, and to put khaki back in the barracks. It will require a superhuman effort in a nation that has no superheroes, only papier-mâché Caligulas.

The truth is that the public has lost faith in its politicians and all other organs of governance. They have seen it too often to take elections seriously. They can foretell from experience that when a modern Noah reaches Mount Ararat, he will find the same rats waiting for him on dry land.

-- Courtesy Dawn

Ghost in the machine



Rafa Zakaria

The already heated debate around the potential and pitfalls of artificial intelligence reached fever pitch last week, when some of the most respected leaders working in the field got together to say that AI was improving at such a rate that it could potentially lead to an 'extinction' event. This means that AI technology is improving at a pace faster than human beings can come up with ways to govern these new frontiers of machine capability. So what is now ChatGPT and other similar language-based chatbots could soon make the need for human endeavours redundant.

Some of those to sound the alarm are industry leaders whose companies are benefiting from the progress. Together, they issued a statement released by the Centre for Artificial Intelligence Safety: "Mitigating the risk of extinction from AI should be a global priority alongside other societal-scale risks such as pandemics and nuclear war."

The executives who signed on include Sam Altman, who is the chief of OpenAI, Demis Hassabis the CEO of Google DeepMind, and Dario Amodei of Anthropic.

Besides these leaders, 350 other researchers, engineers and scientists also signed on to the statement because they too believe that the risk of AI technology progressing into realms that are no longer governable by human beings is a very real possibility and even a likelihood.

Altman has sug-

gested that the world is in need of an overseer agency to govern AI in the same way as the International Atomic Energy Agency monitors the use of atomic technology and prevents those it sees as bad actors from obtaining technology that can be used to construct bombs, which could destroy the world. This parallel should particularly resonate here in the subcontinent, where the technology to build atomic bombs has defied everything for decades now.

Imagine if an arms race for AI was also underway, with errant actors threatening to use the most menacing aspects of AI to derail other countries' transportation systems, flight-operating systems, utilities and all kinds of other mechanisms. Just as the constant threat of terrorists getting control of the atomic bomb frightens people today, so too would the prospect of AI on the march towards human beings' extinction frighten people tomorrow. Add to this the fact that atomic governance was actually something initiated at a moment when constitutional liberalism reigned and international cooperation was considered valuable in itself, and the picture gets more worrisome for many.

In today's times, the world cannot even agree on basic means with which to arrest the cataclysmic pace of climate change. It appears even more unlikely that a whole new frontier could be regulated and governed on the basis of common principles. A grim estimation of this state of affairs would be taking bets on whether it would be a climate catastrophe and a too-hot-to-inhabit planet, or AI-induced extinction of the human race that would end the world as we know it first. Nevertheless, a word must be said here about just how tantalising AI-gener-

ated tools are. When one American university professor was questioned about how she was dealing with students using ChatGPT, she shrugged her shoulders and said she wasn't doing anything about it. Instead, she responded, the quality of writing taught in American high schools had become so poor and the legibility of student papers was plummeting at such a rate that she would be pleased if they used the tool and produced a readable paper.

Many in the group called GenZ, who do not remember a time when the internet did not exist, have already accepted the tool and put it to use doing all the onerous non-creative sort of writing, such as producing instruction manuals or giving directions from one place to another. It is not difficult to envision a time when this generation, saved from all the 'from scratch' tasks, will not be able to imagine a world without the existence of AI.

Some hope for AI can be drawn from the fact that Sam Altman and others in the industry emphasise that the reason to invest in AI technology is simply that it has the potential to create a better world. The ability to synthesise vast troves of information — whether it is in biomedicine, education or energy — can drastically reduce waste of all sorts and vastly improve the utilisation of limited resources.

No one can stop AI from being developed further, and many say that it is precisely its potential for great good that is driving so many companies into the race to build better in a machine-run world.

At the same time, it is also necessary to point to just how large the gap between those with access to technology and those without it is becoming. Even as AI promises new frontiers of efficiency and optimisation, a drastic reduction in the utilisation of labour is in sight. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

USAID official

Pak has tremendous potential to overcome economic challenges

ISLAMABAD (APP): USAID Deputy Administrator Isoble Coleman on Thursday said despite all facing difficulties on economic fronts, Pakistan had tremendous potential to overcome all the challenges.

Talking to the media, she said, "When I look at Pakistan's economy, yes I see high inflation, but I also see enormous opportunities to see IT sector exports grow and enhance food security. The US wants to see a stable and prosperous Pakistan."

Responding to another question, she said that Pakistan needed to

follow robust economic reforms agenda to come out of the current economic crisis.

However, she said the private sector and other stakeholders during meetings with her expressed hope for coming out from the current economic challenges.

The USAID official said she held meetings with the private sector working in various groups. She said the US and Pakistan enjoyed cordial relations for the last 75 years.

To a question, Isoble Coleman said soon after her arrival in Pakistan she visited flood-affected areas and witnessed that the

situation on the ground was not good enough.

She said flood-affected areas of Sindh province were facing the worst situation due to damaged infrastructure, washed away crops and livestock.

She said the USAID had pledged an additional \$16.4 million in funding to bolster the recovery and resilience of communities in Pakistan devastated by the unprecedented floods of 2022. She said these catastrophic floods affected an estimated 33 million people, wreaking havoc on vital infrastructure, crops, livelihoods, and livestock

across the nation.

The newly allocated funds, she said, would provide support to over 20 million individuals affected by the floods, facilitating their recovery, enhancing risk reduction measures, and fostering resilience.

"The assistance will tackle the growing challenges of food insecurity, malnutrition, and disease outbreak prevention." Moreover, she said the funding would empower humanitarian partners to deliver nutritious meals to mothers and children, aid in the reconstruction of local infrastructure to mitigate future disasters and expand.



ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and the economic team presenting Economic Survey of Pakistan for FY-2022-23 to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Govt taking all possible measures to make country economically strong, stable

Independent Report
LAHORE: A delegation of All Pakistan Business Forum led by Syed Muaz Mehmood called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman here today at Governor House Lahore. In the meeting, measures regarding promotion of business and industries in the country were discussed.

Round Table discussion on 'African Continental Free Trade Area' held

ISLAMABAD (APP): The African Missions in Pakistan, in collaboration with the Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies (ISSI), organized a Round Table Discussion on African Continental Free Trade Area (ARCFTA).

occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif is taking all possible measures to make the country economically and economically strong and stable. He said that the business community is a great source of generating employment opportunities in the country.

Speaking on the occasion, Senior Officers from the Foreign Office and Ministry of Commerce, academics, area specialists and members of the business community and students participated in the event. In his keynote address, the Dean of the African Group/Ambassador of Morocco, Mohammed Karroume, said that Africa had a significant role to play.

Naveed invites British Pakistanis to invest in Pak

LONDON (Online): Commerce Minister Naveed Qamar has invited British Pakistanis to invest in Pakistan to benefit from profitable business opportunities and business friendly environment in the country. He was addressing a reception hosted by High Commissioner Moazzam Ahmad Khan at the Pakistan High Commission London.

The event brought together UK Parliamentarians, British Pakistani community, and businesspersons. During his speech,

Minister Qamar called upon the British Pakistanis to explore the diverse investment opportunities in Pakistan and highlighted the potential for lucrative profits. He gave an overview of the favorable business environment in Pakistan, mentioning the presence of successful British companies operating in the country.

The Minister expressed his appreciation for the positive contributions of the Pakistani diaspora in the progress and development

of Pakistan, as well as their instrumental role in fostering strong bilateral ties between Pakistan and the United Kingdom.

Earlier, in his welcome remarks, High Commissioner Moazzam Ahmad Khan underscored the deep-rooted and longstanding relationship between Pakistan and the United Kingdom.

He regarded Minister Qamar's visit as a testament to the enduring strength of this special bond between the two nations.

PQA handling cargo of Rs 31.53m tonne FY 2022-23

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Port Qasim Authority (PQA) was handling cargo of Rs 31.53 million tonne as compared to Rs 42.20 million tonne during the corresponding period of last year depicting a 25 percent decrease in handled cargo compared to previous fiscal year. According to the Economic Survey on Thursday,

Economic Survey Agriculture sector grew 1.55% in 2022-23

ISLAMABAD (APP): The agriculture sector in the country recorded about 1.55% growth during 2022-23 as against the growth of 4.27 percent of the same period last year.

According to the Economic Survey of Pakistan 2022-23 launched here Thursday, the contribution of important crops recorded at 18.23

percent to value addition in agriculture sector and 4.18 percent to GDP. Other crops contributed 14.49 percent in value addition of agriculture sector and 3.32 percent in GDP. To lessen the miseries of flood affects and revival of the agriculture sector, the government announced Kissan Package-2022, consequent upon the floods-2022.



LAHORE: A delegation of All Pakistan Business Forum led by Syed Muaz Mehmood photographed with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman after a meeting

Property tax rate lowest in Pakistan: Excise Minister

FAISALABAD (APP): Caretaker Excise and Communications Minister Bilal Afzal has said that although the property tax rate was lowest in Pakistan as compared to other countries of the South Asia, yet the people still avoided from paying taxes.

He was addressing a briefing arranged to review performance of Excise & Taxation Department (ETD) Faisalabad here on Thursday. He expressed concern over the collection of tax less than its target and said that ETD Faisalabad

would have to work hard to meet tax collection targets. He added that only those inspectors who had excellent performance should be appointed in the areas to overcome the issue of low tax recovery rate. In this connection, a special media awareness campaign should also be launched to motivate the people for paying taxes, he suggested.

The minister assured that he would extend all possible support to resolve the shortage of staff and other problems in ETD Faisalabad.

IT registers phenomenal upward growth of 178%

ISLAMABAD (APP): Over the past 5 years, a phenomenal upward growth of 178 percent in Information Technology and ITeS exports has been witnessed at compound annual growth rate of 30 percent, the highest growth rate in comparison to all other local industries in services. According to the Economic Survey 2022-23 launched by Minister for Finance and Revenue Ishaq Dar here on Thursday Pakistan's IT.

Governor KP says: Despite difficulties PDM's government will provide relief in fiscal budget

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali Thursday said that despite the fact that PDM's federal government is facing difficult economic conditions but fiscal budget 2023-24 will provide relief to the public without the assistance of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He expressed these views while talking to the media at Abbottabad Press Club.

to the masses in the prices of flour, petroleum product and pulses before the budget. The federal and provincial governments are actively engaged in finding solutions to the difficulties faced by the nation, adding he said. Ghulam Ali stated that the previous government has ruined the healthcare system and their every step during the government demanding probe, they hired people to sit at home and abuse others and maligned institutions. Talking about provincial assembly elections the governor said

that the Supreme Court of Pakistan has also ordered to hold the election on the same day and urged the political parties to decide collectively, which is a positive development. Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali, said that the PTI government has misused public resources by forming boards, government institutions should not exceed their authority and neither they should not neglect their responsibilities. He said that the incident of 9th May is the result of the indoctrination of the young generation for the past 10 years which has created hatred in the minds of young people against the army and police. Haji Ghulam Ali said that the nation is living in peace and progressing due to the efforts of the Pakistani army, rangers, and police and after the May incidents the nation has proven that it stands with the Pakistani army and those who are safeguarding the constitution.



ABBOTTABAD: Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali addresses to media persons during press conference held at Abbottabad press club.

13th Sartyoon Sang Crafts Exhibition concludes

KARACHI (APP): Scores of people including foreigners appreciated the work of skilled women entrepreneurs displayed at the four-day '13th Sartyoon Sang' exhibition, which concluded here on Thursday. In an exquisite display of traditional crafts at the Dolmen Mall in Clifton, a wide mixture of Sindh's handicrafts made by rural women were exhibited, including home textiles, baskets, jewellery, rillies, dresses, dupattas and shawls, embellished with traditional embroidery and

cutwork. The event was arranged by Sindh Rural Support Organisation (SRSO) in an effort to provide market links to rural women and artisans. The festival attracted large numbers of women residents of Clifton, Defence Housing Authority, Bath Island and nearby areas. SRSO Chief Executive Officer, Muhammad Dital Kalhoro said the event's objective was to facilitate better income for women artisans of rural Sindh. "We have trained over 110,000 men and women in differ-

DC chairs meeting regarding removing waste of sacrificial animals

HYDERABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Kanwal Nizam chaired a meeting on removing waste of sacrificial animals and other garbage on Eid-ul-Azha. Addressing the meeting the DC said the Municipal and Town Committees shall immediately remove sacrificial waste to prevent bad odour and take measures to maintain sanitation and cleanliness. DC instructed officials of Municipal and Town Committees to set up Control Rooms and nominate Focal Persons while a contingency plan be prepared at ward level in this regard. Department of Local Government was directed to initiate strict legal action against citizens

found involved in dumping animal waste in sewerage lines, she added. All Assistant Commissioners were instructed to visit their domain areas to inspect the sanitation situation and submit reports in this regard. On the occasion, Additional Director Local Government Abdul Sattar Rathore, Municipal and Town Committee officials informed about steps taken for better sanitation situation and removal of animal waste outside the city limits at a safe location. Addressing the meeting SSP Mehzoor Ali said the plan is being prepared to maintain law and order during the Eidul Azha days.



PESHAWAR: Khatib Masjid Muhabat Khan Molana Taryab Qureshi is addressing the press conference.

SIU arrest three street criminals, recovers snatched motorcycle

KARACHI (APP): The Special Investigation Unit (SIU) of Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) Karachi Police on Thursday arrested three alleged street criminals and recovered a snatched motorcycle and arms from their possession. According to a spokesman for SIU, the unit on a tip-off conducted a raid near Eidgah Ground, Nazimabad and arrested the accused identified as Imran, Irshad and Rehmatullah during initial investigations revealed their involvement in a number of street crimes. They also used to rob people coming out of banks with huge cash. The accused also confessed to having snatched two motorcycles from Karimabad and Sachal. The motorcycle snatched from Karimabad on June 3 this year was recovered from their possession. They revealed committing street crimes in Karimabad, Iqbal Market, Mominabad, Metroville, Sachal, Korangi, Shah Latif, SITE-A, Pakistan Bazar and Pirabad areas.

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KARACHI: View of venue after traffic accident due to over speeding and break failure, while people busy in rescue work, located on Shahrah-e-Faisal road in Karachi.

PPP Policy Board decides to launch Yellow Line buses project, Oil Palm Nursery, Rani Bagh project

KARACHI (APP): The 40th PPP Policy Board meeting Thursday was held under the chairmanship of Sindh Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and decided to launch a number of important projects on PPP Mode including supply and operations of buses for Yellow Line BRIS, establishment of Oil palm Nursery & Tissue Culture Laboratory, financial close of ongoing Ghotki-Kandhkot Bridge, construction of Tando Allahyar Bypass and drainage system at Tando Rani Bagh, Hyderabad project.

The meeting was attended by Provincial Ministers, Dr. Azra Pechuho, Ismail Rahu, Shajeeel Memon, Sajid Johio, Murtaza Wahab, Syed Qasim Naveed, Ghulam Qadir Chandio, Chief Secretary Sohail Rajput, Chairman P&D Hassan Naqvi, VC NED Dr. Sarosh Lodhi, Nasir Brohi, and concerned secretaries. Sindh Minister for Transport Sharjeel Memon told the CM that with the collaboration of the Federal and Sindh Governments, a comprehensive solution to Karachi's urban mobility problem was underway by implementing a Bus Rapid Transit System (BRIS), as

planned under the Karachi Urban Transport Master Plan (KUTMP) of 2030. He added that in order to implement KUTMP, the transport department conceived a project which included the supply and operations of buses for Yellow Line BRIS under a PPP contract with a concession period of 10 years. According to the minister of transport, the private operators would finance, procure, supply, operate, and maintain various systems such as bus fleets, Intelligent Transport Systems, fare collection, depot equipment, etc, and provide

related services. The meeting was told that the World Bank would provide 50 percent of the project cost — which meant the development and operation of the BRT Yellow Line Corridor and the rest of the amount the private partner would have to arrange. The private partners would also develop the marketing strategy to sensitize potential investors' participation in the bidding process and assist the SMTA during procurement. The PPP Policy Board approved post facto approval to the concept of the project as well as for initiating

the procurement process to carry out feasibility studies and transaction advisory services in relation to the supply and operation of buses for the Yellow Line BRT Project. Provincial Minister for Environment & Climate Change Ismail Rahu told the meeting that Pakistan annually imported 4.5 million tons of edible oil worth \$5 billion, the second highest import bill after petroleum products. He added that Sindh was naturally blessed with a rich coastal belt that had tremendous potential to integrate agricultural crops including coconut and oil palm. According to Rahu the Oil palm tree starts bearing fruit after three years of plantation, while it fully matures after seven years of plantation. It has a life span of 25 to 30 years under intensive management operations. The Sindh Coastal Development Authority (SCDA) initiated a pilot project in 2016-17 namely "Palm oil production in the coastal belt of Sindh," Ismail Rahu said and added that the project successfully undertook plantation of oil palm trees in an area of 30 acres at Kathore Forest and established an oil extraction mill with the capacity of two tons oil extraction per day.

International News

Russia says top UN court should dismiss Ukraine's case over Crimea and terrorism funding

Monitoring Desk
THE HAGUE: Russia urged judges at the United Nations' highest court on Thursday to throw out a case brought by Ukraine against Moscow over the 2014 annexation of the Crimean Peninsula and the arming of rebels in eastern Ukraine before Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022. "We appear before you today in order to demonstrate that Ukraine's application must be dismissed because it is without any legal foundation.

Nor does it have any factual evidence to back it," Russian Ambassador to the Netherlands Alexander Shulgim told judges at the International Court of Justice. Lawyers for Ukraine said as hearings in the case opened Tuesday that Russia bankrolled a "campaign of intimidation and terror" by rebels in eastern Ukraine starting in 2014 and sought to replace Crimea's multiethnic community with "discriminatory Russian nationalism." Ukraine filed the case in 2017, asking the world

court to order Moscow to pay reparations for attacks and crimes such as the shooting down of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 by a Russian missile fired from territory controlled by Moscow-backed rebels on July 17, 2014, killing all 298 passengers and crew. The Ukrainian government alleges that Russia breached two treaties: the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.



French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne and French Interior and Overseas Minister Gerald Darmanin leave the Haute Savoie prefecture in Annecy, French Alps.

UN commission accuses Israel of taking aim at Palestinian human rights groups

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: Investigators commissioned by the U.N.'s top human rights body on Thursday accused Israel of "delegitimizing and silencing civil society" by outlawing Palestinian human rights groups and labeling their members as "terrorists." The findings came in the annual report by the Human Rights Council's "Commission of Inquiry." The commission, led by a three-member team of human rights experts, was established in 2021 following an 11-day war between Is-

rael and the Hamas militant group in Gaza. Israel accuses the rights council, and the commission, of being unfairly biased. The report also accused both Hamas and the rival Palestinian Authority in the Israeli-occupied West Bank of committing rights violations. But it said most of the violations it had uncovered were committed by Israel as part of a campaign it says is aimed at "ensuring and enshrining its permanent occupation at the expense of the rights of the Palestinian people." Former U.N. human

Tensions in US-Saudi ties cloud Blinken visit to Riyadh

Monitoring Desk
RIYADH: A visit by the U.S. Secretary of State to Saudi Arabia drew little Saudi media coverage on Thursday at a time of soured relations despite a U.S. push to defuse rows that have touched on oil prices, human rights and Riyadh's opening to Iran. Antony Blinken was the second top U.S. official to visit Washington's closest strategic ally in the Middle East in less than a month, following a May 7 trip by White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan.

ministers were relegated to the inside pages of Al-Watjan and Okaz, the two major newspapers in Saudi Arabia. Their front pages were devoted to unrelated topics including the arrival of star French football striker Karim Benzema in Jeddah to join the Al Ittihad club. Blinken and the crown prince, widely known as MBS, had "open, candid" talks for an hour and 40 minutes, a U.S. official said, covering topics including the conflict in neighbouring Yemen, the war in Sudan, Israel, and human rights. The semi-official English-language daily Arab News covered Blinken's comments in his talks at GCC headquarters, including those touching on Yemen.

UK's Sunak, Biden to focus on deepening economic ties at White House meeting

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: U.S. President Joe Biden and UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak will focus on deepening close economic ties between the United States and Britain when they meet at the White House on Thursday, with Russia's war in Ukraine another big topic for the NATO allies. U.S. and British officials said the two leaders will review a range of global issues, including joint economic and security interests, artificial intelligence, support for Ukraine, and further action to accelerate the clean energy transition.

field questions at a joint news conference after their meeting, an opportunity not afforded to every world leader who visits the White House, and will also issue a joint statement, officials said. Biden and Sunak last met in Hiroshima, Japan, at the Group of Seven summit last month. They also met in Belfast in April and in San Diego in March at a trilateral event marking the defense partnership of the U.S., Australia and Britain. The two will discuss joint U.S.-UK leadership on critical and emerging technologies, as well as coordinated efforts to strengthen both countries' economic security, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said on Wednesday. The discussion will touch on artificial intelligence safety. Britain announced late Wednesday, saying it would host the first summit on the issue this autumn to discuss how the risks of AI can be mitigated through internationally coordinated action.

India rebukes Canada over parade float showing assassination of Indira Gandhi

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: India's foreign minister on Thursday hit out at Canada for allowing a float in a parade depicting the 1984 assassination of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by her bodyguards, perceived to be glorification of violence by Sikh separatists. "I think there is a larger underlying issue about the space which is given to separatists, to extremists, to people who advocate violence," S. Jaishankar told reporters in New Delhi while commenting about

the tableau in a parade. "I think it is not good for relationships, not good for Canada," he said. Canada's High Commissioner for India also condemned the incident at a parade by Sikh activists in the Canadian city of Brampton. Video circulated in recent days on the internet showed a tableau from the parade featuring Gandhi wearing a blood-stained white saree with her hands up as turban-clad men pointed guns at her. A poster behind the scene read: "Revenge".

24 killed after van falls into ravine in Afghanistan

Monitoring Desk
KABUL: Twenty-four people, including 12 women and eight children, died on Wednesday when the van they were travelling in fell into a ravine in northern Afghanistan, police said. "Due to the neglect of the driver, the vehicle deviated from the road and fell into a ravine. Twenty-four people are dead," said Den Mohammed Nazari, a police spokesman in Sar-e Pol province. No further details were available about the cause of the accident.

4 children injured in knife attack in French town, 2 in critical condition

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: A Syrian national wounded four children and an adult in a knife attack in a French park on Thursday, police said, leaving some of the victims critically ill in hospital. The attack, which happened in the French alpine town of Annecy, was carried out by a Syrian national with legal refugee status in France, a police official told Reuters. "Children and one adult are between life and death. The nation is in shock," French President Emmanuel Macron said in

a statement on Twitter, calling the attack "an act of absolute cowardice". French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said on Twitter that the attacker had been arrested. Two children and one adult are in life-threatening condition, while two children were slightly hurt, police said. Witnesses said at least one child involved was in a stroller. BFM TV showed footage of several police men overpowering an individual in a park.

Iran's president to visit three Latin American countries next week

Monitoring Desk
MEXICO CITY: Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi will visit Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela next week, Iran's state news agency IRNA announced on Wednesday, adding that the upcoming tour stemmed from invites from the presidents of each of the Latin American nations. IRNA said documents to expand bilateral cooperation will be signed between Iran and the three countries during Raisi's visit, mentioning economic, political and scientific issues.



French police personnel maintain a secure cordon in Annecy, south-eastern France, following a mass stabbing in the French Alpine town.



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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday approved the inclusion of a 'revolutionary programme' in the upcoming budget 2023-24 for the uplift of youth, women and farmers.

As per the prime minister's directives, the funds have been allocated in the upcoming budget for projects on the welfare of youth and women as well as for agriculture tube-wells.

According to a PM Office statement, in the next fiscal year, the youth would be provided interest-free loans and endowment fund would be established

for education and sports. The prime minister approved the establishment of Pakistan Endowment Fund for Education on the pattern of Punjab Endowment Fund.

Under the Fund, the intelligent but poor students from across the country, would be given educational scholarships. The funds have been allocated Prime Minister Youth Programme to extend small loans to the youth.

The government has also specified funds to impart skill training to the youth, including in information technology. The upcoming budget

would also have funds for the distribution of 100,000 laptops among youth, besides extending financial support to the IT startups.

The government has made budgetary allocations for the promotion of sports activities among youth and to encourage their participation. The upcoming budget will also feature the funds allocations for a programme to achieve the economic empowerment of women. The prime minister also approved a programme for the solarisation of agriculture tube-wells which would be implemented in the second phase of PM's Kissan Package.

Tessori & Kakar discuss inter-provincial harmony, exchange of delegations

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori and Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar in their meeting held in Karachi on Thursday discussed promotion of inter-provincial harmony.

The Governors of two provinces also held discussion on exchange of delegations in different sectors and other issues of bi-

lateral interest.

Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori stressed the need to exploit the capabilities of youth for the development and prosperity of the province. Speaking on the occasion, Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Kakar said that inter-provincial harmony should be promoted through exchanging delegations in different sectors.

Pakistan Navy observes World Oceans Day

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

According to the Pakistan Navy news release on Thursday, oceans are very important for mankind as these are major sources of sustenance of life on earth and act as lungs to our planet as they provide more than 50% of the oxygen produced on this planet. They are also major absorbers of greenhouse gases and carbon dioxide.

World Oceans Day is observed globally on June 8 to draw focus towards the impact of human activities on the health of our oceans and sustained utilization of the ocean's resources.

This year's theme for World Oceans Day is 'Planet Oceans: Tides are Changing' which aims to highlight the challenges in-

involved in preserving the health of oceans and measures to maintain an ecological balance.

To signify the importance of preserving the oceans, Pakistan Navy has undertaken various initiatives which include beach cleaning drives, mangroves plantation campaigns, employment of Debris Collection Barges in harbor, banning the use of destructive fishing nets, tackling oil pollution at sea, and coordinating with the industrial community to reduce waste dumping into the sea. A number of events including harbour and beach cleaning at Karachi and Gwadar were held to highlight the spirit of the day and demonstrate seriousness about the sustainable use of oceans. An active and forthcoming participation by all stakeholders can significantly contribute to preserving the marine ecosystem.

President Dr. Alvi says Universities must keep students away of extremism, violence

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr. Arif Alvi on Thursday called upon the universities to play an active role in preventing intolerance, extremism and violence among students and guide them towards a positive mindset.

The universities, he said, should arrange regular capacity-building training sessions for their management and faculty members to inculcate in students the ability to resolve conflicts and extremism.

Addressing the National Vice Chancellors' Peace Conference, the president said banning the students' unions in universities was not a solution and stressed that there was a need to change their mindset through proper teaching methodologies.

He said the step would ensure the reformation of students to help them contribute towards

the country's better future, sustainable peace and prosperity.

President Alvi stressed the need for promoting ethics, morality, empathy, forgiveness and tolerance among the students. He said the students must not be indulged in activities which created stress among them.

To overcome the ongoing crisis, he said, priorities should be defined in streamlining the country's economy, reducing inflation, poverty and the rule of law. The president hoped that the challenging times would pass soon and the country would witness exponential growth within five to seven years. The country will stand on strong footings again, he said.

The two-day conference was jointly organised by Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan,

National Counter-Terrorism Authority (NACTA) and Shaor Foundation for Education and Awareness (SFEA).

The conference themed "Academic Discourse on Countering Extremism - The Way Forward" is a significant milestone in the implementation of the Peace, Advocacy and Community Engagement through Transformation (PACT) for Tolerance project, which is built on a foundation of collaboration and cooperation between SFEA, HEC Pakistan, NACTA, and other policy-level stakeholders.

Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, sharing his thoughts on the pressing issue of conflict within society, said that conflict permeated various sectors of society including families and deserved collaborative and coordinated response.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori exchanging views with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar at Governor House.

Budget will present long-term way forward to set economic goals: Kaira

LALAMUSA (INP): Adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira has said that the government was taking serious steps in the budget for the welfare of the poor and working class to make it people-friendly.

Talking to a private news channel on Thursday, he said that the Federal budget would be a surprise for the opposition, adding that it would not only provide relief to the working class of the country in every sector but will also fulfill their aspirations.

He assured that protection would be provided to the weaker sections of society, adding priority

would be to reduce the financial burden on the common people.

"PPP is a party of the workers and it will continue to protect the rights of every citizen," he added.

Replying to a question, Kaira said that the budget for the fiscal year 2023-24 was prepared with the objective of providing maximum relief to the common man and stabilizing the country's economy. The budget will present a long-term way forward to set economic goals, he added. Kaira said, "Dialogue in politics assumes great significance and it is the right time to resolve all the problems facing the nation through negotiations."

Health Minister takes notice of negligence by doctors

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Minister for Health Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel take notice on news floating on social media regarding Negligence of Doctors at Independent University Hospital Faisalabad and directed PM&DC to probe into the matter immediately. Following the directions from the Federal Minister of Health Pakistan Medical & Dental Council has launched an investigation into an alleged case of negligence by doctors in the Independent University Hospital Faisalabad.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Women Wing Central President, Faryal Talpur in a group photo with Kamala Bhill, a female candidate of the Peoples Party for the post of Vice-Chairperson of Tharparkar District Council during meeting held at Zardari House in Karachi.

Administrator takes strict notice about overcharging of parking fees

KARACHI (APP): Administrator DMC South Hammad ND Khan has taken strict notice of the news reports of excessive collection of parking fees charged from the public at certain places within the limits of South Municipality.

He gave clear instructions to the relevant section to stop overcharging of parking within the limits of the district, said a news release here on Thursday.

The Administrator said that a few vested interests are using their employees for financial benefits in the name of charged parking and receiving money from the public in excess of the prescribed fee through fake receipts, which is completely illegal and a punishable crime.

Legally, the parking fee for a motorcycle is RS 10, while the parking fee

for a car, high roof, and rickshaw is fixed at 20 rupees. In addition, the fee is 30 rupees for Datsun, 50 rupees for Mazda coach and for buses and trucks the fee is 100 rupees.

In this regard, notice boards have been displayed on the parking sites to inform the public about the fixed legal fees of charged for parking by the municipality South Administration.

If any officer or staff member of the department is found to be involved in the excess collection of parking fees, then strict departmental action will be taken against him and if the public is forced into the collection of excess fee at any place, they should contact the South Municipality and complain immediately and report to the center on phone number 99211429-99211390.

Cyclone Biparjoy further intensify, 1200km south of Karachi

KARACHI (INP): The very severe cyclonic storm Biparjoy has further intensified in the Arabian Sea, citing a weather official.

The cyclonic storm has slowly tracked further north-northwestward during past 12 hours, intensified more and now lies near Latitude 14.0°N and Longitude 66.2°E at a distance of about 1200km south of Karachi. Chief Meteorologist said. According to the Met Office, maximum sustained surface winds are 120-140 Km per hour gusts 160 Km/hour around the system center.

Pakistan Railways to launch massive crackdown on encroachers in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): The Karachi division of Pakistan Railways has announced that an anti-encroachment operation will soon be initiated to tackle the issue of illegal construction.

According to Mohammed Nasir Khalil, the DSP railway, 22 locations have been identified in Karachi Division where illegal structures such as petrol pumps, houses, factories, tenements, and other buildings have been established. Despite several notices, the mafia responsible for these encroachments has not vacated the land, even though many areas including city stations.

SHC admits for immediate hearing JI petition against law allowing un-elected persons to contest for seats of mayor/ chairman

KARACHI (Online): Sindh High Court (SHC) has admitted for immediate hearing JI petition against the law allowing un-elected persons to contest for seats of mayor and chairman.

The court issued notice to election commission and advocate general for June 13.

The JI petition came up for hearing before a 2-member bench of SHC comprising Justice Yousuf Ali Sayeed and Justice Muhammad Abdul Rehman Thursday.

Justice Yousuf Ali Sayeed remarked your case is of immediate nature. The petitioner had taken the stance in the petition local bodies election were completed under elementary local bodies act 2013. Under this law the

candidates for elected chairman/mayor took the oath.

Approval has been given under amendment act to make un-elected persons as chairman and mayor. According to spirit of local bodies law mayor should be elected among elected representatives.

It has been said in the petition articles from 90 to 93 and from 129 to 131 of the constitution make clear the structure of federal and provincial governments. Getting elected un-elected persons as mayor/ chairman will be against the spirit of constitution and local bodies laws.

The court was requested to declare illegal May 24 notification issued under the recent amendment.



HYDERABAD: View of High Court gives desert look due to strike called by Lawyers against the killing of Abdul Razaq Shar Advocate in Quetta, in Hyderabad.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Turkmenistan headed by Mr. Maksat Babayev, State Minister and Head of Turkmenistan calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Turkmen Ambassador of Pakistan, Atadjan Movlamov, Minister of State for Petroleum Dr. Musaddiq Malik and SAPM Tariq Fatemi also present in the meeting.

Wassan announces subsidy on fertiliser for flood affected farmers

KARACHI (APP): Adviser to Chief Minister Sindh on Agriculture Manzoor Wassan, on Thursday, said that Sindh government will provide a subsidy of Rs.60000 to flood-affected farmers on fertilizer.

The fertilizer subsidy would be provided to the farmers owning one acre to 12.5 acres of land in the third phase of the financial assistance initiative for farmers affected by rains and floods last year. Adviser to CM said in a statement issued here.

Floods of 2022 destroyed 3.6 million Acres of Kharif crops out of total 4.4 million Acres while farmers suffered a loss to the tune of Rs.421 billion as per conservative estimates.

CTD arrests TTP operative in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) of Sindh police on Thursday claimed to have arrested an active operative of banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) from Karachi.

As per details, the CTD team raided Rehri Goth, located in Ibrahim Hyderi, Karachi and arrested an active operative of the TTP named Ghulam Nabi.

The arrested has confessed to collecting funds for the TTP via social media. Receipts of the donations is also recovered from the arrested.

The initial integration revealed that the TTP operative was to visit Afghanistan for training.

Five booked for 'murdering' dog in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): A court in Karachi on Thursday ordered registration of a case against five persons, including a policeman, in connection with the murder of a dog.

Making it clear that it was the duty of police station in-charge to register case if a complainant came to him, the court of additional district and sessions judge-east ordered the SHO Ferozeabad to record statement of the petitioner in the case.

Riaz Hussain, the petitioner, had nominated policeman Ali Hassan, Mustafa, Ali, Waheed and Khalid in the case, and had said that he had been gifted a dog around two and half years back.

Bangladeshi envoy vows on furthering trade ties

HYDERABAD (APP): Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh S. M. Mahbul Alam on Thursday said Pakistan and Bangladesh have brotherly relations and efforts are being made to strengthen bilateral trade relations. Addressing the members of the Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry (HCSTSI) here, he said there are more than twenty trade, cultural, social, civil aviation, and other agreements between both countries. Bangladesh is the eighth largest population in the world with a literacy rate of more than 80 per cent due to free scholarships and facilities for students, he informed.

Responding to the request of HCSTSI President Farooq Shaikhani to facilitate the visa process for businessmen, he assured that he would personally write a letter to the Bangladesh Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the issuance of visas to the business community of Hyderabad and hoped that visas would be issued as soon as possible so the business community of Hyderabad can participate in trade and exhibitions in Bangladesh.

He informed that annual export of Bangladesh is 50 billion dollars, which he hoped would increase to 100 billion dollars by 2030. This is mainly because of ready-made garments, he said and added Bangladesh is the second largest exporter of ready-made garments in the world.



HYDERABAD: Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh Mehboob-ul-Aalam address to media persons at Press Club.

SFA making Karachi Central a model district as to food quality: Agha Fakhar

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Food Authority (SFA), under its endeavour to make Karachi Central a model district with regard to food quality, started taking enforcement measures in the area.

Director General SFA Agha Fakhar Hussain, in a statement issued here on Thursday, said that a team of Sindh Food Authority inspected more than 40 restaurants in North Nazimabad area of the Central District.

Fines of over Rs 1.5 million were also levied on different restaurants for poor sanitation arrangements and for working without obtaining license from SFA, he added.

All the people engaged in business of edible items should adapt their food centres, eateries and restaurants to the standards of Sindh Food Authority and not to violate the standard operating procedures (SOPs) set by the authority, Agha Fakhar Hussain maintained and warned of strict action under the Sindh Food Authority Act against food establishments contravening the SOPs.

He also requested all the concerned stakeholders to cooperate with the Sindh Food Authority in its endeavour of making Central District a model district and a food hub of the metropolis.