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Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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No new taxes for the upcoming year

Govt presents Rs14.46 trillion relief, growth-oriented budget

Announces ad hoc relief allowance of 35% for grade 1-16 officers and 30% for grade 17-22; Okayed an increase in pensions by 17.5%; Increases the minimum wage to Rs. 32,000; Proposes an allocation of Rs950 billion for development; Country's defence and civil administration, Rs 1.8 trillion and Rs 714 billion would be provided respectively; No increase in duties on import of essential items;

GDP to grow by 3.5pc,

inflation to ease by 21pc

agriculture sector, 3.4 per-

and 3.6 percent for services

its growth to 3.6 percent in

the period under review

while investment to GDP

ratio is expected to increase

from 13.6 percent in 2022-

23 to 15.1 percent in 2023-

is expected to grow by 3.5

percent with expected con-

tributions of important

crops (3 percent), other

crops (3.5 percent), cotton ginning (7.2 percent), live-

stock (3.6 percent), for-

estry (3 percent) and fish-

According to the Annual Plan 2023-24, a bud-

getary document released by the Planning Ministry

on Friday, the Large Scale

Manufacturing (LSM) would grow by 3.2 percent,

mining and quarrying by 1.2

percent, small and house-

hold manufacturing by 8.8

percent, slaughtering by 3.8

ing (3 percent).

The agriculture sector

The services sector is

tion government on Friday presented its second business-friendly, relief and development-oriented Federal Budget for the fiscal year 2023-24, with a total outlay of Rs14.46 trillion, announced aimed at coping with the inherited economic challenges and laying the foundation for a sustainable, inclusive and resilient

economy. The annual fiscal plan, put before the National Assembly by Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, contained radical and rigorous measures to reduce the

ISLAMABAD (APP): sufferings of the inflation- ees from Grade1-16 and 30 the agriculture sector, promote Information Technology, increase exports and boost business activities.

Unveiling the budgetary measures, the minister government's majorrelief to increase the salaries of government employees from 30 to 35 percent on ad-hoc basis and 17.5 percent enhancement in the pensions of the retired persons realizing their financial hardships due to the increased inflation.

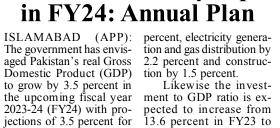
There would be a raise of 35 percent [ad-hoc relief] in the salaries of employ-

The 15-month-old coali- hit common man, transform percent to Grade 17-22 employees aimed at increasing their purchase

Besides, the government fixed the minimum pension at Rs 12,000 and increased minimum monthly wage from Rs 25,000 to Rs 32,000 within the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

The minister said there was a proposal to enhance the pension of Employees' Old-Age Benefits Institution (EOBI) from Rs 8,500 to Rs 10,000.

Ishaq Dar said the government was going to intro-Continued on page 2



15.1 percent in FY24 while fixed investment is anticicent for industrial sector, pated to grow from 11.9 percent to GDP in FY23 to 13.4 percent in FY24 while also expected to accelerate national savings rate is targeted at 13.4 percent of GDP. The wholesale and retail trade is targeted to increase by 2.8 percent, transport, accommodation and food services activities by 3.5 percent, information and communication by 5 percent, and financial and insurance activities by 3.7

> Similarly the growth of real estate activities is expected to grow by 3.6 percent, public administration and social security by 3.2 percent, education by 3.0 percent, and human health and social work activities by 3.0 percent.

The country's inflation is targeted to go down from 25 percent in FY23 to 21 percent in FY24 while the per capita income in rupee term would increase from Rs 388,766 in FY23 to Rs 478,040 in FY24.



Highlights of PSDP 2023-24

ISLAMABAD (APP): Following are the highlights of allocations under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for various ministries and divisions for the

- fiscal year 2023-24 announced by the federal government here on Friday:
 Total outlay of the PSDP for the fiscal year 2022-23 is Rs 2.709 trillion.
 The share of the federal PSDP is Rs 1,150 billion while that of the provincial PSDP is Rs 1.559 trillion.
- Rs 5,450 million has been earmarked for Aviation Division. Board of Investment will get Rs 1114.760 million.
- Rs 90,120 million has been earmarked for Cabinet Division.
- The Climate Change Division will get Rs 4,050 million. Rs 1,100 million has been earmarked for Commerce Division.
- Rs 360.390 million are allocated for Communication Division (other than NHA). Rs 3,400 million has been earmarked for Defence Division.
- Rs 2,000 million has been allocated for Defence Production Division.
- Rs 840 million are allocated for Establishment Division. The Federal Education and Professional Training Division will get Rs 8,500
- Rs 3,220 million has been allocated for Finance Division.
 Rs 167,900 million has been earmarked for Provinces and Special Areas.
 The Higher Education Commission (HEC) will get Rs 59,700 million.
- Rs 40,680 million has been earmarked for Housing and Working Division. Rs 814 million will be provided to Human Rights Division.
- Rs 3,000 million has been earmarked for Industries and Production Division. Rs 2,000 million are allocated for Information and Broadcasting Division.
- Rs 6,000 million will be provided to Information Technology and Telecom Continued on page 2

Directs to release arrears of PPL immediately:

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif signing Budget

2023-24 documents after its approved by the Cabinet to be laid before the

PM constitutes high powered committee for solution of financial issues of Balochistan

Committee comprising members of provincial and national assembly to meet on Monday; recommendations of committee to be included in federal budget

Independent Report

OUETTA: The Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif has constituted a high-power committee for resolving the financial issues of Balochistan.

The committee comprising the members of provincial and national assemblies would meet on upcoming Monday to discuss the financial situation of the province besides other re-

ALI KHAN KAKAR

is also present

Federal Information Min-

ister Maryam Aurangzeb

has said on Friday that

first time in the budget

health insurance for jour-

nalist has been allocated.

announce that for the first

time in the budget, health

insurance for journalists

has been allocated" said

Federal Minister for In-

been earmarked for this

purpose in the budget of

"I thank Prime Min-

the financial year 2023-

ister Shehbaz Sharif and

Finance Minister Ishaq

Dar for providing money

She further said that

formation.

"I am very happy to

Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan

Kakar presiding over a ceremony in Gwadar. Deputy Commissioner Gwadar Izzat Nazir Baloch

Marriyum says:

Health insurance for

journalist earmarked

Budget 2023-24 to restart journey

of progress & development

ISLAMABAD (Online): for this important step, as

one billion rupees has restart the journey of

the Minister of Informa-

tion, it was one of my

prime objectives to pro-

vide this facility to work-

ing journalists, especially

in their time of need." said

Maryam Aurangzeb on

for Information and

Broadcasting Marriyum

Aurangzeb on Friday said

the federal budget for fis-

cal year 2023-24 would

progress and development

in the country which had

witnessed four years of

economic destruction,

joblessness, chaos and an-

archy during the Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

government's tenure.

APP adds: Minister

social media website

lated matters.

The recommendations of the parliamentary committee would be included in

the federal budget. The development came during the important meeting of the Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani and parliamentarians of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), MNA Nawabzada Khalid Khan Magsi and Senatoe Naseebullah Bazai

with the Prime Minister in Islamabad on Friday.

The meeting was held ahead of the federal budget session. Needless to mention here that the Chief Minister and BAP President, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo had announced boycott of the federal budget session because of the province's reservations and

Continued on page 2

President greets CPNE's new body for free media SLAMABAD (APP):

President Dr. Arif Alvi on congratulated Kazim Khan on his election as the Chairman of the Council of Pakistan Newspapers Editors (CPNE) Committee for free media.

The president expressed confidence that the committee comprising prominent journalists would play a role in the promotion of freedom of the press and democratic values based on their expe rience and ability.

He also felicitated other members of the committee including Ayaz Khan, Sardar Khan Niazi, Aamir Mehmood, Irshad Ahmed Arif and Ejaz ul Haq.

Global terrorist 'mysteriously' dies in Afghanistan

KABUL (INP): Sanaullah Ghafari, commonly referred to as Shahab al-Muhajir, specially designated global terrorist, has met his demise in Afghanistan's Kunar, said authorities on Friday.

The death of this highprofile figure marks a major victory in the fight against terrorism, as Ghafari was not only wanted in Pakistan but also internationally.

Sanaullah Ghafari's family had migrated from India to Afghanistan where he received his religious education at the renowned Ghaffari Madrasa.



Muhammad Khalid Magsi and Senator Naseebullah Bazai called on the Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif. Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazir Tarar was also present in the meeting.

Governor calls for preparing comprehensive strategy to cope with challenges

Kakarvisits Gwadar Varsity & Pak-China Institute:

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has underlined the need to prepare a comprehensive strategy to tackle the present challenges

being faced by the province.

He said that the policy of taking all on board can put the country and province on path of sustainable development.

This was stated by the Governor while speaking on occasion of the visit of University of Gwadar in

Also present on the occasion were the Vice Chancellor, University of Gwadar, Professor Dr. Abdul Razzaq Sabir, senior faculty members, administrative officers and other concerned.

The Governor went round of different sections of the University and inspected them. He inaugurated the new academic block of the University and directed to complete the work on different buildings

Continued on page 2 Gwadar on Fridav. Nawaz Sharif accepts request to lead party in general election

ISLAMABAD (Online): Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah has said Nawaz Sharif has accepted the request to lead party in general election

"He will return to Pakistan 60 to 90 days before election. If PML-N gets majority then Nawaz Sharif will decide about prime minister", he said this talking to media men before federal cabinet meeting.

He went on to say no

political engineering is being done at present. Nor any non political engineering is being done too. If one is going to some party on one's own then one cannot be stopped from doing so.

He indicated Nawaz Sharif will return to Pakistan before election. He will run election campaign. Mian sahb has to give the date for returning to Pakistan. No one can give date

would be used for construction of the cold storage units in the Hengang Agriculture It may be mentioned here that this

medicines.

is second consignment of the cargo this year. The first consignment had reached in January this year. The third consign-

31 containers

carrying goods

of cold storage

reach Gwadar

port

Independent Report

QUETTA: In all 31 con-

tainers carrying con-

structional material

for the cold storage

reached at the

Gwadar port the other

reports reaching here,

the containers load of

the cold storage cargos

arrived from China at

the Gwadar free zone.

the construction ma-

terial used for cold

material of different

The goods material

The cargo includes

According to the

ment is due to arrive from China in next couple of months.

BA approves draft law of Holy **Qura'an as compulsory education**

Independent Report

QUETTA: Balochistan Assembly has approved the draft law regarding compulsory education of the Holy Qura'an and a resolution for making legislation about National Commission on Non-Muslims in its session here on

The draft law about compulsory education of the Holy Qura'an and resolution was tabled by the Parliamentary Secretary for Minorities and Religious Affairs, Khalil George.

The session of assembly was resumed with Deputy Speaker Sardar Babar Khan Musakhail in the chair on Friday.

The resolution tabled by Khalil George demanded legislation for forming National Commission on Non-Muslims.

In addition to this, the draft law (amended) of the Balochistan Public Finance Management was also approved in the session. The draft law was

Minister for Finance, Engi-

neer Zamarak Khan

Earlier, Deputy Speaker Sardar Babar Musakhail summoned the secretaries of Finance and Education on the issue of protest and hunger strike of the government teachers outside the assembly build-

Meanwhile, the Provincial Minister Home, Mir Ziaullah Langave said that ours' most of the issues are related to the federal government. He said that the con-

struction and repaid of the national highways is to be done by the National Highway Authority (NHA). He regretfully pointed out that the NHA has not spent even a single penny on the repair of highways.

Education Minister Mir Naseebullah Marri pointed out that the flood affected people are still awaiting relief in the province. He charged that the public miseries have been increased manifold since the tabled by the Provincial present federal government

Hearing JI plea on Panama Papers

Establishing offshore firms 'no crime' says SC judge ISLAMABAD (Online): vocate Ishtiaq was repre-

The Supreme Court's Jusstorage of the raw tice Sardar Tariq Masood observed on Friday that establishing offshore companies is "no crime", while hearing a Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) plea seeking action against all 436 Pakistanis named in the 2016 Panama

On Nov 3, 2017, the JI had, through an application, reminded the court of its pending petition filed by party emir Sirajul Haq in August 2016.

The hearing today was presided over by a twomember bench comprising Justice Masood with Justice Aminuddin Khan. Ad-

senting the JI in court. During the proceedings, the JI counsel requested the

court to form a judicial commission to investigate those named in the Panama Papers. However, Justice Masood raised the question of how it could be done when other institutions existed to be approached for the matter. Subsequently, the apex

court adjourned the hearing for a month. At the outset of the

hearing, the JI counsel requested the apex court to constitute a judicial commission to further probe the Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers, Advisors and MPAs presenting their proposals on budget 2023-24 during Balochistan Assembly

Federal budget termed as balanced, realistic considering current economic situation

FPCCI hails steps for poverty cut, tax exemptions in budget

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Human Rights Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada described the federal budget as balanced and realistic considering the current economic

Speaking to the media outside the Parliament House, he said that despite the economic challenges, the government made efforts to provide maximum relief to the masses in the

The minister highlighted that the government remained within its fiscal limits while allocating significant resources to the

tioned the substantial increase of up to 35 percent in the salaries of government employees who were adversely affected by the

He commended this uplifting those who are in

duce a scheme under which

it would itself pay up to Rs 1 million loans of the

Housing Building Finance Corporation (HBFC) owed

by the widows of govern-

deposit limit of CDNS

(Central Directorate of Na-

tional Savings) Shuhada

Account and Behbood Sav-

ing Certificates would be

increased from Rs 5 million

prosperity, he said a real Gross Domestic Product

(GDP) growth target of 3.5

percent had been fixed for

the next fiscal year against

the existing GDP rate of

0.29 percent after the gov-

ernment put the national

economy in the right direc-

tion with tough and timely

economic scenario, the gov-

ernment has set the modest

growth target and despite

being the election year, it

presented a responsible

and balanced budget and

not a popular one," he said.

timate, the minister said,

was set at Rs14.46 trillion,

out of which Rs7.3 trillion

would be spent on interest

payment. The budget defi-

cit was expected to remain

6.54 percent and the pri-

mary balance would be a

surplus of 0.4 percent to the

collection target of the Fed-

eral Board of Revenue

(FBR) for the next fiscal

year had been fixed at Rs

9.2 trillion, including pro-

vincial share of Rs 5.276

revenues, he added, would

be Rs 2.963 trillion while

total income of the Federal

Government would be Rs

Rs 950 billion was being

allocated for the develop-

ment projects under the

Public Sector Development

Programme (PSDP 2023-

24). Moreover, an additional

amount of Rs 200 billion

would also be part of the

development budget to be

managed through public-

private partnership, he

country's defence and civil

administration, Rs 1.8 tril-

lion and Rs 714 billion

would be provided respec-

tively; whereas Rs 761 bil-

lion had been allocated for

the payment of employees'

Ishaq Dar said the gov-

ernment had estimated an

expenditure of Rs 1.074 tril-

lion for the provision of

subsidies in electricity, gas

said a grant of Rs 1.464 tril-

lion had been earmarked for

Azad Jammu & Kashmir,

merged tribal districts of

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,

Higher Education Commis-

sion. Benazir Income Sup-

port Programme (BISP),

The finance minister

and other sectors.

He said for the

He said an amount of

6.887 billion.

added.

pensions.

The federal non-tax

Ishaq Dar said the tax

The total expenses' es-

"Keeping in view the

corrective decisions.

To achieve the sus-

The minister said the

ment employees.

to Rs 7.5 million.

decision, emphasizing the need government's commitment to providing relief to the salaried class and the general public.

Coordinator to Prime Minister of Commerce and Industries Rana Ihsan Afzal Khan on Friday said that the budget was designed with a focus on assisting the underprivileged rather than catering to any electoral or political agen-

Talking to a private news channel, he said that it was erroneous to assume that the budget was prepared with the elections in

pple. The Pakistan Muslim He specifically men- League (PML-N) has always prioritized national interest above politics, he added. The coordinator further said that the allocation of resources is primarily directed towards

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman meeting with a

Govt presents Rs14.46 trillion relief....

production, he said the ag-

riculture credit for the up-

coming fiscal year was be-

ing increased from Rs 1.8

trillion to Rs 2.25 trillion,

besides earmarking Rs 30

billion to switch 50,000

tubewells to solar energy.

said, under the PM's Youth

Loan Scheme the govern-

ment would provide Rs 10

0.25% concessional rate of

income tax would remain

intact until June 30, 2026.

Moreover, the freelancers

earning up to \$24,000 per

year would also be ex-

empted from sales tax reg-

istration and filing tax re-

turns while a singe page in-

come tax return would be

introduced for them, he

government was establish-

ing a venture capital fund

with seed money of Rs 5

billion to provide business

resources to the IT entre-

year, the government

would provide professional

training to 50,000 IT gradu-

measures proposed for the

Small and Medium Enter-

prises (SMEs) sector, the

turnover threshold under

for the SMEs was being

expanded from Rs 250 mil-

had earmarked Rs 10 billion

to provide concessional

loans for small businesses.

export sector, he said the

government would estab-

lish Export Council of Pa-

kistan under the chairman-

ship of the prime minister

which would meet every

quarter to make decisions

Other relief measures

about the sector.

For the industry and

Highlighting the relief

Likewise, he said, the

billion as subsidy.

Similarly, Ishaq Dar

To boost the agriculture

delegation of lecturers and rectors of private sector universities.

Continued from page 1 Railways and other sectors.

PML-N would sweep the coming elections and carry forward the same budget.

Rana Ihsan said that the budget has focused on sectors that are capable of delivering results in a short period of time. The IT sector and converting to solar were the areas in focus that could achieve desired goals within a year, he added.

Answering a question regarding the International Monetary Fund (IMF), he said that the budget has been formulated while considering the conditions agreed with the IMF. Federation of Pakistan

Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) on Friday appreciated that initiatives on account of poverty alleviation, increasing the amount of loans from Rs 1,800 billion to Rs 2,055 billion for the

businesses and the youth, He was hopeful that abolition of duty on solar energy for tube wells and agri seeds in federal budget

Sharing their views on the federal budget with media here at FPCCI Re-Office, the Federation's President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, Regional Chairman Muhammad Nadeem Qureshi and former FPCCI president Mian Anjum Nisar also welcomed the scheme for youth, citing that it would enable the youth to create their own employment and business in that manner as new institutions. They added that 50 percent reduction in the tax rate for the

Information Technology industry, they said, was growing rapidly in Pakistan, and its share in exports was also increasing rapidly. For the benefits was not significant.

youth was also welcome.

and incentives that were announced in the budget, in which this sector would be given the status of SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises), it would certainly lead to the development of IT not only in the country but also in IT ex-

FPCCI office-bearers suggested that government should enhance Rs 5 billion allocation for women empowerment while re-considering the current situa tion and the proportion of women in the population.

FPCCI President said that merit and priorities must be well considered in the utilization of Rs 1,150 billion development budget. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh mentioned that there was an initiative to enhance services exports which also needed to be revisit as the volume of services sector exports

Establishing offshore....

Continued from page 1 went on to remark, "You

Justice Masood, while addressing the JI counsel. noted that the matter had been pending in the Supreme Court for the past seven vears

'Did you have to run a case against just one family? You had no interest in this case for the past seven

years," he said.

The justice further asked the lawyer why he had "delinked his petition" and why he had "not taken such a big relief from the five-member bench" that was previously hearing the

Upon this, Ishtiaq replied, "We want that the 436 people named in the Panama [Papers] are also investigated."

case in 2017.

To this, Justice Masood asked, "Why do you want to bypass the law? Should we close down all other institutions? Do vou want all decisions to be made by the Supreme Court?

The top court judge observed, "Establishing offshore companies is no crime. How the offshore companies were established would be looked upon by the institutions. Here, Justice Khan

highlighted, "We will not take any suo motu notice. [We] wish to say a lot of things but we will not." Addressing the JI counsel, Justice Masood

Minister Bizenio has expressed contentment over the progress made for solution of the issues being faced by the province.

that the Prime Minister would honour his commitment and practical steps would be taken contrary to

Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo also said that the detailed official letter regarding the province's stance and issues would be sent to the Prime Minister soon.

The Chief Minister also conditionally withdrew the decision of boycott of

He also directed the

matter," he added. The judge asked, "Why did you not say in

Justice Masood told Advocate Ishtiaq: "At that

time, was this matter delisted upon your request? I do not want to say but it seems like something else to me."

apex court justice once again asked the JI lawyer ong with another.

He further asked, "Did

Recalling the JI's plea direct the relevant institutions to investigate those involved in the Panama Papers, Justice Masood said, 'You did not complain to any institution in these seven years. Now, should the Supreme Court do all

PM constitutes high powered... Continued from page 1

federal government's recial issues.

During the course of

ing the meeting. He said the government

for women empowerment loans for businesses would be provided, besides projects of skill development and training for run-

finance minister said the Under the Prime the tax facilitation system Minister's Youth Programme for Small Loans, he said, the governlion to Rs 800 million while ment had allocated Rs 10 under the PM's Youth Loan billion to provide loans on Programme, the government concessional rates for opening new businesses.

promote the construction sector and facilitate common man for building new houses, a tax exemption of 10% or Rs 5 million (whichever is lower) would be given on business income of the construction enterprises and the people intended to build new houses would be given for the sector included the concession of Rs 1 million

reduction of minimum tax for all the listed companies ever is lower) for next three from 1.25% to 1%, withyears. drawal of 5% regulatory duty on synthetic filament yarn which was not manufactured locally, reduction of customs duty on pet scrap from 20% to 11%, and exemption of customs duty for manufacturers of rice mill machinery and machine tools, he added. Ishaq Dar also an-

nounced relief measures for the overseas Pakistanis, which included lion had been earmarked, he withdrawal of 2% final tax on purchase of immovable property through foreign

Similarly, he also announced the issuance of Diamond Cards to the the end of 2024.

\$50,000 per year. The Diamond Card holders would avail various facilities, including non-prohibited bore licenses, gratis passports, preferential aces to Pakistani embassies and consulates, fast-track immigration facility at Pakistani airports, and provi-Business and Agriculture sion of handsome prize money through lucky

overseas Pakistanis send-

ing remittances of over

lion as subsidy.
In a bid to boost IT (insures taken for the educatained path of progress and formation technology) extion sector, Ishaq Dar said ports, the minister said the government had earmarked Rs 65 billion for current expenditure and Rs 70 billion for development expenditure. The government, he

said, was also establishing the Pakistan Endowment Fund under which an amount of Rs 5 billion had been earmarked in the budget to provide merit scholarships to the high school and college students. He said the Federal

Government would distribute 100,000 laptops among deserving and the most talented students for which an amount of Rs 10 billion was being set aside.

The government had also reduced the sales tax Similarly, he said, the rate from 15% to 5% for IT government was also alloservices in the Islamabad cating Rs 5 billion to pro-Capital Territory, he added. mote sport activities in The minister said durschools and colleges. ing the upcoming financial

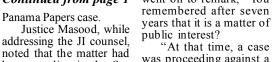
> had earmarked Rs 5 billion under which concessional ning business would be initiated.

The minister said to

or 10% tax credit (which-

He said the government had increased the budget of Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) to Rs 360 billion which was being enhanced by another Rs 40 billion for the upcoming fiscal year. In the fiscal year 2023-24, as many as 9.3 million families would receive Rs 8,750 each per quarter for which an amount of Rs 346 bil-

added. With respect to the PSDP 2023-24, the minister said 80% projects were near completion and expected to be completed by



was proceeding against a single family. That was also the Panama matter, this is also the Panama

front of this court back then that it is everyone's matter [and] it should be heard simultaneously?

Reiterating that the 2017 bench had given him "such a big relief", the why he did not ask the court to hear this case

you request any institution in [these] seven years that investigations be conducted? Where did you fulfil your respon-

the work here?

apprehensions over the sponse towards the finan-

meeting, the financial matters facing Balochistan were discussed threadbare. The reservations raised by the Chief Minister Bizenjo also came up for discussion dur-

On the occasion, the Prime Minister directed to release the arrears of PPL to Balochistan immediately

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister said that BAP is our strong ally in the federation, and as such all reservations of the province would be removed.

He said that the development of Balochistan is our top priority. The members of del-

egation told that the BAP is working for protection of the public interests and

prosperity of the province under leadership of its President and Chief Minister, Mir Abdul Quddus

Bizenio. Meanwhile, the Chief

He expressed the hope

the past.

the federal budget ses-

BAP MNAs and Senators to participate in the federal budget session.



GENEVA: Pakistan's delegation in the "Tenth Global Meeting of Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on Migration (GRCP10) led by Federal Minister Sajid Hussain Turi.

Highlights of PSDP 2023-24....

Continued from page 1

- Rs 1,900 million has been earmarked for Inter-Provincial Coordination Division.
- Rs 9,950 million has been granted to Interior Division. Rs 1,400 million has been earmarked for Law and Justice.
- Rs 3,300 million has been allocated for Maritime Affairs Division.
- Rs 150 million has been granted to Narcotics Control Division. Rs 8,850 million has been earmarked for National Food Security and Research Division.
- Rs 13,100 million has been allocated for National Health Services, Regulation & Coordination Division.
- Rs 540 million has been provided for National Culture and Heritage Division.
- Rs 26,100 million has been earmarked for Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission. Rs 150 million has been allocated for Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority.
- Rs 1.500 million has been earmarked for Petroleum Division. Rs 24,896.626 million has been allocated for Planning, Development and Special
- Initiatives Division. Rs 500 million has been allocated for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division.
- Rs 33,000 million has been allocated for Railway Division.
- Rs 800 million has been allocated for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony
- Rs 3,200 million has been earmarked for Revenue Division.
- Rs 5,200 million has been earmarked for Science and Technology Research Division.
 Rs 9,000 million has been earmarked for Science and Frontier Regions Division.
 Rs 6,900 million has been earmarked for SUPARCO.
 Rs 107,500 million has been allocated for Water Resource Division.
 Rs 157,500 million has been allocated for Water Resource Division.
 Rs 157,500 million has been allocated for Water Resource Division.
- Rs 54,550 million has been allocated for NTDC/PEPCO.
- Rs 200,000 million for Viability Gap Fund (VGF).

Governor calls.... Continued from page 1

in the University.

The Governor expressed satisfaction over the performance of University of Gwadar. He said that we are succeeding in our goals of spreading and promoting higher education all over the province especially in Makran divi-

He said that the day is not far away when the students belonging to Turbat, Gwadar and Panigur would succeed in making difference in education at the national level.

He on the occasion stressed the need to strive for fulfilling the future requirements in the ever-

changing world. Meanwhile, the Governor visited the Pak-China Vocational Training Insti-

tute in Gwadar the same He also inspected different parts of the Institute

and had interaction over the available facilities with the students there. He said that the world

has turned into global village thanks to the information technology. He said that our competition is with the youth and people of the modern world, as such we have to impart quality education and training to our youth in view of the future day needs.

He also said that the world is entering into the era of pen less and paper less with the help of artificial intelligence and robotic technology. He on the occasion expressed satisfaction over performance of the Pak-China Vocational Training Institute saying that the youth of Gwadar and its adjacent areas would benefit a lot.

4,15,44,075/-

14.Nos

11.Nos

ISLAMABAD: Government Employees holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands during the Federal Budget Session 2023-24. outside Parliament House in Islamabad.

Farrukh Habib says **Economic collapse attests** Shehbaz-led group of 13 unable to run country

FAISALABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) PTI West President Farrukh Habib said that the current inapt government led by incompetent Shahbaz Sharif crippled the well-performing Pakistan's economy, as the National Economic Survey for the financial year 2022-23 clearly showed that almost all important sectors re-

mained negative in the out-

PTI West President on Friday said that that the cabal of thieves nosedived the fast thriving economy in one year, which was clearly indicating from the rapid and alarmingly declining GDP growth rate from the 6.1 percent to the current 0.29 percent. He alarmed that these incompetent rulers pushed the country back sev-

eral decades in the one year.

2.220M

The Deputy Conservator of Forest Hazarganihi National Park Quetta invites bids from eligible Bidders for Supply of Good/Service providing firms under Ten Billion Trees Tsunami Programme Phase LUp-scaling of Green Pakistan Programme (Revised) of following:

TENDER NOTICE

Bid Security 02% of the total quoted amount. Tender Fee Rs. 1000/-S.No Name of Tender 1. Purchase of Bikes(No'12)TSE222306334671

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. The Procuring Agency may cancel the bidding process at any time prior to the acceptance of a bid or proposal in line with Rule 38 of BPPRA Rules, 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: (a) Authorized dealers/ Service provider and well reputed firms who are registered/on Active Taxpayers List (ATL) of Federa Board of Revenue (FBR), Sales Tax/BRA, Income Tax, National Tax Number (NTN) & other related Taxes are eligible to participate in the tender (b) The bidder should be eligible to supply goods to Government Departments and must have completed 03 assignments of similar nature of work in last 3 years. Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security 02% of the quoted amount in the form of Call Deposit or Bank Guarantee in the name of the Deputy Conservator of Forest Chiltan National Park Hazardhanihi Quetta from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office Deputy Conservator of Forest Chiltan National Park Hazarghanjhi Quetta upon paymen (non refundable) bidding document fee (amount mentioned above) deposited in government treasury under head C-03370 through Green Challan Form in National Bank of Pakistan (NBP), (The NIT & Bidding Document can also be downloaded from www.bppra.org.pk in this regard, the interested bidders must submit Green Challan Form deposited in government treasury one day prior to the bid opening in the office of undersigned). Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT till one day prior to the last date of submission, during office hours on working days. Submission & Opening of Bids: The firm will be submit their bid proposal in accordance with the instructions of the bidding documents must be reached to the office of the undersigned Tender Schedule 19/06/2023 9:00 am Bid Submission Deadline 10:00 am Bid Opening Address:(Office of the Divisional Forest Officer Chitan National Park Hazarghanjhi Quetta) Phone no. 0333-7942404 Terms & Conditions: The contractor /firm shall submit a call deposit from a scheduled bank in the name of tendering authority @of 2% of the total cost No advance payment shall be made to the contractor. All the Government taxes shall be paid by the contractor. The rates offered should be clear, ambiguous and over-written rates will not be accepted. The tender rates received after due date and time will not be accepted. The approval of tender will be subjected to the approval of the competent authority. The tendering committee will reserve the right to accept or reject any one or all tender rates without providing any reason. The specified activities can be changed by the procuring agency. In case of failure of plantation, no payment will be made to the contractor. The payment to the contractors is subjected to the availability of funds; which cannot be challenged in any court. The tender process will be subjected to the release of the budget.

PRQ No.4351/09-6-2023 🕏 www.dpr.gob.pk. 😼 @dpr_gob 👩 dpr.gob 🛨 @dgpr.balochi

Chiltan National Park

NOTICE RE-INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Public Health Engineering, Division Kharan. Invites sealed rates based tenders on Composite Schedule of rates:- The tender fee will be deposit through challan Rs, 1000,2000,3000,/- in National Bank of Pakistan Kharan branch under the head of Account C-02726-2 (PHE) as 2018 Government of Balochistan from interested Contractors / firms for the works mentioned below shown against each work :-) INVITES BIDS FROM ELIGIBLE BIDDERS FOR EXECUTION OF FOLLOWING WORKS FOR THE YEAR 2022 BASED ON COMPOSITE SCHEDULE RATES 2018 ON PERCENTAGE RATES. Tender Fee Rs. 5000/- and bid Security 2%

Name of Work. SOLAR EQUIPMENTS COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES &

TUBE WELLS IN U/C RASKOH, TOOTAZI, TOHMULK, SARAWAN AND TEHSIL SAR KHARAN DISTRICT KHARAN PSDP-5178. (ONE PACKAGE) D/D of Tube Well Bore by (Rig) 2.Nos

D/D of Tube well bore by tri pod 4.Nos4.Nos

Supply and installation of solar system 3" and 2" dia

Construction of Water Tank 1000 Gallon Capacity with pipes

Phone No: 0847510697 fax no: Email:mirnoor007@gmail.com

Supply and installation of Electric pumping machinery 40HP Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules-2014 Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active tax payer List. The bidding firm must be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must

have completed 1 Assignment of similar nature of work. Turn over of at least 1,500,000 PKR Amount in 1 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm.

Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage one Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: the bids must accompany bid security in the form of Deposit at call Of 2% specified above in the name of the under: signed from a scheduled bank Issuance of tender Documents: from the date of publication of NIT to 23-6-2023 during office hours or

Last Date of bid submission: the tenders must be submitted latest by 23-6-2023 Till 12.30 pm Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the undersigned at 1.30 pn Address: EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE DIVISION KHARAN

PRQ No.4353/09-06-2023

PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING, **DIVISION KHARAN** 🕶 @dpr gob 🔯 dpr.gob f @dgpr.balochistar

Independent

Sherry exhorts fishermen to avoid venturing in open sea amid Biparjoy cyclone

mate Change and Environmental Coordination Senator Sherry Rehman on Friday advised the fishermen in the coastal areas of the country to avoid venturing into the open sea due to prevailing tropical cyclone BIPARJOY formed over Southeast Arabian Sea.

In her message regarding the cyclone, the federal minister said as per the weather advisory issued by Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), Cyclone Biparjoy was moving towards north and northeast after changing its direc-

Senator Rehman said the cyclone might move further towards Pakistan's Makran coast as it continued to change and it may



'Coastal areas may be affected due to high tides. All concerned authorities especially PDMA Sindh and Balochistan are advised to review the preparations. Ensure public safety for people living in coastal areas and create awareness among people," Sherry Rehman said.

She also underlined that there was a possibility of rain, thunder and strong winds from the night of June 13 to the morning of June 14 in the coastal area of Sindh and Makran. "We are vigilant and continuously monitoring the storm and also collecting information from 6 international sources," Sherry Rehman



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi addressing a press conference at PPP Office.

Railway golf club bidding process: National asset has been made joke: CJP

ISLAMABAD (Online): General (AAG) told the Supreme Court (SC) has directed administrative committee of Railway Golf Club to complete bidding process as soon as possible.

The Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial remarked "we are not happy with all this process. I have become weary of this case. National asset has been made joke. Railway is also facing this situation.

Railway Golf Club case came up for hearing before a 3-member bench of SC presided over by the CJP Friday.

Additional Attorney

court all the bidders were rejected in first bidding. Now bidding will have to be started afresh.

CJP remarked Golf club authorities will go on rejecting such all bidders and then the time will be

There are three Railway members in complaint committee. Railway employees have what experience of business or golf. We will review progress in bidding process in the month eptember.

The court adjourned the hearing of the case till September.

People to get federal laws access through Pakistan **Code website: Tarar**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazir Tarar on Friday said that Pakistan code was a new website launched by the Law Ministry which aimed at making the Federal Laws accessible to the general public, judges, prosecution, lawyers, law students and researchers, anywhere, anytime via their

The minister expressed these views while meeting a delegation of lawvers from different Bar Associations of Punjab. Secretary Law Raja Naeem Akbar briefed the meeting sion.

about the launch of new website named as Pakistan code which included all the up to date laws.

Matters related to the legal education and Bar vocational training program were also discussed in the

The participants also discussed matters regarding the training courses for lawyers. The participants of the meeting appreciated the efforts of the Law Minister for giving special attention to the education and training of young lawyers to improve the quality of service in the legal profes-



ISLAMABAD: Media persons listening the Federal Budget speech by Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on TV at Parliament House.

US-based HR group draws parallel between Hindutva forces to Nazis

ISLAMABAD (APP): A US-based human rights drawn a parallel between the Hindutva ideology and the Niazis, citing the ongoing persecution of the minorities in India. The organization's report titled "The Nazification of India" compares 12 different mechanisms of hate and persecution from the Nazi playbook, and how they are being implemented in India today. India, the largest democracy in the world has become the weakest at the hands of the fascist Hindutva ideology, said the report released by the Chicago-based human rights organization.

It said that Hindutva ideology is not only inspired by Nazis and Fascists of Europe, but their minority closely follows

developments that resulted in pushing Jews to the gas chambers. The report was released in the recent past at a Congressional briefing 'to mark the anniversary of the Gujarat pogroms of 2002 against Muslims which propelled the BJP-RSS regime to control India." "India today is ruled not just by a political party the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), but its mother organization the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)," the report said.

The report said that what happening in India today was "clearly demonstrates that India is on a dangerous trajectory to becoming a Nazi-inspired fascist, majoritarian state, where its minorities and particularly its more than 200 million Muslims, face treatment of the Muslim an impending danger of



Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazir Tarar in a meeting with Lawyers from different Bar Associations from Punjab. Meanwhile, Secretary Law Raja Naeem Akbar gave a briefing regarding the website " Pakistan Code".

PPP's victory in by-pollreflect AJK people's confidence over PPP: Kundi

'Support of AJK great number", he said.

Saudi Arabia mobilises

massive fleet of 18,000

buses and 25,000 drivers

people were with PPP yes-

terday, today and will re-

criticizing Imran Khan said

that he who claimed that

anyone given a ticket by

him in the election will suc-

ceed can see how people of

AJK supported PPP de-

'This is a clear mes-

spite his video address.

Faisal Kundi while

main in future", he said.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety and Central Information Secretary of PPP Faisal Karim Kundi on Friday said Pakistan People's Party's success in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) by-election reflected the AJK's people's confidence and support for the

of PPP for their hard work

Addressing a news conference here, Faisal saying that PPP is only lim-Kundi congratulated the office bearers and workers

and sincerity that led to success in AJK by-election. **FPSC** announces

final results of CSS exams 2022

ISLAMABAD (APP) The Federal Public Service Commission(FPSC) has announced the results of the CSS exam 2022 in which 237 candidates were declared successful.

According to a notification from FPSC on Friday, the success ratio remained at 1.85 percent.

A total 20, of 262 candidates participated in the written exam, out of which 393 candidates passed the written test. However, overall 237

candidates were declared

successful in the CSS exams the notification said. The successful candidates included 146 male and

91 female candidates. Among the top 10 candidates were Talha Rafiq, Yasir Bilal, Ahmed Hasan Chatha, Muhammad Owais Sultan, Nauman Hafeez, Ayesha Nasir,

Barira Ballo, Hira Ahsan,

Noor Muhammad and Alina

Shakeel Nagra. **Court returns** 5th reference against Zarari

ISLAMABAD (APP): An Accountability Court (AC) on Thursday returned four fake accounts referenced to National Accountability Bureau (NAB) including one against former presi-

dent Asif Ali Zardari. Accountability Judge Muhammad Bashir an nounced the verdict regarding returning of the refer-

Asif Zardari's lawyer Farooq H. Naek and NAB prosecutor appeared before the court. Farooq Naek pleaded that these references did not fall in jurisdiction of accountability court after the amendments in the NAB Ordinance and it could not continue trial in the said cases.

Afnan says: **Budget to meet** aspirations of common people

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-N Senator Dr Afnan Ullah Khan has said that budget 2023-24 would attempt to meet the hopes and aspirations of common people and all available resources were being utilized to reduce the financial difficulties of

working and middle classes. Talking to a private news channel on Friday, he said the budget was a reflection of the development measures undertaken by the government and "our commitment to raise investment and create employment op-portunities for the youth".

ited to Sindh province that Bhutto's recent visit to Iraq, political leaders from the SAPM said that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, joint statement between Punjab, and Gilgit-Baltistan Pakistan and Iraq was a hisare also joining PPP in a toric act and added that dur-**Smooth Hajj season**

About the newly

The SAPM also said

formed political party,

Faisal Kundi said that PPP

always welcomed demo-

that PPP has always advo-

cated the stance of the

people of Indian Illegally

occupied Jammu and Kash-

mir (IIOJ&K) for their de-

mand of holding a plebiscite.

for Foreign Affairs Bilawal

Regarding Minister

cratic political parties.

ISLAMABAD (APP): mobility requests received The General Syndicate of Cars in Saudi Arabia has announced mobilising nearly 18,000 buses and 25,000 drivers. This fleet will be tasked with efficient and high-quality transport of pilgrims between Madinah, Makkah, and

season. Mazen bin Mahmoud Tharwat, director of the syndicate's branch in Madinah, said that the operational plan focuses on the smooth and precise transportation of pilgrims

Jeddah throughout the Hajj

via an integrated system and in coordination with all service partners under the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah, Gulf News re-Tharwat highlighted

that the transportation of pilgrims from Madinah commenced on Dhu Al Qa'ida 6, with 26 buses journeying towards Makkah. As the influx of pilgrims to Madinah increases, so does the number of transportation, with approximately 700 buses having transported over from air and land ports. This will be executed based on as of Wednesday.



ISLAMABAD: Alarge number of police officials standing outside Parlia-

Massive allocations in PSDP to procure 820 high-capacity freight wagons & 230 passenger coaches

significant move to bolster the railway infrastructure, the government has allocated a staggering amount of Rs. 17,639.132 million for the procurement and manufacture of 820 highcapacity bogie freight wag-ons and 230 passenger coaches in the Public Sector Development Programme 2023-24.

This allocation highlights the government's commitment to enhancing the capacity and efficiency of the railways, aiming to provide better transportation services for both freight and passengers.

The investment in high-capacity bogie freight wagons is expected to have a transformative impact on the logistics and cargo transportation industry. These wagons will facilitate the movement of goods across the country, ensuring faster and more secure

deliveries. The procurement of 820 such wagons will significantly enhance the rail-

ISLAMABAD: Senator Irfan-Ul-Haque Siddiqui, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Federal

Education & Professional Training presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a ways' freight-carrying ca- the performance and operapacity, contributing to increased trade and economic

> Simultaneously, the allocation for passenger coaches emphasizes the government's dedication to improving the travel experience for railway passen-

> > The addition of 230

new passenger coaches will enhance the railways' capacity to accommodate more travellers, providing them with comfortable and safe journeys. This move aims to meet the growing demand for passenger transportation and promote railways as a preferred mode of travel. In another major development, an allocation of Rs. 2,000 million has been made for the special repair of 100 diesel-electric locomotives. This investment demonstrates the government's focus on enhancing the reliability and availability of the existing locomotive fleet. By under-

taking specialized repairs,

tional efficiency of these locomotives, leading to more reliable and punctual train services.

The special repair initiative will play a crucial role in minimizing downtime and optimizing the locomotives' performance, ensuring a smooth and uninterrupted rail transport network. With improved reliability and availability of diesel-electric locomotives. the railways will be better equipped to serve passengers and meet the freight transportation needs of industries across the country.

The substantial allocations made for the procurement of high-capacity bogie freight wagons, passenger coaches, and the special repair of diesel-electric locomotives are indicative of the government's vision to modernize and strengthen the railway sector. These investments are expected to pave the way for a more efficient, reliable. and customer-centric railthe railways will improve way system.

Capital police establishes new Division "SOAN"

significant move to restructure its departments, the Islamabad Capital Territory Police have established a new Division "SOAN," dividing 27 police stations into five distinct divisions.

APITAL EWS

ing his highly successful

visit, he discussed with the

high official important is-

sues including visa exemp-

tion, provision of legal as-

sistance to the prisoners,

facilitation for the Zaireen

and legalization of Paki-

stani workers. Minister

Kundi said fruitful discus-

sions were also held regard-

ing strengthening coopera-

tion between the two coun-

tries in the trade, tourism,

and health sectors. The

SAPM said that Bilawal

Bhutto also laid the foun-

dation stone for Pakistan's

new embassy building in

IHC moved

for recovery

of Riaz Rahi

advocate

ISLAMABAD (Online):

Petition has been filed in

Islamabad High Court

(IHC) for recovery of Riaz

Hanif Rahi advocate. Fed-

eration, intelligence bureau,

IG Islamabad, President and Prime Minister

through secretary have been

made respondents. Osama

Riaz son of Riaz Hanif Rahi

has filed petition in IHC

through counsel Shoaib

Razzaq. According to text

of the petition Riaz Hanif

Rahi advocate is missing

since three days. Order be

issued to present Riaz

minister have been made

respondents through secre-

President and prime

Hanif Rahi in the court.

The decision was formalized through a notification issued by the Chief Commissioner's office, in accordance with the recommendation put forth by Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO).

Under the reorganization, the newly formed division, "SOAN," joins the existing divisions of the President, City, Rural, and Industrial Area, which were previously part of Islamabad Capital Police. Driven by the recom-

mendation of the ICCPO, the Chief Commissioner's office duly issued the official notification for the creation of the new division. Notably, the Rural

Division will now encompass police stations in Bani Gala, Shahzad Town, Bhara Kahu, Phulgran, and Nilore, while the City Zone will Ramanah,

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a Margalla, Karachi Company, Secretariat, Aabpara, Kohsar, and Women's Police Station.

Similarly, the President Zone will consist of stations in Sumbal, Golra, Tarnol, and Sangjani. 'SOAN" division will oversee police stations in Kanna, Korang, Karpah, Sahala, Humak, and Loi

Meanwhile, the Industrial Area Zone will be responsible for the Industrial Área Police Station, Sabzi Mandi, Shams Colony, and

ICCPO Khan said the establishment of the new division became imperative to accommodate the increasing number of police stations in the city.

The appointment of a dedicated Divisional Police Officer for the newly formed division is also ex-With this reorganiza-

tion, the performance of the police stations is anticipated to witness improvement, ultimately enhancing the safety and security of citizens while include stations in addressing their concerns Shalimar, effectively



ISLAMABAD: Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Youth Affairs talking to media persons while arrives to attend budget session at Parliament House.

Govt allocates funds for metro bus connecting Bharakahu, Rawat

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government has allocated funds for various development projects, including the Metro Bus from Bharakahu to Faizabad and from Rawat to Faizabad, bringing good news to the residents of Islamabad.

A sum of Rs 29 million has been earmarked in the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) for conduct feasibility studies for launching metro bus services at these two loca-

According to the PSDP document, the highest allocation within the Interior Division, amounting to Rs 2200 million, has been granted to the Islamabad Development Project, which encompasses numerous development schemes with potential benefits for the public.

sums of funds have been allocated for ongoing and new development schemes in the Federal Capital. These include Rs 400 million for the Construction of 10th

Avenue, Rs 405 million for the Construction of Flyover and Approaches at Railway Line Sihala, Rs 350 million for the Construction of Korang Bridge and PWD underpass, and Rs 66 million for the Design Cum construction of

Moreover, significant

Bridge at Kuri River.

Likewise, allocations have been made for the Korang River and Rawal 255 million), Roads and Street Pavement in ICT (Rs 6.7 million), Sewerage/Sanitation and Water Supply Scheme in ICT (Rs 78 million), Construction of Road from Darbar Sain Mircho to Shamas Colony (Rs 10 million), and Water Supply Scheme at Ujrri Kalan (Rs 49 million). Furthermore, significant allocations have been made for the ongoing construction of the National Police Hospital in Islamabad (Rs 1198 million), Operation

Management & Maintenance of Metro Bus to Islamabad Airport (Rs 268 million), and Rehabilitation and Improvement of Fish Seed hatchery at Rawal Dam.



ISLAMABAD: MNA, Zubaida Jalal arrives to attend budget session at Parliament House.

Senate body on Aviation takes up alleged fake pilot licenses matter

Independent Report SLAMABAD: The Senate Sub-Committee on Avia-

tion, chaired by Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, has successfully concluded its proceedings on the issue of alleged fake pilot licenses. The committee convened to examine and analyze the matter, aiming to find a resolution that upholds the integrity of the aviation sector and safeguards the future of affected pilots.

During the discussions, the Director-General of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) reiterated that the CAA has administrative powers and is not involved in any criminal

Following the directions of the Cabinet Division and the Supreme Court, the CAA wrote a letter to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to initiate appropriate action.

stressed the importance of fixing a time limit for canceled licenses. The CAA is currently amending its rules, and a summary will be presented to the Cabinet for approval. It was clarified that the licenses of pilots were canceled by the Cabinet Division and not by the CAA, he underlined. Pilots without any FIRs against them will be cleared, Senator Mandviwalla

emphasized the urgent need for a swift resolution to protect the affected pilots, as their future hangs in the balance. He highlighted that the court is awaiting the findings and report of the committee, urging a prompt solution to the issue. Furthermore, he expressed concern over the negative impact this matter is having on the country's reputation and the national car-

Daily soice of Masse Independent

Saturday June 10, 2023

Stuck in the past

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar could have kept the Pakistan Economic Survey 2022-23 un- A couple of years back, veiling ceremony quite short. We blame everyone and everything but ourselves', would have neatly summarised the dustry notes, on indusgist of most of what he had to tries the bank was alsay about his government's report card for the outgoing fis-

It wasn't difficult to see why he felt a need to be so defensive. The numbers he had to share told a harrowing tale: most key targets were missed, the economy barely kept afloat, inflation had wrecked citizens' purchasing power, and everything pointed to the prospect of a continuing slowdown in the absence of any unforeseen stimuli.

Perhaps it would have been easier to sympathise had some self-appraisal and reflexivity been on display. After all, even in periods of severe crisis, one can find hope in knowing their future is in the hands of someone who is honest and forthright about the challenges that are being faced.

Instead, Mr Dar's speech remained politically angled. He proclivities which are not mostly kept referring to the always similar in nature. In fact, more often, they regood days of his last stint in flect the vast spectrum of government, apparently seek- ing its diversity and the ing to persuade critics that his challenges it faces to generability to manage the economy are n t u m . I t s ought not to be judged on his convergences and diverrecent performance but from his 'achievements' in his 2013-2017 tenure.

It was a rather facile line of argument, considering he had partisan in nature which is principally focussed on adpushed out Miftah Ismail in the vancing a narrative that middle of the fiscal year knowwould promote their interest spectrum. Multiple implementation. Instead, Court ing full well that the economy such narratives keep floatfaced conditions vastly different from the last time he was conflict, even chaos. in power.

Interestingly, Mr Dar refused to acknowledge Mr Ismail at all. When he referred to the stalled IMF programme which, incidentally, he described as the "IMF drama" -Mr Dar conveniently 'forgot' that it had been successfully revived by his predecessor.

Instead, he blamed his failure to negotiate with the IMF on the PTI's decision last year to freeze fuel prices, which he claimed had 'irrevocably' damaged the lender's trust.

By failing to take any responsibility for the economy's sorry state, Mr Dar insulted the intelligence of those who were people aged 60 and older anticipating an appraisal of the government's economic performance in a crisis period.

There is no denying that this was a terrible year, with global crises triggered by the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the catastrophic floods that followed last year's monsoon ravaging for the first time in history, our economy in unforeseen older people will outnumways.

Mr Dar should have at least detailed the finance ministry's efforts to address the many challenges faced by the country in this period.

By avoiding that discussion, he only reinforced the perception that he has simply been bumbling from one crisis to another. His enduring fixation with the exchange rate which made a cameo in his speech yesterday — also sug- young) themselves are gested that he has learned nothing from past mistakes. Is emments—already starved he the right man for the job? Today's budget may hold a definitive answer.

Productive summers



Faisal Bari

summer interning at a bank. Over the eight weeks he was there, he updated a couple of 'inready lending to and was able to get a sense of bank operations in some of the departments as well. But for 40 hours a week for eight weeks — this was very little. In fact, most of his time was spent doing nothing.

It is summer time again. A lot of students are keen to have opportunities for internships. Internships are an excellent way to: a) get acquainted with what goes on in an area, sector or firm; b) get a close look at the actual work being done; c) gain firsthand

experience in some of the work; d) have exposure to the 'real world' and get a feel of how things are done there; e) get to know some people in the relnetwork; and f) possibly get scoped for job opportunities. For firms, interns mean not only lowcost labour but also prospective candidates for

above to happen, internships have to be carefully crafted and constructed. Interns should get full exposure to some or all of the departments. They should be able to work on some deeper issues as well, and they should definitely be exposed to some of the leaders in the area of work so they can have a better idea of what they could potentially aspire for. In other words, interns should be made to do some real

Creating productive well as the intern — takes effort. Activities have to be carefully and purposefully designed, and

pervision. Both take time and effort. I find that most internships are not designed with the needed care, with the result that they are not productive evant sector and build a for the employer or the intern. If you are just going to spend time sitting around, doing irrelevant work or doing tasks that are not set within a useful context, it is a waste of time. Though But for all of the students might still end up getting a certificate for their 'experience' and they will be able to write 'internship' in their résumés too, it will not give the intern much. So, when choosing internships, do investigate and find out if it is going to be worth your while. If not, students would be better off spending the summer doing other

Summer breaks are long enough to allow students some time away from their curricular and textbook commitments. internships — productive for the employer as can read broadly and more deeply. Irrespective of whether or not they intern, students should definitely make a plan for there has to be active su- their summer reading. It ence was that a lot of the even the good ones, has days. -- Courtesy Dawn

can be around a subject of the student's interest or a genre of fiction. But it should not just be random reading. Some thinking and planning should go into working out a reading list. Students should definitely stay with what they find to be of interest, but the aim should be to deepen that interest through a curated list. It is also a time that

new skills can be learnt or experimented with. One of the first things I noticed when I went abroad for my undergraduate studies to England was that all my fellow students, mostly from different parts of the UK — irrespective of whether they came from public or private schools — revealed three differcation' they had had as

ences in the kind of 'educompared to mine. Almost all the students had had singing lessons as part of their education, and mostly in schools. Many also had solo training in singing, and some had sung in choirs or were still doing so.

students, if not all, had a much deeper understanding of music as well. A lot of them could read written music. Many knew how to play the piano or another instrument. Even if they could not play an instrument, they had a much deeper understanding of music and had better appreciation as well.

The third difference was that almost all the students had been exposed to a foreign language as well, usually a European language. So, most students had, in addition to English, at least a working knowledge of another major language.

Though I went to some of the 'best' schools of the time (in the 1970s and 1980s) in Lahore, all of them had focused on academic and compulsory subjects only. There had been no exposure to drama, music, singing or dancing through the schools. The concept of education was quite narrow. Extracurricular activities were restricted to debates and some sporting activities only.

I am presuming the The second differ- focus of most schools,

not shifted by much even now. We see that in university students who come to us. Summer vacations are a time when, if there is an opportunity, students can be introduced to 'non-academic' areas as well. It can be through summer schools, individual coaches, parental guidance or even through the individual efforts of the student. This exposure is definitely worthwhile and will go

some way in making stu-

dents more well-rounded.

Summertime and vacations are a wonderful opportunity for students to relax and rejuvenate. And it is an excellent time to create some distance from the tyranny of curricula and textbooks things we take a bit too seriously in Pakistan. And to do things that can give students a different perspective or deeper engagement. This can be through carefully crafted internships or research opportunities or curated reading lists or exposure to important areas of human endeavour that are not usually covered by the schools. Happy holi-

Let voices of sanity resonate



Raoof Hasan

Every society is an amalgam of ideas, interests and always similar in nature. In the societal fabric, signifyforward

gences are represented by interest groups, whether political in nature or belonging to other sectors of national life. The projection of their cause/s is mostly ing around which, at times, create an environment of

terms with this phenomenon and remain committed to moving on with the task of managing the state functions transparently and efficiently without any bias towards one set of people or the other. These are the values that spring from the constitution which is supreme in terms of providing guidance and helping untangle any issues which

may come up. It is when what is contained in the statute book is defied with apparent impunity that issues of a more serious nature arise which, at times, may require a broader appraisal of the contents and implementation mechanisms which may be available. We are currently living through a comparable situation where institutions of the state are pitted against each other with little desire for referring to the constitution for guidance and resolution.

This is despite the clarity with which such guidelines may be available as various institutions of the state are engaged in a bitter tussle to claim supremacy over others. The most no-The challenge for ev- table of such conflicts is

parliament which has taken on the judiciary with an intent to defy it and get away with its grave transgressions which may distort the very foundations of the

It is the fundamental

responsibility of the government to ensure implementation of what is contained in the statute book in its entirety, and without exception. If that were not so, if would lose its legitimacy and rationale to govern. Such a government which lives in contempt of the constitution and relevant adjudications of the apex court is rendered guilty of assaulting the foundations of the state and must, therefore, quit, or be forced to do so. This can happen by the apex court passing its order and then asking the relevant state institutions to help it in getting it implemented as per article 190 of the constitution which states that "all executive and judicial authorities throughout Pakistan shall

While the federal government and its institutions including the Election Commission have lived in contempt of the constituery society is to come to emanating from the floor of tion, the provincial care-

act in aid of the Supreme

taker governments in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have also gone past their mandated 90 days to hold elections, despite the apex court adjudication to do that. With their failure, they too have been rendered unconstitutional. So, in essence, the federal government and the provincial governments of Puniab and KP are all in contempt of the constitution at this stage and, consequently,

must be ordered out. That is where the ball is tossed to the Supreme Court to give its adjudication. But, knowing full well that its order will not be implemented, it has dithered in giving its judgement. Notwithstanding that, the three governments, by being in contempt of the constitution, have been denuded of all legal and moral certification for their existence. With the judiciary having failed to perform its task, there is no other forum available that has the power to bring this grave constitution, using it to get aberration to its end. Thus, a disdainful charade goes on

unabated. Concurrently, one hears loud noises of plans to move into the future. What is certain is that the government has no intention we are not yet willing to TheNews

to go into elections until Imran Khan has been neutralized one way or the other but his popularity has not been dented. With almost 150 cases registered against him, an effort is now afoot to have him declared ineligible to participate in elections whenever they are held. But will that change his constantly improving ratings?

One is also hearing the prospect of installation of a technocratic government primarily to get the country out of the economic morass which it has been plunged into. This could come through declaration of an economic emergency and getting its validation, yet again, from the judiciary – the original authors of the doctrine of necessity. In that event, the elections too can be postponed for the

time being.
One fails to understand how long we will continue playing around with the letter and spirit of the every unconstitutional decree through in its name. This vile and wicked tradition has been used with abandon in the past and, from the way things are at

consign it to where it deserves to be. It is now being brought out of the bin again to be made full use of either to elongate the tenure of an unconstitutional government or induct vet another concoction to carry forth the agenda. Either way, such a fabrication will remain shorn of even a shred of legitimacy.

We have been hearing a variety of loud but hollow voices all over this country. Mostly they have been the instruments for putting together (unconstitutional) governments which are preconceived and preordained. These voices ring with much artificial fervour and passion, but they are void of legitimacy as they only follow the dictat of the powerful. The edifice raised on the hollowness of these voices is a wobbly structure which is bound to crumble with time, as we have been witness to so often in the past.We have suffered the excesses of these hollow voices for long. What we need instead are voices of sanity which are few and far between It is only such voices which can drive reason into the rationale for the state and its continued ex-

Elderly challenges



Jan-e-Alam Khaki

The significance of older people has been recognised by the UN, which has declared 2021-2030 as the Decade of Healthy Ageing, seeking to lessen health inequities and "improve the lives of older people, their families and communities". In 2020, the number of outnumbered children younger than five. Between 2015 and 2050, the proportion of the world's population over 60 will nearly double from 12 per cent to

According to UN estimates, by 2050, one out of six people in the world will be above the age of 65, ber children below 14, says a British Council study. In 2050, two out of every three older persons will be residing in developing countries (UN, 2019). According to the British Council study, 7pc of the population (about 14 million) is over 60 in Pakistan, which is expected to reach 8.5pc and 12.9pc in 2030 and

2050 respectively. What are the implications of these scenarios? The first is that more (older) people will need additional support, increasing dependency on younger ones, while they (the struggling to support their own families. Second, govfor resources — will face additional challenges to support this segment of their

While the elderly's

challenges may be numerous, let us focus on three: a) physical health; b) mental and emotional health; and c) generation gap. Incremental health deterioration in old age is fairly common. Various health issues, such as blood pressure, diabetes, dementia, eyesight weakness, hearing loss, arthritis and urological complications trouble many elders. Besides, mental and emotional issues, such as dementia, tension, even depression, may affect their

fe quality. The second area seemotional health. Emotional health issues, often less attended than physical, are triggered by many factors, such as loss of dear ones (for example, spouses), jobs or positions. Moreover, they generally lose their celebrated life engagements, particularly when they have enjoyed good jobs and meaningful

The gap between the past and present becomes increasingly large, leading to loss of status. This experience then becomes almost incurable unless the seniors find alternative occupations. For example, I have been a university professor in a prestigious institute, worked in a senior position, and enjoyed a productive life. Now 72 and out of university, although I am living in a comfortable environment with relative ease, the loss of attention and affection I enjoyed is considerable.

The third area of seniors' challenges has to do with the generation gap. As we grow older, our ideas are often less respected, or not even listened to, as they (ideas) are seen as 'old-fashioned'. This inevitably leads to self-censorship, and culminates in reticence. The issue has been exacerbated particularly in the last 50 years due largely to fastchanging lifestyles, dominated by the technological, digital and knowledge revo-

This (generation) gap is particularly pronounced with regard to bringing up grandchildren. Grandchildren develop highly emotional relations with their dada, dadi, nana and nani. When people ask me what I do nowadays, I jokingly say "Dada geeri", because I am the dada of twin grandkids (a boy and a girl). I also say I do "Nana geeri"

as well, as my daughter is

blessed with a baby girl.

is sheer joy. Still another fault line niors suffer has to do with between the older and newer generation is the way both think of bringing up children. Grandparents way of bringing up kids in many areas tends to be different than their adult children's. This often leads to tensions and conflict where grandparents feel devalued and defeated. These areas of conflict, however, can be lessened, if not done away with, simply by talking, exchanging ideas, and agreeing to disagree with mutual respect

and empathy. In sum, let us do everything possible to look after the elders at the individual, community and state level, ensuring their physical, emotional and social well-being. Indeed, the young ones are also going to join the elders; it is only a matter of time!

remind ourselves of Quranic advice to adult children of (older) parents. The Holy Quran says, "Thy Lord hath decreed that ye worship none but Him, and that ye be kind to parents. Whether one or both of them attain old age in thy life, say not to them a word of contempt [uffin], nor repel them, but address them in terms of honour. And, out of kindness, lower to them the wing of humility, and say: 'My Lord! bestow on them Thy Mercy even as they cherished me in childhood" (17:23-24). -- Cour-

Dead end budget



Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

Does anyone even take the

finance ministry seriously Interacting with grandkids anymore? With each passing year, this question becomes less and less rhetorical, as our notionally sovereign economy turns into a plaything of a militarised state apparatus, with faraway creditors and investors unanswerable to the 240 million people in whose name this country is run. There is arguably no bigger illustration of the sovereignty pantomime than the announcement of the federal budget. The man who will present it, Ishaq Dar, has been clear only about one thing since he took over the finance ministry hot seat: he is not able, let alone willing, to do very much. But it is lazy to argue that putting 'competent' men in charge would change the game. Pakistan's political economy militarised, financialised, ecologically destructive and anti-worker — is not propped up by one man and will not be undone by one

Finally, it is good to man either. The story is old but we should never tire of repeating it, especially given how the military establishment is menacingly winding down Project Imran and reminding us that 'national

interest' trumps all. Within a few years of its formation, Pakistan became a Cold War outpost whose national security apparatus, like brethren front-line states Iran and Turkey, was funded and trained to defend Western interests in south-west Asia. Formal military aid from Washington started

rolling in under the Mutual Assistance Programme in 1954, and the state subsequently pleased its imperial patrons and indoctrinated the people that this aid would give us an edge in military competition vis-àvis India. Military dictatorships in Pakistan have been propped up by geostrategic rents which have reinforced the India obsession. Meanwhile, our society and that of Afghanistan have been devastated by religiously inspired militancy, and what economist Kaiser Bengali calls non-combat defence expenditures have

shot through the roof. For the first three decades, there was some semblance of concern about the needs of the working masses, at least in part because all newly independent countries experienced some version of Third World economic nationalism which mandated the dismantling of neo-colonial economic structures.

There was some import-substitution industrialisation, some land reform, even some nationalisation. These policies reflected some degree of economic sovereignty. Since the 1980s, the IMF has told us what to buy and sell, when and where to cut public spending. It pulls the plug when it doesn't get what it wants. Similarly, the World Bank and Asian Development Bank tell us how to define and execute 'development' and happily pile on the debt for 'reforms' of their own choosing, including disasters like IPPs, which, since the mid-1990s, have become godfathers of the dysfunctional electricity/power sector.

In this period, Pakistan and many other postcolonial economies in Latin America, Asia and Africa have undergone a shift away from the production of real goods and sertowards financialisation; private ance, alongside mining,

agribusiness and other extractive corporate lobbies that have become the biggest fishes in an increasingly small pond. Traders and merchants have retained some share of the economic pie, especially in the informal sector, such that trade remains the primary livelihood option for the millions who exit agriculture yearly. Job-creating manufacturing continues to wilt rapidly To take one example, almost 150,000 workers have lost their jobs over the past year in Faisalabad's textile sector alone. Bear in mind that mil-

lions of young people join

the job market every year.

Many commentators have called attention to the alarmingly large numbers of highly skilled young people with relatively good prospects who now want to leave the country. And what of the vast majority of workers whose social mobility is limited and who now even face a struggle to get a low-paid job as a migrant worker in the Gulf? I do not know if the PDM/PPP government is

even bothered with such structural truths, because most of its outspoken representatives are absurdly cheering on state repression against the PTI. In any case, the budget announcement will not include mention of the real reasons we remain a virtual client state to global finance, or that the government seems helpless in the face of geostrategic rents drying up. We already know there is no will to shift away from sectors like real estate, invest in job-creating production or undertake redistribution of wealth.

So what we are left with is a boring regurgitation of the 'reform' rhetoric to please the IMF with a handful of 'pro-people' announcements. These will not fix hunger in bellies and brutalisation of bodies. In fact, the poverty of imagination is leading to a disasbanking, real estate, insur- trous dead end. -- Cour-

Attends passing-out parade of 24th police batch Naqvi urges policemen to fulfill their duties diligently in fight against criminals

LAHORE: The Elite Police Training School organised a passing-out parade for the 24th batch of police officials, comprising 39 women and 542 men, who completed the basic elite combat course. Caretaker congratulated the officials meeting. He also Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi was the chiefguest at the ceremony on Friday. He observed demonstrations of martial arts, firing techniques, counter-terrorism operations, and other skills

professionalism displayed by the police officials. The graduating jawans saluted the CM as he examined the passing-out parade, the allowance for the Elite distributing awards to the police force to Rs 10,000 best performers.In his and urged them to fulfill their duties diligently in the fight against criminals. He highlighted several initiatives undertaken in the past four months for and trainers at the Elite the improvement of the Police Training School. police force and assured

prioritize addressing other issues related to the police. The chief minister

announced an increase in the allowance for the Elite and promised its approval meeting. He mentioned development of a service

structure for the Special Branch and the removal of the shortage of instructors More measures will also be and commended the that the government would taken with the permission

of the election commission. Additionally, night-vision gear will be procured for the Elite police force to enhance their night time operations, he added. Mohsin Naqvi emphasised the need to upgrade the basic course for the Elite police force and announced that advanced courses will be offered to exceptional performers.

He also stated that the swimming pool at the Elite Police Training School would soon be made fully



LAHORE: Mustafa Ayden of Eurasian University Union from Turkey in a group photo with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House. Rectors and academicians of private sector universities are also present.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi inspecting the 24th passing out parade of Basic Elite Combat Course at Elite Police

KP CM chairs meeting on budget preparation

PESHAWAR (APP): An the fiscal year 2023-24. important meeting regarding the preparation of the budget for the new the budget estimates, Friday with the caretaker Chief Minister (CM) of KP Muhammad Azam Muhammad Azam Muhammad Az Khan in the chair.

Besides provincial cabinet members Hamid Shah, Barrister Feroz Jamal Kakakhel Himayatullah, Chief Secretary (CS) Nadim Chaudhry, Additional Chief Secretary (CS) Zubair Asghar Qureshi, Secretary Finance Muhammad Ayaz and

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force

(ANF) while carrying out

a comprehensive counter-

narcotics campaign with

the resolve to make

Pakistan a drug-free

country managed to recover nearly 6.2 MT of

narcotics from urban areas

during the last five months.

Headquarters spokesman,

counter-narcotics

sanitization.

According to an ANF

The participants were briefed in detail about

It was decided in the meeting that authorization for the budget of only the first four months of the new and financial year would be Chief obtained from the provincial cabinet.

The forum also discussed matters regarding the possible increase in the salaries and pensions of government employees.

It was decided in the other relevant higher authorities attended the meeting that the budget session of the caretaker The forum discussed provincial cabinet would be and reviewed the called after the preliminary outlines of the presentation of new fiscal financial budget and annual budgets by the federal and development program for Punjab governments. **ANF seizes 6.2 MT**

major cities like Karachi

Lahore, Faisalabad, Quetta

Chief **Ombudsman** AJK calls on **AJK President**

MIRPUR (AJK) APP) Chief Ombudsman Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Chaudhry Muhammad Naseem on Friday called on AJK President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry and presented to him the annual report carrying the performance of his institution.

Ombudsman briefed the President, in detail the working conditions of his organization.On this President occasion, President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry directed the chief

Chief

ombudsman to take effective measures to solve the problems being faced by the people.

GB's budget has increased to 51bln in federal budget 2023-24: CS GB

GILGIT (APP): Chief Secretary Gilgit Baltistan Rawalpindi and Islamabad, Muhiudeen Wani on Friday said that the regular budget He informed that to of Gilgit Baltistan has increased to Rs. 51 billion effectively contain the threat, inter-provincial in the federal budget for the fiscal year 2023-24, which interdiction rings had been established and major was a significant rise from inter-provincial last year's Rs. 47 billion. communication arteries representing an increase of were being kept under approximately 8.5 percent.

He said additionally, This effort is bearing the development budget operations were conducted fruits, wherein an in different parts of the estimated 7.26 MT of has seen a substantial increase, adding that it had country with a special narcotics have been seized risen to Rs. 28.5 billion focus on urban centre along motorways and compared to last year's Rs. tization. highways, which was
Special combing and destined for major 24 billion, reflecting a remarkable increase. The intelligence-based metropolises of the Chief Secretary said the for local enhanced budgetary allocation would enable GB government to undertake more ambitious projects and initiatives for the benefit of our region.

substantial seizures in consumption. LDA demolishes illegal constructions

operations resulted in country

narcotics in five months

he added.

surveillance.

LAHORE (APP): The the area. During the Lahore Development Authority (LDA) launched a grand operation against encroachment and illegal constructions on parking areas in the vicinity of Faisal Town (Akbar Chowk to Kotha Pind) Abu-ul- Hasan Isfahani Road, here on Friday.

On the directions of Commissioner Lahore and LDA Director General Muhammad Randhawa. department's conducted comprehensive

operation, encroachments constructed on tire shops, pharmacy, restaurants, bakeries and other shops

were demolished. demolished sheds, boards and encroached area on illegal constructions from more than 20 shops and sealed more than 25 shops. Famous restaurants located on Faisal Town Road were also sealed on violations. Despite repeated notices, encroachments, sheds, floors and illegal constructions were not and injured people to

Accident killed two in Multan LAHORE (APP): At least

two people were killed and two other sustained injuries when a car and a tractor trolley collided near Chowk Sarwar Shaheed at Multan Mian Wali road on Friday afternoon According to details, rescue 1122 said, the tragic accident took place on Mian Wali road due to over speeding. Rescue teams and police reached the spot and shifted the deceased



HYDERABAD: Members of Christian Community are holding demonstration in support of Pakistan Armed Forces, at Hyderabad press club.

Governor KP meets leading politicians

PESHAWAR Governor Haji Ghulam Ali Friday inaugurated a luxury home interior showroom based on modern furniture at Mansehra Road Abbottabad besides meeting leading politicians and former members of the provincial as well national assembly from Hazara The Governor was

Faisal Habib, owner of Lux Home Interior Showroom renowned businessman, Syed Safdar Zaman Shah and the business community of showroom is a great

Babar Nawaz Awan, Fayyaz Tanuli, Haji Tariq Sultan, Qaiser Khan Daudzai, Munir Shinwari, Safdar Zaman Shah and other business community. chamber presidents and media representatives were present in the opening ceremony. Governor inspected the furniture and given a warm welcome by other interior items made

of National Assembly

according to modern Turkish designs, local and international designs. Establishing the best of its kind home decor Abbottabad, Mansehra, convenience for the local pitgram. Former Member population.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori addressing a seminar 'energy and environment'.

Govt to award Rs.50k loan each to top 250 group projects: Wani

GILGIT (APP): Chief projects, he stressed. Secretary Gilgit-Baltistan that the top 250 group projects (5 to 8 students) from various government schools across the region would be awarded loans of Rs. 50,000 each.

In statement to the media, he said the loans would be distributed in collaboration Karakoram Cooperative Bank Limited.

The purpose of the provision of loans was so that students could further improve their initial work and come up with projects that could be scaled and were market-ready, Wani highlighted.

The scalability and saleability must therefore

The chief secretary till the end of June to improve their projects and come up with innovative yet market-acceptable projects.

He further informed an official that a team of experts shall evaluate projects across Gilgit-Baltistan and shortlist the top 250 projects for further loan funding.

Wani said, "Our aim was to equip our young minds with entrepreneurial spirit because entrepreneurs are the future." They were the ones that will not only be making a mark in the world but also providing employment



teachers are holds a banner shouting slogan during protest due to up gradation of teachers at Azadi Chowk.

KP govt takes steps to empower women affected by gender-based violence

PESHAWAR (APP): Deputy Secretary of Social Welfare Department, Warda Latif has said that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government was working to provide facilities to women affected by gender-based violence, enabling them to learn skills that would make them more self-reliant. She expressed these

views while addressing a consultative workshop on the protection of women affected by gender-based violence, organized by the Awaz Du program here Friday. Women, persons disabilities, transgender individuals, and minority leaders from

across the province, including Malakand and districts, participated in the event.

Secretary mentioned that plans had been developed to upgrade 125 training centers and provide modern skills to victims of gender-based violence. These plans aim to directly link them to the market, which is an important step towards reintegrating women affected by violence into society, she expressed. She also informed the participants about the steps taken to expand and improve Darul Aman and increase the

Addressing the importance of consultation, Rashida Dohad, Executive Director of Umar Asghar Khan Foundation, said that this consultation event was crucial for benefiting from the experiences related to accessing services available Deputy at the district level.

reach of the Bolo Helpline.

Punjab Governor says:

Government paying special attention to promote higher education in the country

Independent Report LAHORE: Dr. Mustafa Ayden of Eurasian University Union from Turkey met Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman here today at Governor House Lahore. Rectors and academicians of private sector universities were

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the government is paying special attention to promote higher education in the country and bring it on a par with the international standards

also present.

He said that as chancellor, he has taken various measures for the improvement universities in the public and private sector in Punjab. Governor Punjab said that he has formed consortia on the seven most important areas and the universities are working together on these

He said that he was focusing on promoting Pakistanis for the people Chaudhry, Dr. Chaudhry synergy between the of Turkey. Dr. Mustafa Abdul Khaliq.

universities, adding that Aiden said that the the public and private meetings with university sector universities can authorities in Lahore benefit better from each other's experiences. said that thousands of Governor Punjab further Pakistani students are said that Pakistan and Turkiye universities. unprecedented historical Dr. Mustafa Ayden and fraternal relations. He said that Pakistan and

and history. On this occasion, Dr. said that there is a great potential in higher education in Pakistan.

Turkey are bound in a

strong relationship in

He said that the promotion of higher education. Dr. Mustafa Ayden said that Lahore is a historical city and there first to help the earthquake

victims in Turkey. He said that we cannot forget the love of

remained very useful. He studying in Turkish

thanked Governor Punjab for inviting him to Governor House and invited Governor Punjab terms of religion, culture to attend the conference in Turkey as a special guest. On this occasion, Dr. Chairman Superior Mustafa Ayden of the University Prof. Dr. Western University Union Chaudhry Abdul Rehman said that Dr. Mustafa Aydan's visit to Pakistan will create opportunities for further improvement in private sector is playing the higher education sector important role in the of the country. On this occasion, Governor Punjab

Mustafa Aydan. Governor Punjab's is great learning wife presented a traditional opportunity by seeing the Punjab chadar to the wife historical places here. He of Dr. Mustafa Aydan said that Pakistan was the while Dr. Mustafa Aydan presented traditional Turkish souvenirs to Governor Punjab. On this occasion, Professor Iqbal

presented a souvenir to Dr.



FAISALABAD: Workers of Jamat-e-Islami (Youth Wing) are shouting slogans holding banner and flags during protest to show solidarity with Aafia Siddiqui, at District Council Chowk in City.

Promotion given to 1,022

cops in Lahore LAHORE (APP): The promotion board of the Lahore police net under the chair of Capital City Police Officer Lahore Bilal Siddique Kamyana at his office on Friday and approved promotion cases of 1,022 police officials. A total of 169 assistant subinspectors (ASIs) have been promoted to the rank of sub-inspectors, 453 head constables to the rank of ASIs, and 400 constables to the rank of head constables. Notably, 25 female police officers among beneficiaries. During the promotion board meeting, 295 cases of ASI to SI promotions, 538 cases of head constable to ASI promotions, and 427 cases of constable to head constable promotions were reviewed.

IGP directs for inspection of

police buildings KARACHI (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon on Friday directed the officers concerned to carry out inspections of the buildings under the use of the police department including police lines and police quarters so that the expenses for their renovation could be estimated. Addressing a meeting of Sindh Police's Estate Management and Development Department, he asked to compile and submit a report in this regard so that the budget could be allocated for buildings in the financial year 2023-2024.

Federal govt economic team worked hard to restore the economy: Murtaza Abbasi

during the past four years economy. of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, the economy of the country had been destroyed while from inside the country, PTI

views views during the inauguration of the UC Palak Road which was constructed at a cost of 19 million rupees. The minister said that

due to the wrong policies

ABBOTTABAD (APP): verge of default while in Federal Minister for the past nine months, our Parliamentary Affairs economic team worked (MPA) Murtaza Javed hard day and night hard for Abbasi Friday said that the restoration of the

prices of essential food items and petroleum and diesel had decreased, and the decision was made to disengage from the IMF to reduce members and from outside inflation, Murtaza Abbasi our enemy said that
Pakistan would default and
end up like Sri Lanka.
He expressed these
Headership, former Prime Minister (PM) Nawaz Sharif and his daughter tolerated the difficulties of imprisonment, they did not deviate from their principles and changed their stance while these of the PTI-led government, people could not even the country was on the spend 24 hours in jail.

Minister orders parks' improvement, cleanliness in Multan city

MULTAN (APP): Punjab caretaker minister for Auqaf, religious affairs, public health engineering and housing and urban planning Barrister Azfar Ali Nasir on Friday took a round of the city and expressed dismay over the poor conditions of parks and directed Park and Horticulture Authority (PHA) to improve greenery, plants and cleanliness at city parks.

During a visit to a park at Qasim Bagh being run by PHA, the minister renowned saint.

expressed resentment over the poor condition of the park and ordered PHA officials to improve cleanliness, and greenery and plant more saplings. He said that PHA officials should perform duty industriously and honestly warning that no laxity would be tolerated in this regard. Minister also planted a sapling in the park. Minister visited the mausoleum of Hazrat Shah Rukn-e-Alam where he laid Chadar on the grave of the

BISP-KfW ink MoU worth € 27mln to enhance poverty alleviation efforts

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson of Benazir euros for the initiation of The Benazir Income Programme (BISP) and KfW, a German Development Bank, have joined hands to enhance their efforts in alleviating poverty and supporting flood victims in Pakistan through signing a Memorandum Understanding (MoU) worth Euro 27 million.

Secretary Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Amer Ali Ahmed, and Country Director of ceremony held here on

The signing ceremony was witnessed by the needs. Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety (PA&SS) and

Secretary PA&SS division and other officials of Benazir Income Support Programme.

generous contribution of 27 million euros from the hit during the flood last German Bank to support year. the rehabilitation and cash assistance of flood victims in Pakistan.

One of the kev provisions of the agreement is the allocation of an KfW, Sebastian Jacobi, additional cash assistance signed the MoU at a amounting to Rs 30 million to the flood victims, aiming to provide immediate relief and address their urgent

MoU also includes an intervention, Marri said investment of two million that Benazir Income

Income Support Program a pilot project under the (BISP), Ms. Shazia Marri, Benazir Nashonuma Benazir Nashonuma Programme, which focuses on improving the nutritional status of vulnerable communities The MoU entails a particularly the girls in the areas that were worst

> During the signing ceremony, Ms. Shazia
> Marri briefed the KfW team about the control of the cont team about the various initiatives undertaken by the Benazir Income Support Programme, emphasizing the dire need to invest in the nutritional needs of the impoverished population.

ds. Recognizing the Furthermore, the importance of early

Support Programme had been actively addressing the nutritional needs of the beneficiaries.

The minister said that first thousand days of a child's life were crucial in preventing stunting and ensuring proper growth and development.

to children aged between 6-23 months. Additionally, awareness sessions on

hygiene, sanitation, and nutrition are also conducted for young girls.
This MoU will further increase our ability

and outreach to address more population, Shazia Marri added.



ISLAMABAD: Ms. Shazia Marri Federal Minister PA & SS and Chairperson Benazir Income Support (BISP) Programme witness the Contract Signing Ceremony Between KFW (German Development Bank) and BISP.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal visiting stalls during the Inauguration session of

DHC Bangladesh invites business community to explore rice and cotton markets

Commissioner (DHC) Bangladesh for Sindh and Balochistan in Karachi S. M. Mahboob Al Alam on Friday invited the business community of Sindh to explore the market in rice and cotton sectors of his country which had wider scope for business.

of Commerce (HCCI) and capita spokesman informed here.

He informed that Bangladesh had 40 billion dollars in foreign exchange

HYDERABAD (APP): country had progressed considerably in all sectors. Bangladesh had larger trade and industrial base which HCCI's members and businessmen of Sindh must explore, he added.

He informed that his country now had 170 universities for imparting higher education, adding He moved such an 25,000 megawatts of income Industry, the HCCI Bangladesh stands at 2800 dollars against 100 dollars

in the past, he informed. He suggested that HCCI should send its trade reserves and added that due delegation to Bangladesh to effective policies, his adding that Bangladesh's

cotton and rice sectors of Bangladesh have wider business opportunities Information Technology sector is also performing well in his

country," he informed.
"We want collaborate with Pakistan" The European countries prefer Pakistani textile Bangladesh was producing products, he informed and added that the under vision invitation while addressing electricity as compared to of Prime Minister (PM) a gathering of the members past production of just Bangladesh 2041, the rural of the Hyderabad Chamber 4000 megawatts. The per areas are being focused for development purposes, he added.

Earlier, President Adeel Siddiqui in his welcome address said, "The trade balance lies in favour of Pakistan which was a positive sign."



SIALKOT: Vice President Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sialkot, Sheikh Amir Majeed Sheikh addressing a press conference.

Govt endeavors to invest in road, rail connectivity to promote transit trade

ISLAMABAD (APP): Corridor (KPEC) has The Federal Government along with the provincial stakeholders has been making efforts to invest in road and rail connectivity across the country, shaping various policies and plans to facilitate the transit trade thus boosting the country's

Given location, Pakistan has the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) and Khyber Pass Economic

tremendous potential of revenue generation through road and rail connectivity, said a performance review of 2022-23 budget issued here Friday.

Pakistani transportation system needs modernization and the National Transport its Master Plan is in the final advantageous geographic stages of approval many actions under the policy potential to grow its and the plan are being economy through transit already adopted and trade and as part of the implemented. In recent years the work in the transport infrastructure projects was carried out in the districts of southern Punjab, southern KP.

HCCI terms federal budget 2023-24 people's, business friendly

HYDERABAD (APP) The business community has termed the federal budget for the fiscal year 2023-24 as people-friendly and said the federal government provided relief to all sectors including agriculture.

Hyderabad Chamber Commerce and stries (HCCI) Industries president Adeel Siddiqui while talking to APP said financial constraints the federal

government presented a business-friendly budget in which the agriculture sector, traders, large-scale manufacturers, investors, youth as well as social sector were unprecedented relief.

'Though next year's budget has a historical deficit of over 7000 billion rupees the government will try its best to cover it through drastic measures,

the HCCI president hoped Adeel Siddiqui said 'In the budget, along with the agriculture sector, a significant amount is being allocated to the energy sector and water reservoirs in the country." HCCI President said, "Bridging the budget deficit as per the budget estimates will be a



PESHAWAR: Industrialists and SCCI members are listening the Federal Budget Speech 2023-24 at SCCI.

Industrial sector projected to grow by 5.9% bases on LSM envisage growth of 7.4%

ISLAMABAD (APP): depreciation, increased Industrial sector was projected to grow by 5.9% based on large scale manufacturing (LSM) envisaged growth of 7.4%.

According to the Annual Plan, Small and household Manufacturing grow by (8.3%), slaughtering (3%), mining & quarrying (3%), construction (4%) and electricity & gas distribution (3.5%).

During 2022-23, the flood-induced supply shock severely affected industry and services critical transportation infrastructure. Industrial sector also

faced pressures as import restrictions made it difficult to import essential raw materials, intermediate goods and machinery. As a result, many

factories either closed temporarily or operated below capacity. Moreover, increase in energy prices, higher cost of imported

cost of working capital due to substantial increase in interest rates and political/ policy uncertainties adversely affected the industrial sector.

Energy prices were increased due to reversal of unsustainable subsidies as part of the stabilization programme. Annual report said

that LSM which accounts for about 50% of industrial sector acted as a drag on the overall growth of industrial sector with a contraction of 8% during sectors besides damaging July-March 2022-23 as compared to the growth of 10.6% during the corresponding period of last year. In March 2023,

LSM output plunged by 25% (YoY). Only manufacturing groups (wearing apparel, leather products, furniture and football) registered

positive growth while contraction of the remaining groups including input due to currency food, beverages, fertilizers.

Azhar Kiyani says; Macroeconomic stability, protection of vulnerable segments top priorities

Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Economy and Energy Bilal Azhar Kayani said macroeconomic stability to

ensure financial discipline through effective policies protection of vulnerable segments of the society was the topmost priorities in fiscal year budget 2023-24.

Talking to a private the budget would prove helpful to make the country's economy strong by increasing ex ports. Azhar Kayani said the

government was making all

ISLAMABAD (APP): country out of economic crises and all institutions were striving to give the Prime Minister's road map a reality.

He said several mega government schemes and packages dedicated to welfare of women and youth were initiated by Pakistan Muslim League-

The coordinator said government had news channel, he said the extended relief to the people through enhancing allocations for Benazir Income Support Program, Free Atta distribution, reduction in the prices of essential items at Utility Stores Corporation and Kissan package.



LAHORE: An electrician busy to repairing roomcoolers at his workplace in the Provincial Capital

ESP 2022-23 reveals govt's success, predicts economic betterment: Experts

PESHAWAR (INP): The during fiscal year 2022-23. Economic Survey of He was of the view Pakistan (ESP) 2022-23 that it means that the and financial experts said on Friday adding that it laid strong foundation to bring betterment in the national economy and increase exports in days to

According to Swabi University's Professor Dr Muhammad Naeem, the ESP has signified that the present elected government despite inherited economic and financial challenges, achieved significant progress and growth in various sectors including Information Technology, Tax, Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture sectors

has revealed the success of national economy has the government in various started moving towards the sectors during current right direction and fiscal year, the economic continuity of economic and fiscal policies of the present government was imperative for repayment of all foreign loans and decrease dependencies on

the international monetary

institutions.

Citing ESP report, he said the IT sector has posted a trade surplus of \$1.72 billion in July-March FY 2023, which showed an increase of 16.7 percent compared to the last year. Dr Naeem said the collection of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) grew by 16.1 percent to Rs. 6,210 billion as compared to Rs5,348.2 billion last year.

to pay marriage grant to retired employee was the responsibility of months from the date of government agencies to inform people about such marriage and a maximum of one year in special cases.

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday directed the Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) to pay Rs 200,000 as a "marriage grant" to a retired employee for the marriage of his son who had been denied payment by

The LESCO had denied the payment on the ground that he had applied for the grant after the expiry of the prescribed time limit of six months. "We should take care

of such people, who due to ignorance of the law or being unaware of the benefits for which they might be eligible due to their service, are unable to benefit from them in time", the president said.

He regretted that the employee was not aware of his entitlement and found out from others that a marriage grant for his son

was possible.

He further held that it

benefits. President Alvi gave

President directs LESCO

accepting a representation filed by Muhammad Asif (the complainant) against the decision of the Wafaqi Mohtasib. As per the details.

Muhammad Asif was an employee of LESCO and, after his retirement, he applied for the "marriage grant" in respect of his son. He was denied

payment on the ground late. that his son's marriage was held on 02.12.2018 whereas complainant applied for the grant on 08.12.2020 i.e., after the expiry of

about 2 years. As per SOP regarding marriage grants, all applications should reach the office of the Chief

Feeling aggrieved, he approached Wafaqi President Alvi gave these remarks while accepting a representation LESCO did not commit any maladministration and rejected his complaint.

Subsequently, he filed a representation with the president aga Mohtasib's decision. against

The president in his decision observed that the entitlement for the marriage grant was not disputed except that the application was submitted

said government agencies should keep people informed about such benefits for which they might be eligible so that they were not deprived of their entitlement.

He accepted the representation and directed LESCO to pay Rs 200,000 Executive of LESCO to the retired employee within a period of six within 30 days.



OUETTA: Members of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries Quetta listening the budget speech of Federal Finance Minister Ishaq Dar at CCIQ.

SBP to announce monetary policy on June 12

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) will announce monetary policy on Monday, June 12, 2023.

According to a statement issued here Friday, the central bank has announced to convene meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on June 12 that would review the overall financial position of the country, economic indicators as well as performance of different internal and external sectors and decide about

the Monetary Policy.
The central bank would issue the Monetary Policy Statement on the same day following the

MPC meeting.

The MPC in its previous meeting held on April 4, 2023, decided to increase the policy rate by 100 basis points to 21 percent arguing that raising the policy rate was an important step towards anchoring inflation expectations around the medium-term target.

PSX turns around to bullish trend, gains 217 points ISLAMABAD (APP):

The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to a bullish trend on Friday, gaining 217.75 points, a positive change of 0.52 per cent, closing at 41,904.21 points against 41,686.46 points the previous day. A total of 164,835,239 shares were traded during the day as compared to 203,789,233 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 5.195 billion.

Agriculture sector to grow by 3.5% in FY24 ISLAMABAD

Agriculture Agriculture sector is expected to grow by 3.5% during the fiscal year 2023-24, according to Annual sufficient production of Plan released by the wheat will not only government here on Friday. support growth

achieved with expected contributions of important crops (3%), other crops (3.5%), cotton ginning (7.2%), livestock (3.6%), forestry (3%) and fishing However, it says,

agricultural growth will be contingent upon expected favourable weather conditions, availability of water, certified seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and agriculture

Moreover, increased productivity of livestock subsector is imperative for the revival of the sector. The revival of cotton and According to the momentum but will also plan, the growth would be ease out balance of payments pressures through lesser import

requirements.

agriculture sector was envisaged to grow by 3.9% in the Annual Plan 2022-23 given a strong crop sector performance of previous year. However, June-August

During the outgoing

fiscal year (2022-23), the

torrential rains and flash flooding led to an credit facilities at affordable un precedente d costs for revival of the disaster in various parts of the country.

Pakistani mangoes land in China via newly opened cargo route

Nanning, the capital of them as the level of China's southwest cooperation and autonomous region of understanding is high." Guangxi, Adnan Hafeez, Director of Imperial Ventures (Pvt) Ltd said.

shipment The comprising one tonne of Sindhri variety was transported by YTO Express via a newly opened cargo flight between Lahore and Nanning, the businessman told China Economic Net (CEN) in an interview.

working with this airline past few years.

BEIJING (APP): The for the past four years, so second batch of Pakistani we feel comfortable mangoes arrived in continuing to work with southwest cooperation

> Known for its large size, yellow colour and ample sweetness, the Pakistani king of fruits will be shared with major Chinese B2B clients and outlets for sampling after custom clearance and necessary certifications by the relevant Chinese authorities, he noted.

Having brought Pakistani mangoes to the We have been Chinese market over the

Putin says Russian tactical nuclear weapons to be deployed to Belarus next month

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin said Friday that Moscow will deploy some of its tactical nuclear weapons to Belarus next month, a move that the Belarusian opposition described as an attempt to blackmail the West.

Putin said during a meeting with Belarusian Alexander Lukashenko that work on building facilities for the nuclear weapons will be completed by July 7-8, and they will be moved to the territory of Russia's neighbor and ally quickly after that. The move comes as Ukraine has stepped up attacks in several sectors of the front line in what some observers see as the start of its long-expected counteroffensive.

Russia used Belarus' territory to send its troops

2022, and has kept forces the West as it stepped up and weapons on the territory of its ally. "Everything is proceeding as planned, Putin said in televised remarks as he hosted Lukashenko at his residence in the Black Sea resort of Sochi. "On July 7-8 the preparations of the relevant facilities will be completed and we will immediately start the activities linked to the deployment of those

weapons on your territory." Tactical nuclear weapons are intended to destroy enemy troops and weapons on the battlefield. They have a relatively short range and a much lower yield than nuclear warheads fitted to long-range strategic missiles that are capable of obliterating whole cities. Putin announced the planned deployment of the short-range nuclear weapons in Belarus earlier this year in a move widely seen as a warning to

military support for Ukraine. He has emphasized that Russia will retain control of them.Russia didn't say how many nuclear weapons would be sent to Belarus. The U.S. government believes Russia has about 2,000 tactical nuclear weapons which include bombs that can be carried by aircraft, warheads for short-range misand artillery

rounds.Exiled Belarusian opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya strongly condemned the move. "Putin and his puppet Lukashenko are planning to deploy nuclear weapons in Belarus immediately before NATO's summit in Vilnius in July,' Tsikhanouskaya told The Associated Press. "This is a rude blackmail, an attempt to force Europe to back down, but we can't allow dictators to dodge punishment for the

nuclear blackmail



Russian President Vladimir Putin and Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko talk during their meeting at the Bocharov Ruchei residence in the resort city of Sochi, Russia.

US, UK forge 'Atlantic Declaration' to counter new threats

Monitoring Desk

Saturday June 10, 2023

WASHINGTON: The United States and Britain on Thursday announced a new strategic pact as their leaders rededicated the "special relationship" to counter Russia, China and economic instability.
In a White House sum-

mit, US President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Rishi Sunak discussed Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the lightning-fast evolution of artificial intelligence.

But Sunak came away empty-handed on Britain's ambitions for a post-Brexit free-trade agreement with Washington, settling instead to tack along with

As he welcomed Sunak to the Oval Office,

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: Donald

Trump said on Thursday he

has been indicted over his

handling of classified docu-

ments after leaving office,

the US ex-president's most

serious legal threat yet as a

firestorm of criminal inves-

tigations imperils his bid for

a second White House term.

administration has in-

formed my attorneys that I

have been indicted, seem-

Trump wrote on his Truth

Social platform as he broke

ingly over the boxes hoax,"

'The corrupt Biden

Ex-US president

Donald Trump indicted in

classified documents probe

Biden's plan to craft a new green economy through vast industrial subsidies.

An "Atlantic Declaration" adopted by the leaders aims to boost industry ties on defence and renewable energy, in the face of growing competition from "We face new chal-

lenges to international stability — from authoritarian states such as Russia and the People's Republic of China; disruptive technologies; non-state actors; and transnational challenges like climate change," the declaration read.

the bombshell news of a

historic moment for the

United States: the first time

a sitting or former com-

mander-in-chief has ever

faced federal charges.

ing Trump's assertion.

false statements.

Honduras' President Xiomara Castro waves as she arrives in Shanghai, China.

from secondary schools and

through Community Based

Education within a month

mental organisations work-

are no longer allowed to

operate," the agency said in

stand the reported direc-

It said the agency was

"Unicef is deeply con-

universities.

a statement.

Unicef concerned

over 'Taliban ban' on

foreign school NGOs

Monitoring Desk

KABUL: The Taliban gov-

ernment may have banned

international NGOs from

offering education to out-

of-school Afghan children,

Unicef said on Thursday,

putting the teaching of half a million boys and girls at

it was seeking more infor-

mation on reports that au-

thorities did not want for-

eign organisations directly

involved in the education

Since seizing power

The UN agency said

Biden was asked by reporters if the "special" transatlantic relationship was in good shape. He gave a thumbs-up and replied: "In real good shape.

Both leaders concurred that the world economy was undergoing the biggest changes since the Industrial Revolution, in part driven by AI, which is bringing doomsday warnings that sentient machines could wipe out humanity unless governments coordinate a response.

Sunak said Biden backed his plan to convene 'likeminded" countries for the world's first AI summit in Britain later this year.

Russia reports heavy fighting in Zaporizhzhia region of Ukraine

heavy fighting in the Zaporizhzhia region of southern Ukraine on Friday after saying it had repelled

There was no immediate confirmation from the Justice Department regard-A Trump attorney, Jim Trusty, told CNN his client has been indicted on seven charges including the willful retention of documents in violation of the attempted major counter-of-Espionage Act, making

fensive by Ukraine.

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russia reported

repeated attempts by the Ukrainian army this week to smash through the front line and drive a wedge through Russian forces. Russia's top military brass briefed President Vladimir Putin on Thursday that Russia had successfully repelled the attacks which Moscow says are part of an

official ties with Taiwan ahead of minister's visit aging global recognition of **Monitoring Desk** Taiwan's separate status BEIJING: China urged Eufrom China.

China warns Europe against

rope on Friday not to have any official exchanges with Taiwan or support "independence forces" ahead of a planned trip to the continent next week by Taiwan Foreign Minister Joseph Wu. Czech Foreign Minister Jan Lipavsky confirmed Wu was due to visit Prague next week, saying on Friday state officials were not expected to shift from their existing policy towards

Taiwan, which is claimed by China, has no formal diplomatic ties with any European country except the Vatican. Beijing regularly denounces any form of contact between Taiwanese and foreign officials, viewing it as encour-

On Wu's Europe trip, which Taiwan's government has not officially confirmed, he is expected to speak at a think-tank event

in Prague immediately after Czech President Petr Pavel, Reuters reported on Thursday. Asked about the visit on Friday, Czech Minister

Lipavsky said he had "been informed" about Wu coming to Prague. "Of course, the Czech

government has a fairly clear policy on how we maintain relations with Taiwan, so I don't expect us to veer from this in any way," he said, adding he would be travelling during

Honduran president begins first visit to China since breaking off ties with Taiwan

Monitoring Desk

TAIPEI: Honduran President Xiomara Castro arrived in Shanghai on Friday on her first visit since China established ties with her nation, pulling it away from former diplomatic ally Tai-

Castro will meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping "to jointly plan for the future development" of ties, China's official Xinhua News Agency said. She will also attend the inauguration of Honduras' embassy in Beijing, according to state

Honduras established formal relations with China in March, becoming the latest in a string of countries to break diplomatic ties with Taiwan. China sees self-governed Taiwan as a breakaway province, to be retaken by force if necessary, and prohibits its own diplomatic partners from having formal ties with

Beijing has intensified its battle to win away Taiwan's diplomatic allies

Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen took office in 2016. Since then, China has managed to lure away nine of Taiwan's former partners with a campaign involving billions of dollars of invest-

Beijing's latest victory comes as tensions have risen with the United States in recent months, including over China's increasing assertiveness toward Taiwan and growing influence in Latin America.

"Taiwan is always at the core of U.S.-China tensions," said Alfred Wu, an associate professor at the National University of Singapore who focuses on Greater China governance. "(President) Xi Jinping and his team will ... spare no efforts, particularly on Tai-

China sees pulling diplomatic allies away from Taiwan as worthwhile regardless of the cost, Wu added. Beijing also sees the efforts as a way to counteract increasingly frequent trips by European and U.S. since independence-leaning lawmakers to Taiwan.

Fighting in South Sudan displaced people's camp kills 13 - U.N.

Monitoring Desk JUBA: Intercommunal fighting in a camp housing displaced people in the northern part of South Sudan has killed 13 people, the U.N. mission running

the camp said on Friday. The clashes between two ethnic communities living in the camp in Upper Nile State's capital Malkal first erupted on Thursday when a man was

stabbed to death. "Initial reports to the mission indicated that at least three persons have been killed and more than 20 injured with some of them receiving treatment at the mission's hospital," the spokesperson for the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), Ben Malor, said in a statement. "Later in the day 10 more people were confirmed dead in other facili-

number has been fluctuating since the first group of people came there at the start of a civil war in 2013. The numbers in-

creased when about 3,000 people fleeing fighting in neighbouring Sudan also came to the camp in recent weeks, Luke Saadala, Upper Nile's Information Minister said.

Malor said while calm was returning to the camp on Friday, the UNMISS and South Sudan's army had reinforced security in the camp and its environs. A peace deal signed in 2018 by the major parties to civil war from 2013-2018 has significantly reduced violence in South Sudan in recent years. But lower-level clashes between rival communities frequently flare up. Violence remains rife in areas where rights to grazing areas, water, cultivation ties." The camp hosts at grounds and other resources

Colorado's most destructive wildfire caused by embers from old fire, sparks from power line

Monitoring Desk

BOULDER: Embers from a smoldering scrap wood fire set days earlier outside a home used by a Christian religious communal group along with a sparking power line caused a 2021 Colorado wildfire fanned by high winds that destroyed nearly 1,100 homes and left two people dead, authorities said Thursday.

Authorities spent 18 months investigating and determined criminal charges were not warranted for either The Twelve Tribes that occupied the home or the utility in charge of the power line, Boulder County District Attorney Michael Dougherty said at a news conference.

"If we were to tell you today we are filing charges, it would be wrong and unethical," Dougherty said.

The Dec. 30, 2021, blaze in heavily populated suburbs between Denver and Boulder caused \$2 billion in damage, making it the most destructive in Colorado history. Two people prone areas.

were also found dead after what was known as the Marshall Fire.

The inferno erupted following months of drought amid a winter nearly devoid of snow and fed on bone-dry grassland surrounding fast-growing development in the area near the Rocky Mountain foothills. It spread rapidly in winds that gusted up to 100 mph (160 kph) in

For one woman who lost her home and watched the news conference, seeing photos and hearing about the fire all over again was almost as difficult as the fire's immediate after-"On top of trying fig-

ure out how it started, all this just stirs up all the same emotions. It makes you nauseous in re-remembering everything," Barba Hickman said. Experts say similar events will become more common as climate change warms the planet and suburbs grow in fire-

Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak speaks during a meeting with US President Joe Biden in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington, US. 35 hurt in clashes as Israeli army raids

Monitoring Desk

RAMALLAH: Israeli forces raided the city of Ramallah in the West Bank early on Thursday in what the military said was an operation to demolish the house of a Palestinian accused of a Jerusalem double-bombing last year. The Palestinian including at least 20 by live bullets. Two people suffered serious abdominal wounds while a third was hit by a rubber bullet which pen-

etrated his skull. A journalist said a large military convoy arrived in downtown Ramallah, the seat of the Palestinian government in the occupied West Bank, leading hundreds of Palestinians to gather in the area. Some Palestinian youths hurled coordinated explosions of

Ramallah diers, who fired live bullets. stun grenades and tear gas at the crowd, the journalist said. Trash bins that were

ambulance sirens wailed. The military said soldiers were confronted by crowds throwing petrol bombs and rocks and rehealth ministry said at least sponded with live fire. It said 35 people were wounded, a Palestinian photojournalist was hit by a rubber bullet and the incident was being reviewed. The Israeli military said its forces carried out the operation to demolish the house of Islam Faroukh, who was arrested last year on suspicion of carrying out a deadly bombing attack in Jerusalem. The attack in November killed two people, including an Israeli-Canadian teenager and wounded at least 14 others in what police said were

set on fire blocked roads as

stones at the Israeli sol- improvised bombs planted. UN agency says Myanmar has suspended int'l aid deliveries to cyclone-hit areas

Monitoring Desk BANGKOK: Myanmar's military government has rescinded its approval for international organizations to distribute food, shelter and medicines to thousands of residents of cyclone-hit ar-

eas in the country's west, a U.N. agency said Friday. Cyclone Mocha hit the coastline of Bangladesh and Myanmar in mid-May with winds of up to 209 kilometers (130 miles) per hour. The damage was worst around the coastal city of Sittwe, the capital of Myanmar's Rakhine state, but was also severe as the storm moved inland into Chin state.

The military authorities also suspended travel authorizations for international humanitarian organizations, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said in a situation report. It said the suspension of aid activities "could not have come at a worse time' because of the arrival of the annual monsoon season. The

in Canada affected New York..

report did not say why the military government's Disaster Management Committee suspended the travel autho-

Myanmar's military has long kept access to many parts of the country under tight restrictions, especially areas seen as sensitive because of tensions with ethnic minorities, as is the case with Rakhine, counterinsurgency cam-

paign in 2017 drove more than 700,000 members of the Muslim Rohingya minority to flee to neighboring Bangladesh. Despite a dire need

for help, foreign aid and journalists were not allowed into Myanmar in the immediate aftermath of Cyclone Nargis in 2008, when more than 100,000 people were killed. Cyclone Mocha killed at least 148 people in Rakhine. It brought flash floods and power outages, tore roofs off buildings and crumpled cellphone towers.

People wear masks during the morning rush hour as smoke from wildfires

peacekeeper killed and four injured in north Mali attack **Monitoring Desk**

One U.N.

DAKAR: At least one United Nations peacekeeper was killed and four others seriously injured when their patrol was attacked in northern Mali on Friday, the peacekeeping

mission MINUSMA said. The incident took place near the town of Ber, Tombouctou - an area that has become a hotbed of jihadist activity over the

past decade.

MINUSMA said on Twitter the patrol first encountered an improvised explosive device and was then hit with a direct fire

It did not name perpetrators but said it was a "complex attack" and that updates on casualties would

Islamist militants, some with links to al Qaeda and Islamic State, have been waging an insurgency in northern Mali since they hijacked a Tuareg rebellion

Blinken to travel to China next week, carrying out trip postponed after spy balloon incident

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Secretary of State Antony Blinken is planning to travel to China this month as the Biden administration pushes to improve badly deteriorated ties with the

U.S. officials say Blinken expects to be in Beijing on June 18 for meetings with senior Chinese officials, including with Foreign Minister Qin Gang and possibly President Xi

Jinping.
The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because neither the State Department nor the Chinese foreign ministry have yet confirmed the trip



The mediators said

the ceasefire was "an effort to break the cycle of violence" between Sudan's army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), which began battling each other eight weeks ago, sparking a major humanitarian crisis

The conflict has displaced more than 1.9 million people, some 400,000

The urban area around Sudan's capital Khartoum, home to at least five million people, has been turned into a war zone, and unrest has also flared in the conflict-scarred western region of Darfur.

Fighting continued on Friday, with residents reporting artillery fire and clashes in the north of Omdurman, across the confluence of the River Nile from Khartoum, and air strikes in Bahri, a third adjoining city that makes up the wider capital.

There are heavy strikes near us and bullets from every direction in Al-

Sweden charges man suspected of financing outlawed Kurdish militant group

Monitoring Desk STOCKHOLM: Swedish cerned by reports that over 500,000 children, including prosecutors charged a Turkish citizen on Friday for over 300,000 girls, could lose out on quality learning gun crimes and raising money for the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which took up arms against the Turkish state in if international non-govern-

The case comes at a ing in the field of education sensitive time in Sweden's relations with Turkey, "seeking to better under-

first time anyone had been charged in the country with attempting to provide financing to the PKK.

Heavy rain drenches southwest China, some cities flooded

tially submerging buildings.
A particularly harsh first bout of summer rains known locally as "dragon boat water" saw the city of Beihai in the Guangxi region log 453 millimetres (17.8 inches) of precipitation on Thursday. That was a regional daily record for June

least 50,000 people. Its are under dispute.

which is holding up its application for NĂTÔ membership, in part because it says Sweden harbours supporters of militant groups it considers to be terrorists. Sweden's prosecution authority said it was the

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: Non-stop heavy rain lashed parts of southwest China on Friday, triggering floods in some cities, engulfing roads and par-

almost two years ago, tive", which Taliban lead-Taliban authorities have blocked girls and women commented on.

DUBAI: Sudan's warring sides have agreed on a nationwide, 24-hour ceasefire from Saturday morning, U.S. and Saudi Arabian mediators said, following a week of intensified fighting after a previous truce deal

5E to be game changer in Pakistan's economic development: Maryam

ISLAMABAD (Online): Maryam Aurangzeb said 5E will prove game-changer in Pakistan's economic development.

Exports, Water and food security, climate, energy, are pillars of equity turn around Pakistan. She said this new frame work will increase imports, and appreciate business and employment.

In statement on Friday information minister said Pakistan's development path will pave by promoting education, health and control over population. Cheap and uninterrupted provision of energy will speed up economy and business. Climates will improves through water reserves and food security, she added.

Information minister said youth will be developed through E-Pakistan She said GDP defecit decreased from 4.9% to 4.6% which proves government right policy. 76% decreased in current account deficit is the sign of right economic policy. 40.4% decrease in trade deficit expressed right economic steps. Trade deficit which was \$43.4 billion is now \$25.8 billion.

This is the beginning of improvement, she added. Import decreased by 29.2% which influenced the economic improvement. Imports decreased from \$72.3 billion to %51.2 billion, which she called a step to betterment.

maintained that Rs.6210 billion tax collected which was 348.2 billion Pkr last year. Current fiscal year despite the target of 7 lacs



QUETTA: Provincial Advisor for Information Mitha Khan Kakar, Deputy Consul General of Iran Faridon Peer Lorin, President Chamber of Commerce Wali Muhammad Noorzai inaugurating International Property Expo.

Kanrani demands Judicial **Commission on murder** of Abdul Razzaq Shar

Independent Report

QUETTA: The senior lawyer and former President Supreme Court Bar Association, Amanullah Kanrani Advocate has demanded of the authorities to form a iudicial commission to probe into the brutal killing of senior lawyer Abdul Razzaq Shar. This demand was made by Amanullah Kanrani while addressing a press conference at the High Court Bar Room on Friday.

It may be mentioned here that Amanullah Kanrani was the lawyer in the constitutional petition filed by Abdul Razzaq Shar in the treason case against former Prime Minister and PTI chief, Imran Khan. He told that Abdul Razzaq Shar was brutally murdered a day before the hearing of his petition in the High Court. He said that the Judicial commission should be formed to ascertain the motives behind the brutal assassination of Shar.

He said that it must be ascertained that who benefitted from the murder. It may also be mentioned here that Abdul Razzaq Shar was gunned down by unknown armed men on June 6 while he was on his way to the courts from his residence. His son had registered murder case against Imran Khan and others.



COLOMBO: Pakistan Navy Ship Shahjahan vis-

Information Secretary vows to resolve media workers' issues on priority

Federal Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Sohail Ali Khan on Friday vowed to resolve the issues faced by the media work-

ers on priority.

Addressing a dinner reception held in honour of the newly elected officebearers of the All Pakistan Newspaper Employees Confederation (APNEC) and senior officers of the ministry, he said minimum

ISLAMABAD (APP): wage for a worker was being increased in the budget for the next financial year.

Terming the media a strong pillar of state, he said its independence in Pakistan was being acknowledged at international

He said the govern-ment had allocated Rs one billion for the health insurance of media workers and iournalists in the budget for fiscal year 2023-24.

PTI's Ali Muhammad arrested once again

MARDAN (Online): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Ali Muhammad Khan was arrested once again on Friday right after being released on the orders of the Peshawar High Court (PHC) from a day earlier.

The PTI leader's lawyer told reporters that the current arrest was made on corruption charges; he was subsequently transferred to the Toru police station. Yesterday, the PHC had order Khan's release after

hearing a petition against his arrest under Section 3 of the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) after nationwide protests broke out on May 9 following the PTI chief's

Today's relief came in a case related to terrorism charges. However, the court had observed that Khan may be arrested again if he was wanted in any other

The former minister of state was arrested again as soon as he left the court premises. Khan has so far been arrested five times in different

Earlier, as Khan appeared before the court he told reporters that his party's chief "has always subscribed to a peaceful political struggle and stood by the rule of law'



GWADAR: Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar different sections of Pak-China

Prime Minister Shehbaz

Sharif on Friday said a

country's sound economic

growth was linked with its

stability, even billions of

budget could not make a

difference in improving the economic situation," he

said at the cabinet meeting,

which approved the bud-

getary proposals of the fis-cal year 2023-24.

said the common man was

bearing the brunt of infla-

tion, however, the government was taking steps to provide them relief in the

said, accepted all the re-

quirements of the Interna-

tional Monetary Fund

(IMF) and hoped that a

staff-level agreement would

Balochistan, Abdul Khaliq

Sheikh has directed the con-

cerned police officials to

take action against the ille-

gal petrol pumps operating

cial communique issued

here on the directives of

Inspector General of Police,

it was mentioned that sev-

eral illegal petrol pumps are

operating in the province.

pumps are operating ille-

As these petrol

According to an offi-

in the province.

be reached in near future.

budget

The prime minister

The government, he

"Without political

political stability.

with political stability

ower 14 months ago, he

added, it had to deal with

the challenge of IMF, post-

flood situation and global

tion that the current deficit

in 10 months was reduced

to \$3.3 billion and hoped

that the agriculture sector

appointed Rohail Sheikh as

his adviser and expressed

the hope that he would ful-

fill his responsibilities with

corded approval to the Fi-

Senator Ishaq Dar will

present the budgetary pro-

posals with an estimated

outlay of Rs 14 trillion in

This is the second

the National Assembly in

He expressed satisfac-

The prime minister

The cabinet also ac-

Finance Minister

inflation, he added.

would boost.

diligence

nance Bill 2023.

the evening.

QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary Malik Naeem

Khan Bazai meeting with Deputy Speaker Balochistan

IGP directs to take action

Independent Report censes, these are posing

Assembly Sardar Babar Khan Musakhail

Zardari says: People repose trust in PPP in AJK by-polls

LAHORE (APP): Former president Asif Ali Zardari has said the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is a reality, which is a symbol of federation.

In a statement issued here on Friday, he said victory of the PPP candidate, Ziaul Qamar, in by-elections in Azad Jammu and Kashmir was a great news for all those who believe in federalism and federation of Pakistan. He said the people of

Azad Kashmir have reposed their trust and confidence in not only in Ziaul Qamar and the PPP but also federation of Pakistan. He congratulated the newly elected Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) and urged him to expedite the PPP mission of serving people.

Newly commissioned PNS Shahjahan arrives Karachi

KARACHI (APP): The newly commissioned Pakistan Navy Ship (PNS) Shahjahan has arrived in Karachi that was commissioned on May 10, 2023 in a graceful ceremony held in Shanghai, China and attended by Chief of the Na-Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan

Niazi as chief guest.

During her maiden
voyage to Pakistan, PNS
Shahjahan visited Malaysia and participated in Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA) along with other 30 participating countries, said a Pakistan Navy news release on Fri-

During the stay at Langkawai, the ship was visited by various dignitaries, delegates and locals Later, PNS Shahjahan visited Colombo, Sri Lanka. The visit was aimed at strengthening bilateral ties. enhancing interoperability and exploring new vistas of cooperation between the two navies.

PTI chief accused of using people as per his need

LAHORE (INP): The ex-Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Firdous Ashiq Awan revealed that the PTI Chief 'utilized people' at his convenience.

While talking with a private TV Channel she stated foundation of a political party has been laid for stabilizing the political situation of Pakistan.

The former PTI leader said that those who played a role against Jahangir Tareen are now scattered Ahsan Iqbal, Shahzad Akbar, and the 'third character' are nowhere to be seen today.

Court adjourns hearing of bail

plea of Pervez LAHORE (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Lahore while expressing annoyance over non presenting record in connection with bail plea of Chaudhry Pervez Elahi has given time to present record of case till today (Saturday) in illegal appointments in Punjab Assembly (PA) case. Chaudhry Pervez Elahi former Chief Minister (CM) Punjab is arrested under the charges of making illegal appointments in PA. The bail petition of Chaudhry Pervez Elahi came up for hearing before Judge Ali Raza

against illegal petrol pumps all over Balochistan

QUETTA: The Inspector threat to the public and en-Police vironment. In this regard, the Deputy Inspector General of Police of all ranges and senior Superintendents of Police have been directed to take action against all such illegal petrol pumps, as mentioned in the official

> Moreover, the IGP also asked the concerned police high ups to submit the report of compliance of crackdown against the illegal petrol pumps within



QUETTA: Senior Vice President Chamber of Commerce and Industries Quetta Agha Gul Khilji addressing a press conference at CCIO.

Ahsan Iqbal for excelling in digital technology for national development

ISLAMABAD (APP): ference here. Minister of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday highlighted the importance of getting expertise in the field of digital advancements to match the development pace taking place in the modern world. "In today's world, the digital revolution is redefining all aspects of life whether it is the living style, way of getting education, doing jobs, governance system. So there is the need of producing such a human resource that fully exploits its potential and attains the second-to-none capabilities in the field of digital tech-

nology," he said while ad-

dressing an EDTECH con-

The minister said the nations that adopted the digital revolution achieved success and development, but those who did not embrace faced failure.

Ahsan Iqbal said there was a need to align the country's education system with fast-changing trends in technology so that educated and skilled manpower is produced to meet the international standards and get due share in the world markets. He was of the view that creativity and innovation was the key to achieving the required goals of development, and human resource with 'critical thinking' was a must to match the pace of digital technology.

Govt increases salaries despite financial constraints ISLAMABAD (APP): In a ment personnel. Further-

Parliamentarians say

surprising and generous move, the government has announced a significant increment in the salaries of the employees, despite facing financial constraints.

The decision has been hailed by all sections of society, as it demonstrates the government's commitment to supporting the middle class and alleviating their financial burdens, said parliamentarians in the National Assembly on Friday.

According to the official announcement, the government has increased salaries by 35 percent for employees in Grade-1 to 16, and by 30 percent for those in grade-17 and above. Additionally, the pension has been raised by 17.5 percent, benefiting retired govern-

more, employees with wages would receive Rs.30,000.

The decision to increase salaries and pensions comes at a time when many countries including Pakistan are grappling with economic challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath.

The parliamentarians said the increment in salaries and pensions is expected to have a positive impact on the lives of the government employees and their families. With the rising cost of living, this move will provide much-needed relief and help mitigate the financial woes faced by the middle class and downtrodden segment of society,



QUETTA: Provincial Health Minister Syed Ehsan Shah offering Dua after inaugurating ENT Department in Civil Hospital

Senator Qadir terms budget for FY2023-24 people-friendly

(IHC) while issuing notice in contempt of court case for not producing Shehryar Afridi in the respective court despite court's orders has sought reply from the respondents till June 15.

IHC summoned police investigation officer on

The case came up for hearing before a single bench of IHC led by Justice Arbab Muhammad

Tahir Friday. The court inquired why the court's orders were not complied with. As to why contempt of court proceedings be not initiated.

presented by the coalition

government under the ban-

ner of Pakistan Democratic

Economic Survey unveiled

on Thursday highlighted its

significant economic gains

in terms of improved exter-

increase in debt servicing,

the fiscal deficit reduced to

4.6 percent of the gross

domestic product (GDP) in

July-April FY 2022-23

against 4.9 percent for the same period last year, while

the primary balance re-

verted from deficit to sur-

plus. During the first 11

months of the outgoing fis-

cal year, the trade deficit

was narrowed down by 40

percent and the current ac-

count deficit by 76 percent

during July 2022-April

IHC issues

contempt of

court notice for

not presenting

Afridi

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court

nal and fiscal indicators.

The government in its

Even with a significant

Movement (PDM).

It was requested in the petition that police did not present Shehr Yar Afridi in any court till June 07 despite court's orders. The court should initiate contempt of court proceedings against the police. The court had ordered to present Shehryar Afridi in the respective court till

PDM govt failed in achieving economic

June 07

targets: Sheikh ISLAMABAD (INP): Awami Muslim League (AML) chief and former

interior minister Sheikh Rasheed on Friday said the government utterly failed in achieving economic targets set for FY2022-23. Sheikh Rasheed took

to Twitter to react to the Pakistan Economic Survey 2022-23 presented by Fi-nance Minister Ishaq Dar on Thursday.

Never seen such an economic survey before, Sheikh Rasheed said in his tweet and added even Dar is unable to understand what is happening to the national exchequer.

Court summons Imran Khan in person on July 6

ISLAMABAD (APP): A local court on Friday summoned Chairman Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan in personal capacity on July 6, in a case pertaining his threatening remarks about a female judge.

The court also served a show-cause notice to the person who submitted surety bonds for the bail of PTI's chief and said that neither PTI's chief nor his guarantor had appeared before this court during hear-

The court sought report from SSP security regarding the security situation in F-8 Kachehri.

Judicial Magistrate Malik Amanullah issued a four-page order regarding

QUETTA (APP): Chair- to mouth," he said, adding

man Standing Committee that an increase of a size-Petroleum, Senator Abdul Qadir on Friday hailed the balanced development approach of the federal government and termed the budget for the Fiscal Year 2023-24 as balanced and people-friendly.

Talking to APP, the senator said that, though it was hard to prepare a balanced budget, in view of the prevailing economic crisis, but the sincere and concerted efforts of the incumbent government made it possible to live up to the expectations of the people.

Highlighting the sa-lient feature of the FY budget 2023, he hailed the decision of a 30 to 35 per cent increase in the salaries of government employees.

"Due to the skyrocketing prices of the daily commodities, government employees were living hand ous regimes.

able amount in the salaries of the government employees will provide utmost relief to them. The senator also wel-

comed the cut in the import of raw materials of different commercial products as saying the effect of the cut in such products will trickle down to the ordinary and low-income class of the The chairman stand-

ing committee on petroleum also hailed the federal government's approach of balanced development across the country.

The balanced approach pursued by the federal government will remove the sense of deprivation including Balochistan, which always remained on least priority of the previ-

PBF endorses NEC's decision to close markets, commercial centers by 8pm

Business Forum has supported the decision of the National Economic Council to close the markets and commercial centers till 8 pm from July 1, saying that this will be the first step towards a civilized society.

Vice Chairperson PBF Balochistan Sana Khan Durrani while talking to the media, said that the measures proposed under the plan to conserve energy, such as closing shops and commercial centers by 8 pm, switching to LED lights to save more energy, could help the country save up to \$1 billion a year. Even wealthy coun-

QUETTA (APP): Pakistan tries like Europe and the US of keeping commercial areas open until 12 midnight. "No country has an irresponsible lifestyle like ours," she further said.

Lauding the province's stance on the issue, the PBF welcomed that the provinces have also agreed to implement the decision from July. "Circular debt is a huge challenge for the government," she said, adding that this move will save electricity and help reduce circular debt to a great extent. PBF also suggests that

the district administration should ensure that shops are opened by 10.00 am.



TURBAT: Member Chief Minister Inspector Team Shah Irfan Gharsheen inspecting process of test conducted for appointment of teachers

PTA conducts successful raids against illegal internet service providers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) in coordination with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), carried out two successful raids in Etihad Park Chungi Amer Sidhu, Lahore, and Tehsil Chowk Sarwar Shaheed, District Kot Addu, against illegal internet service providers, operating without a valid license from PTA. During the raids, operational internet setups and allied equipment were confiscated, said a news release.

arrested by FIA (one in Lahore and two in Kot Addu). The culprits have been taken into custody for further investigation.

The successful efforts against illegal internet service providers can be attributed to PTA's unwavering commitment, continuous monitoring, and persistent efforts to curb illegal internet services.

These actions are crucial in preventing tax evasion and misreporting, thus curtailing the loss to the national Three persons were exchequer.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Abdul Aziz Uqaili being briefed about development projects under Quetta Dev. Package