

# Independent

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## Governor Abdul Wali Kakar says Federal Govt. providing every possible facilities to youth of Balochistan

Appreciates PM Talent Hunt Programme; hopes it would become source of proper grooming of new generation

### Independent Report

QUETTA: Appreciating the Prime Minister's Youth Talent Hunt Programme and Sports League started in the country including Balochistan, the Governor, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that the federal government is providing every kind of facilities to the younger generation. He said that there's no dearth of talented players in the province, what's needed is to provide them proper training and facilities.

He said that we are proud of our national players and hoped that they would continue to brighten

He on the occasion appreciated the mega event of volleyball being held among teams of different districts in Quetta.

He said that participation of men and women volleyball teams in the event is an important progress towards formation of a healthy society.

He said that there's no dearth of talented players in the province, what's needed is to provide them proper training and facilities.

The Governor maintained that Pakistan has been world champion in different games, and even to



the name of the country and nation in future as well. This and similar other views were expressed by the Governor while speaking at opening ceremony of the PM's Talent Hunt Programme here at the Ayub Sports Complex on Thursday.

## Next budget's preparations delayed: BA's budget session deferred till June 19 as Finance Dept seeks "additional time"

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The budget session of Balochistan Assembly scheduled to be held today (Friday) has been postponed till June 19, 2023.

According to an official notification issued here by the Balochistan Assembly secretariat on Thursday night, the budget session of the assembly has been rescheduled. As per the revised schedule, the Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has summoned the budget session at 04:00 PM on June 19, 2023.

As per the agenda, the budget for the financial year 2023-24 would be presented in the session of assembly. Meanwhile, the Provincial Minister for Finance, Engineer Zamarak Khan Achakzai told a section of press that the change in schedule of the budget session is due to non-preparation of the budget. Therefore, the Finance Department has sought more time for preparations of the next financial year's budget of the province.



SAINT PETERSBURG: A group photograph of Pakistan's Ambassador to the Russian Federation, H.E. Shafiqat Ali Khan after signing the MoU between Pakistan Customs and the Federal Customs Service (Russian Federation) on the Exchange of Statistical Data on Mutual Trade while Secretary of Commerce, Muhammad Saleh Ahmed Faruqi also present on the occasion.

## Pak and Russia sign MoU on Exchange of statistical data between Customs

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

Pakistan's Ambassador to Russian Federation Shafiqat Ali Khan signed the MoU on behalf of Pakistan Customs while Secretary of Commerce Muhammad Saleh Faruqi witnessed the signing ceremony held here on the sidelines of Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum, a press re-

lease issued by the Ministry of Commerce said.

Minister of Trade and Investment at Pakistan's Embassy in Moscow, Shaikat Hayat Cheema, was also present on the occasion.

In order to implement the memorandum, the two parties will cooperate in the sphere of exchange of information on the methodology used for the maintenance of foreign trade statistics, its significant changes as well as the exchange of statistical data on mutual trade, except the data, not subject to disclosure or constituting a state or commercial secret.



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

## Pak, Azerbaijan agree to enhance trade, energy cooperation, start Baku-Islamabad flights

Pakistan is committed to the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, says PM Shahbaz, appreciated the bravery of country's forces for fighting for Azerbaijan's rights

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

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

The prime minister, accompanied by a high-level delegation is on a two-day

official visit to Baku at the invitation of President Aliyev.

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

Prime Minister Shehbaz, who earlier visited the mausoleum of Azerbaijan first president

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

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

He told the media persons that during the "wonderful" discussion, there was a "total unanimity" of views on various bilateral

and multilateral issues as the relationship was built on mutual trust and sincerity of purpose.

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

"Though our ties are so strong since ages, these do not reflect its intensity through trade and investment, exchange of visits and other important areas of cooperation," the prime minister remarked.

Emphasising cooperation

Continued on page 2

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

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

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

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

Govt keeps petrol, diesel prices unchanged

ISLAMABAD (APP): Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday said that the government decided to keep the existing prices of petroleum products remain unchanged for the next 15 days to facilitate the masses in the country.

The Minister in a press talk at PTV said Petrol would be available at Rs262 per litre, the price of high-speed diesel is Rs253, while the light diesel oil is Rs147.68, however, prices of kerosene oil have also been kept unchanged at Rs.164.07.

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## NA Speaker narrowly escapes in road accident

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of the National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf had a fortunate escape from harm in an accident on Mandera-Chakwal Road while returning to Islamabad.

The unexpected presence of a cow startled everyone as the Speaker's car traversed the road. Despite the driver's swift reaction to avoid a potential collision, an unintended contact occurred with the escort cars accompanying the Speaker's vehicle.

Fortunately, by the grace of Allah, both Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf and his dedicated staff emerged from the accident unharmed.

## PM greets Chinese President Xi Jinping on his birthday

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

"It is my great pleasure to extend heartfelt felicitations to H.E. President Xi Jinping on his birthday," the prime minister, who is currently on a two-day visit to Azerbaijan, wrote on Twitter.

He said under the dynamic leadership of President Xi, China had emerged as a global leader advancing international solidarity, peace and cooperation.

He said the "iron brotherhood" between China and Pakistan entered a new era of enhanced cooperation since his visit to Pakistan in 2015 and had been going from strength to strength ever since.

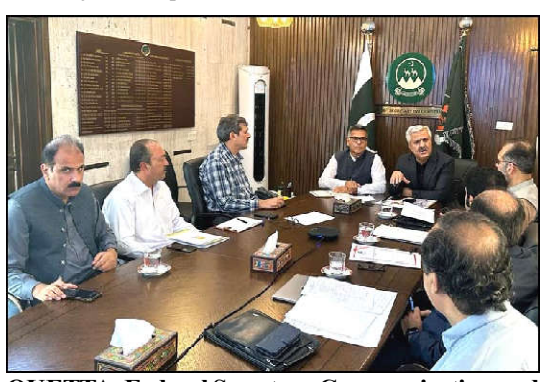
## UK appoints Jane Marriott as news HC to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (Online): Britain has nominated Jane Marriott as the new High Commissioner to Pakistan. Jane, the first female High Commissioner nominated for Pakistan, will take charge in mid-July, said British High Commission in a statement.

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

High Commissioner-designate Jane has extensive experience in diplomacy, internal, administrative and foreign affairs.

Jane Marriott has also held diplomatic responsibilities in Yemen, Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan.



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

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

### Independent Report

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

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

He further directed that procurement process of reconstruction of damaged bridges in Balochistan must

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## Election of District Councils' Chairman, Vice Chairmen to be held on July 6

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Election Commissioner Balochistan, Sharifullah has announced that the elections for the slots of Chairman and Vice Chairman of District Councils (DCs) of 35 districts of the province are scheduled to be held on July 6, 2023.

According to an official announcement made here on Thursday, oath taking of the elected chairman of the Union Councils and the members elected on the reserved seats of the district

councils is also scheduled to be held on July 6 ahead of the election of Chairman and Vice Chairman of the district councils.

The UCS' chairman already elected and the members elected on the reserved seats of women, non-Muslim, peasants and workers would take oath of their seats and then would cast votes for the election of Chairman and Vice Chairman of the District Councils in 35 districts except Quetta.



QUETTA: A delegation of Balochistan Medical Teachers Association led by Provincial Minister Mir Asadullah Baloch meeting with Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Imran Gichki

## Review and appeal are two different powers: CJP

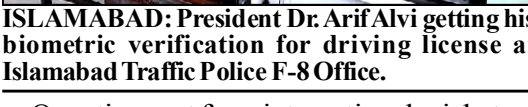
ISLAMABAD (Online): a 3 members bench of SC Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Hayat Bandial has remarked there is basic difference between review and appeal.

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

The CJP gave these remarks while presiding over a 3 members bench of SC during the hearing of petitions pertaining to Supreme Court judgment and review order here Thursday.

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

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



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

## On retirement from international cricket: CM appreciates services of Naheeda Khan for Pak women cricket team

Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo urges Chairman PCB to hire services of Naheeda Khan for improving women cricket in Balochistan

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has highly appreciated the services of International female cricketer, Naheeda Khan, belonging to Balochistan province for the Pakistani women cricket team.

In a message on the retirement of Naheeda Khan from the International cricket, the Chief Minister said that her services for the national women cricket team are praiseworthy.

He also appreciated Naheeda Khan for becoming a role model for the women of Balochistan and her excellent career.

Moreover, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo expressed best wishes for the future of Naheeda Khan and adopting the field of coaching in time to come maintaining his association with the game of cricket.

He believed that the courageous and talented Naheeda Khan would also prove her mettle in the field of cricket coaching.

He said that the support of her family for Naheeda Khan in cricket and that in a conservative society is unprecedented. She wholeheartedly represented Balochistan at the national and international

Continued on page 2

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

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

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

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

Clashes erupt between JI and PPP workers. Following the announcement of unofficial

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

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

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

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

The party requested the ECP to declare the polls "null and void" and also announce a new schedule for the polls.

## Denmark to cooperate Pakistan in developing green energy infrastructure

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He said partnering with the European countries on this ambitious agenda of green energy transition would not only have positive implications for Pakistan within the climate context but the economy as well.

Termining the agreement as very important, Danish Minister Dan Jorgensen said: "We share the same ambitions as we also want to fight climate change and both feel that international efforts to overcome the challenge are going too slow".

He assured the foreign minister of his country's full support in Pakistan's fight against climate change. He also called upon the international community to cooperate with Pakistan in this regard.



BAKU: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visits Old Baku city. Prime Minister also visited the Museum in the old city and Multan Caravan Sarai.



QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar photographed with players on eve of ceremony organized under aegis of Prime Minister Pakistan Youth Programme

## Second round of talks between TLP, government held

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

The TLP committee was comprised of Dr Shafiq Ameen, Ghulam Abbas Faizi, Mufti Muhammad Umeer Al-

Azhari, Maulana Ghulam Ghaus Baghdadi, and Jeelan Shah.

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

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

## Fed. Secretary Communication....

Continued from page 1  
be expedited in order to ensure commencement and completion as soon as possible.

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

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

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

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

He was informed that earth moving machinery is standby on all the vulnerable locations to meet any sort of emergency.

He was also briefed about the procurements relating to reconstruction of flood damaged bridges in the province being carried out through ADB loan.

Meanwhile Federal Secretary for Communications / Chairman National Highway Authority Capt. Muhammad Khuram Agha held meeting with Chief Secretary Balochistan Abdul Aziz Uquaili and briefed on NHA Balochistan PSDP Portfolio and Flood preparedness for upcoming Monsoon Season on Thursday 15th June 2023 at Chief Secretary Office at Quetta. The meeting was also attended by Member NHA Balochistan Mr Shahid Ihsanullah, Additional Chief Secretary (Development) Balochistan Hafiz Abdul Basit and Provincial Secretary Communications Mr Ali Akbar Baloch.

Federal Secretary Briefed the participants about ongoing and planned projects of NHA PSDP projects. He emphasized that despite the financial constraints, Government of Pakistan allocated about 30% PSDP allocated for NHA to road projects in Balochistan in both FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24, which aptly indicates the importance of Balochistan to the Federation. The single highest allocation of 17.5 billion in the Budget 2023-24 has been made for Karachi-Chaman National Highway (N-25), a project of vital importance.

The Federal Secretary Communication gave an update on post flood rehabilitation and reconstruction works, where NHA has taken up all 14x damaged bridge structures of Balochistan with Asian Development Bank (ADB) and presently reconstruction of these bridges amounting to Rs. 3.2 billion are under procurement which includes Pmjara, Bibi Nani, Lunda, Kanta, Balesi and Mando Bridge, where construction work will start in August, 2023. Furthermore, he briefed on NHA's flood preparedness and contingency plan, which is in place to meet with any eventuality in the coming monsoon season. It was further informed that requisite heavy machinery is on standby 24/7 at all vulnerable locations to meet any emergency.

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

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

The minister said Pakistan and Bosnia Herzegovina enjoyed historic and friendly relations.

He appreciated the services of the Bosnian ambassador for enhancing relations between the two countries, during his stay in Pakistan.

## Cyclone 'Biparjy' potent threat to the vulnerable communities: Sherry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Senator Sherry Rehman on Thursday said the very severe cyclonic storm (VSCS) 'Biparjy' of category-3 had observed a decline in its intensity but its density prevailed due to emerging weather conditions posing a potent threat to the vulnerable communities.

The federal minister flanked by Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik provided the latest update on the VSCS BIPARJOY to the media here.

Senator Rehman said the cyclone's direction had changed from Karachi but its associated risks were

prevailing in the impacted areas.

"The water level rise, rainfall, and storm alerts had already been issued whereas the four districts that would probably face the impacts are Thatta, Sujawal, Badin, and Ketu Bandar."

"There is a shift in the direction of 'Biparjy' and landfall will take place at night. However, there are 17 different weather stations monitoring the situation and providing the most updated information," she noted.

"The distance of the cyclone was almost 235 kilometers (km) from Thatta and it had reduced from 248 km to 230km from Karachi, which was 155 km away from Ketu Bandar has a wind speed

of 120-140 km/h," she added.

The Minister added that the sustained surface wind speed was varying. Some 30 feet high waves could rise in the coastal areas and the local people have to stay alert.

"The cyclone is moving from north to northeast. However, heavy rainfall is expected to take place around 100mm in Karachi, Hyderabad, Dadu, Tando Allah Yar, Tando Mohammad Khan, Sanghar," she said.

Moreover, in Balochistan Lasbela, and Hub would also face the predicted rainfall. However, Thatta, Sujawal, Umerkot, Badin and Tharparkar were to face very extreme rainfall of up to 300mm, she added.

"The government preparations have been made and were prepared to manage the natural disaster," she said.

"The evacuation of around 81,925 people have been carried out from the coastal areas by Army, Navy, PMSA, Rangers, and other services during the process."

She informed that Five Corps, 16 companies of Ranges, 1,400 soldiers, and 303 Pakistan Navy personnel were deployed in the field along with two battalions of Coast Guards whereas the Pakistan Air Force was kept standby to chip in the relief and rescue effort.

The government of Sindh was taking an effective lead in the process whereas all out efforts had

been made to comfortably evacuate the masses from the impacted areas.

"However, public resistance is natural and it's not a crime but rather there is a need to inform people to cooperate in this situation," she added.

Chairman, NDMA Lieutenant General, Inam Haider Malik said, the spread of the cyclone was towards north and north-east and its speed had declined to 130-150km/h.

"The cyclone's impact has been delayed but its intensity remained consistent."

The Army and Rangers had successfully carried out an evacuation of people that around about 82,000 and had continued till late at night.

## Google presents new doodle reminding people of Pak date for election

ISLAMABAD (Online): Google has presented new doodle for Pakistan reminding people of Pakistan the date for general elections this year.

Google has featured Pakistani flag and ballot box on new doodle in the context of general elections in Pakistan. oogle by changing its doodle for Pakistan is reminding us that the current year is year for general election as per constitution of Pakistan.

As per Google national assembly will stand dissolved on August 13 and it will be mandatory to hold election in Pakistan within 60 days of completion of national assembly term. This way the general election for national assembly and provincial assemblies seats will have to be got conducted on October 14.

## Trial of civilians in military courts: Chairman PTI files appeal plea against registrar office objections

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chairman PTI has filed in Supreme Court (SC) appeal plea against the objections raised by registrar office on the petition filed by him with reference to trial of civilians in military courts and his demand for judicial inquiry into May 9 incidents.

Chairman PTI has taken stance in his appeal plea registrar office raised objection that question of public importance was not highlighted. While the first question in the petition related to judicial inquiry into May 9 incident and unconstitutional care taker governments. The objections raised by registrar office are unnecessary and baseless.

It was requested in the appeal plea that his petition be fixed for hearing by nullifying the registrar office objections.

## Senate continues debate on budget 2023-24

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senators from both government and opposition benches on Thursday participated in the debate on the budget 2023-24 in the upper house of the parliament and recommended various proposals to make it more people-friendly.

Participating in the discussion on the budget for the year 2023-24, Senator Asad Ali Junajo suggested that funds should be released for flood-affected people of Sindh province who faced the loss of lives and property during the 2022 floods.

He added that relief should also be announced for farmers who received great losses due to the flood.

He hailed the decision of a sufficient increase in the salaries of government employees by up to 35% considering their problems. He suggested making the same increase in pension also to give relief to the pensioners.

He said that electric vehicles should be promoted as the petrol rates are high. He said that small electric vehicles should be given more exemption from duties for low-income class people.

He said that people have expectations from the government and expressed the hope that the government will meet their expectations.

Senator Fauzia Arshad said that more incentives should be announced for the poor segment of society. He added that the government should take sincere steps to achieve targets.



BAKU: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visits Old Baku city. Prime Minister also visited the Museum in the old city and Multan Caravan Sarai

## PAC directs NAB, FIA to submit report about NTL's irregularities

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Thursday directed the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to submit a complete report about irregularities and embezzlement in NADRA Technologies Limited (NTL). Presiding over PAC meeting, its Chairman Noor Alam Khan asked the relevant authorities to investigate the matter of NTL's board members to compile a report for submission in the next meeting to be held on June 20.

The committee had expressed its resentment over the corruption and irregularities in many departments and stressed the need to probe them in order to recover the looted money of national exchequer from the accused.

The interior secretary briefed the committee that the ministry had collected some documentary evidences against NTL and also presented them before the committee for further directions to ensure transparency in the system. The committee asked the secretary interior to write a letter to the prime minister regarding PAC's members reservations over NTL irregularities and corruption.

The PAC reviewed the audit paras of 2019-20 of the interior ministry and sub-ordinate departments to ensure the financial system better and transparent to yield desirous results.



ISLAMABAD: A protest demonstration to draw the attention of the international community to the dangerous project of India and the plight of the Kashmiri leaders, organized by All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir chapter in front of the Indian High Commission.

## CM Balochistan Inter-District Cricket Tournament to start soon: Secretary

QUETTA (APP): Secretary for Sports and Youth Affairs of Balochistan Muhammad Ishaq Jamali on Thursday said that Chief Minister Balochistan Inter-District Cricket Tournament would start soon under the Department of Sports and Youth Affairs of Balochistan. 16 teams will participate in the tournament, including two teams from Quetta, while 14 teams from other districts registered with the Pakistan Cricket Board would be included, he said.

In a statement issued here, Ishaq Jamali said that equal attention was being given to all games and this step has been taken considering the popularity of the game of cricket.

He said that the talent of Balochistan would emerge from this tournament after this football and hockey and gold cup of cricket would also be held, in which the best national and international players and teams from all over Pakistan would participate in the Cricket Gold Cup.

He said the provincial government would provide local players ample opportunities so that their talent could be highlighted all over the world.



QUETTA: Chief Coordinator National Disaster Management Authority Tanveer Ahmed Paracha addressing participants of national workshop on "Coastal Hazards, Local Needs, Gap Analysis & Framework of Recommended National Preparedness & Response".

## CM appreciates...

Continued from page 1  
level, he commended.

However, the Chief Minister expressed sorrow over the attitude of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) with Naheeda Khan and urged its Chairman Najam Sethi to hire her services for improving women cricket in Balochistan.

He desired that such a task should be given to the talented female cricketer so that she may produce more cricketers like her in the province.

He said that it is a matter of pride for us that Naheeda Khan has become recognition of the province at international level.

She also proved that our girls are second to none and they are equally talented, the Chief Minister commended further.

She also termed Naheeda Khan asset of the province and we are proud of her.

## Pak, Azerbaijan agree....

Continued from page 1  
Gwadar Port offered, the prime minister said both the countries could cooperate to enhance trade.

He told the media that the Pakistan-Azerbaijan cooperation in defence was not a secret as it was meant for peace of the region, not any aggression.

Extending an invitation to President Ilham Aliyev to visit Pakistan, the prime minister said he also looked forward to see the Azerbaijan delegations of economic, aviation and energy ministers to discuss at length the cooperation in petroleum, and solar energy.

In his remarks, President Ilham Aliyev welcomed the prime minister and his delegation to Baku and said both the countries had agreed to enhance cooperation in the fields of energy, defence and education.

He said Azerbaijan hoped to host more Pakistani students and Azeri students studying in Pakistani universities contributed to strengthening bilateral relationship.

He told the media persons that the two sides had agreed to increase the number of military exercises as military capability was of utmost importance considering the changing circumstances.

He said strong military capacity guaranteed independence and territorial integrity as Azerbaijan also liberated its Karabakh region from Armenian occupation through its military might, not dialogue.

He said Pakistan and Azerbaijan always stood shoulder to shoulder as both the peoples shared same views on host of issues.



QUETTA: Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Balochistan Imran Gichik presenting a souvenir to Secretary General Pakistan Hockey Federation Syed Haider Hussain

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Continued from page 1  
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## Indonesian Dy Minister says: Strong bilateral ties, cultural similarities with Pakistan can promote tourism, trade

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

Talking to APP in an exclusive interview after the inauguration of the Bali Beyond Travel Fair (BBTF) in Bali on Thursday, she said there are multiple common characteristics culturally and religiously between Indonesia and Pakistan that can help enhance people-to-people exchanges as both countries have the majority of Muslim populations.

Regarding connectivity between the two countries, the deputy minister said that direct air flights are essential to promote bilat-

eral tourism between Indonesia and Pakistan. She added that both countries are working on starting the flights soon, which ultimately enhances our people-to-people relations.

She further stated that tourists from Pakistan have multiple opportunities and plenty of destinations. Indonesia provides convenient access to mosques and halal foods, which taste similar to Pakistan's cuisine, an essential need for Muslims.

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

according to the Global Muslim Travel Index in 2019. She added that Lombok would be the next popular destination for Pakistani tourists because of its natural beauty after Bali.

Talking about investment opportunities in the tourism sector, the deputy minister said that investment is a big part of the success of tourism. In Indonesia, "we have created nine specialeconomic zones including in Bali, to promote tourism investments, and inviting investors from all over the world as well as Pakistan," she added.

She also hoped that more Pakistani investors would come and be part of innovation growth. She maintained that the media is vital in promoting the tourism economy between the two countries.

Informing the total number of tourists in a year, she said in 2022, Indonesia has a target of 4.7 million tourists, receiving more than 5.4 million.



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

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

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

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

The minister said the situation was even more challenging than initially anticipated, as revealed during the initial briefing to us in 2021 on the state of the economy.

Reflecting on the efforts of the PML-N government from 2013 to 2018,

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

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

He said that PML-N government utilized foreign loans with responsibility and invested in infrastructure and other projects such as ports, motorways, and metro systems, ultimately leading to a prosperous Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: A view of the fallen tree along the road side as many places in Capital City are seems such scenes after speedy winds during storm last night, in Federal Capital.

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

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

Children aged 4 to 14 years from different sections of society have enthusiastically enrolled in the Summer Camp, with more than 250 participants currently attending, and further enrollments ongoing. The camp aims to impart positive and constructive skills to the children through various engaging activities.

During the month-long program, the children will receive comprehensive training in basic medical assistance, archery, and self-defense sessions. The Summer Camp curriculum also includes workshops on handicrafts, shooting, martial arts, and other recreational activities. All these activities are conducted on a non-profit basis, with the expenses being borne by the participating individuals.

The Islamabad Capital Police has been organizing the Summer Camp since 2002, successfully completing 22 editions of this program. Furthermore, optional self-defense courses were introduced in 2021, with eight courses conducted so far.

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

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

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

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

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

## Two Corona cases reported in last 24 hours: NIH

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

As per the data shared by the National Institute of Health (NIH), the case positivity ratio was 0.12 percent while seven patients were in critical condition.

No death was reported from the Coronavirus in the last 24 hours while 1,621 Covid-19 tests were conducted.

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

## IHC reserves judgment in contempt of court plea

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has reserved judgment on contempt of court plea in PTI leader Shehryar Afridi case. The hearing of the case was adjourned till June 19. The case came up for hearing before single bench of IHC led by Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir. During the hearing of the case counsel Sher Afzal Murratw told the court the court's orders are being violated openly. Shehryar Afridi has not been presented before the respective court in Islamabad.



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

## Ahsan Iqbal launches data portal for PSDP projects

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

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

The event was attended by the Additional Secretary Planning Minis-

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

It is noted that the PSDP, which constitutes the Federal Development Budget, serves as a crucial framework for the government's development agenda, setting sectoral and regional priorities under the national plan.

This strategic move aims to harness the potential of digital technologies to enhance transparency, improve governance, and promote public awareness

of the government's development course and priorities. Through the digital platform, citizens will have greater insight into the development projects being undertaken across the country.

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

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

## NA designates Haris Rauf Pakistan's fast bowler as goodwill envoy for SDGs

ISLAMABAD (Online): Deputy Speaker National Assembly Zahid Akram Durrani and Convener SDGs Parliamentary Task Force Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam warmly

welcome SDGs good will ambassador famous cricketer Mr. Haris Rauf in Parliament House Islamabad today. Convener SDGs task force Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam briefed about importance milestone achieved by SDGs Secretariat. She also said that it is first parliament in the world which owned SDGs for progress and development of country. Convener SDGs Task force Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam also

briefed the participants regarding SDGs basic goals. She also said that SDGs Secretariat is focusing youth to train them for achieving SDGs goals.

Ms. Shahida Rehmani Secretary WPC was also present and she highlighted the women friendly legislation initiated and supervised by WPC especially for young generation of the country. Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durrani and Convener, National Task Force on SDGs Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam warmly welcome Mr. Haris to the Parliament and pinned their hopes that he would play a pivotal role in furtherance of efforts extended by the Parliament.

## Pak Envoy to Saudia applauds Makkah Route Initiative

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Kingdom Saudi Arabia, Ahmad Farooq, commended the Makkah Road Initiative and the strong fraternal relations between the two countries.

"The Makkah Road Initiative is an affirmation of the Kingdom's commitment to ensuring the best possible Hajj experience for all pilgrims", Farooq said in an interview with Saudi Press Agency. He also conveyed his thanks and appreciation to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and to His Royal Highness the Crown Prince for harnessing all efforts.

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

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

The Pakistan delegation was led by Additional Foreign Secretary (Europe) Ambassador Muhammad Saleem while the Belgian delegation was led by Director General, Bilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Belgium Ambassador Jeroen Cooreman, a Foreign Office press release said.

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

The additional foreign secretary stressed the need for continued high-level engagement and dialogue between Pakistan and Belgium.

The two sides agreed to make Bilateral Political Consultations a regular annual feature of bilateral engagement. The next round of consultations will be held in Brussels next year at mutually convenient dates.

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

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ISLAMABAD: Senior Leader of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Amir Muqam cuts the ribbon to inaugurate 'Saqafati Mela' (Cultural Festival) at Lok Virsa in the Federal Capital.

## IHC instructs IGP to re-submit answer in Mazari arrest case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday directed Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Dr Akbar Nasir Khan to re-submit his reply in the contempt case with regard to arrest of former minister Dr Shireen Mazari. IHC's Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb, hearing the case, expressed his dissatisfaction over the reply submitted by the IGP, who along with his lawyer Zahid Asif appeared before the court.

The lawyer said the IGP had submitted his answer on the last date of hearing. No police official was present in the court room when the IHC issued order stopping the police to arrest Dr Mazari, he added.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb noted that the IGP, in his reply, had expressed ignorance about the court's order, and also stated that even his subordinates were not aware of it. The reply further said that the Rawalpindi Police had arrested Dr Shireen Mazari on the order of deputy commissioner and the Capital Police assisted them because of their ignorance about the court orders.

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## FOSPAAH conducts assessment of prison's condition

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Ombudsman for Protection against Harassment (FOSPAAH) Fauzia Viqar Thursday conducted a comprehensive assessment of prison conditions and the treatment of prisoners during her visit to Central Jail at Kot Lakhpat, Lahore. The primary objective of her visit was to ascertain if women prisoners were subjected to any form of harassment, torture, mistreatment, or abuse at the time of arrest, during police custody, and at the prison. After conducting meetings with police officials, prison authorities and, interacting with prisoners, she firmly concluded that no harassment or mistreatment was reported by women and that reports of sexual harassment were baseless, said a press release issued here on Thursday. During her visit, Viqar held productive discussions with the Inspector General of Police Punjab and, Inspector General of Prisons Punjab Mian Farooq Nazeer, to gain insights into the arrest and incarceration of women prisoners.

IG Police Punjab informed the Ombudsman about the various facilities of the 1787 complaint system, police protection centres, women's safety app for victims of harassment and notified harassment inquiry committees to take up issues of harassment.

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ISLAMABAD: Visitor takes interest in exhibition, "ASpace between the Worlds", by a group breaking visual artists held at Pakistan National Council of the Arts.

## SC wraps up review petitions about Grand Hayat hotel being in-fructuous

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has wrapped up review petitions about constitution avenue one (Grand Hayat Hotel) being in-fructuous.

A 3-member bench of SC presided over by the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial took up the case for hearing Thursday.

CDA counsel told the court during the hearing of the case this case was already heard by three judges. Now bench will have to be increased as per law. CDA review petition has now become in-fructuous. CDA has sealed the building by cancelling the lease.

The counsel for Grand Hayat hotel took the plea our review petition contains four points. CDA executed lease agreement of Rs 4 billion. The matter came in SC then the court directed to deposit Rs 17 billion in 8 years.

Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan remarked SC order is very clear. CDA could cancel lease on defaulting on one installment.

The counsel for Grand Hayat hotel told the court it has become impossible for running the project after the amount of the project has been increased. The court should review decision about amount and time period.

## Traffic Police to ensure road discipline in city

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

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

providing an opportunity for attendees to present their suggestions.

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

He urged them to uphold decency and manners



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

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

## Senate body on Delegated Legislation meets

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

Chaired by Senator Mian Raza Rabbani, the meeting was attended by Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani, Senator Rubina Khalid, Senator Keshoo Bai, Senator Syed Ali Zafar and senior officers from the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, Ministry of Aviation and Ministry of Law and Justice along with all concerned. The Committee adopted reports of the sub-Committees and analysed sub-ordinate legislation of the attached departments of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training that included the Federal College of Education, the Federal Directorate of Education and the Inter-Board Committee.

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

# Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Friday June 16, 2023

## CM's remarkable initiatives indeed

During course of last few days, the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has taken certain remarkable initiatives to surprise of many.

While on one hand, the Chief Minister issued standing directives to the provincial ministers and administrative secretaries of all the provincial government departments to issue the appointment letters of the posts within a week time whose tests and interviews have been completed till April 2023.

The Chief Minister also issued directives to the provincial ministers and secretaries to strictly monitor the process of recruitments in their respective departments and ministries ensuring all recruitments purely on merit and that in clean and transparent manner so as to give right to the deserving persons.

It is commendable when the Chief Minister warned of stern action against the secretary and member of the selection committee on receiving any information about the sale of jobs in anyway.

Certainly, this directive of the Chief Minister came on the reports that several thousand recruitments are pending for years in different departments including Health, Education, Public Health, Agriculture, Levies, Finance, Colleges, etc, as also mentioned in an official communique shared with the media recently.

In addition to this, the Chief Minister has also directed to expedite the process of recruitments in the province.

Moreover, in another important move, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has refrained the provincial ministers and government functionaries from making inauguration of public nature and welfare projects in the province.

In a tweet on his social media account, Twitter on Sunday last, the CM categorically stated that people would make inauguration of the public projects now and onward.

The CM maintained that whether it is school or college, hospital or sports ground, health card or Green bus project, all these are public money. He said that we would not waste our resources merely on the inaugural ceremonies for taking or giving credit of these public projects.

As per the reaffirmation of the CM, inauguration of the schools would be got inaugurated by the students studying in these public institutions.

Similarly, the inauguration of public hospitals would be inaugurated by the poor patients being treated in them, he made it clear adding that the inauguration of green bus service would be inaugurated by the sisters and daughters travelling in the public transport.

What's noteworthy is the saying of Chief Minister who made it clear that this is public exchequer and as such the public should be given credit. Ours' job is just to ensure accurate use of the public exchequer.

In a major move of austerity, Mr. Bizenjo also imposed ban on use of mineral water in the CM's secretariat.

The CM particularly mentioned that he is using normal water, and as such the guests would also be offered the normal water instead of the mineral bottled one.

Worthwhile to mention is that the Chief Executive of the province had already imposed ban on use of the bomb and bullet proof vehicles. After that, he didn't use the bomb or bullet proof vehicles of the CM's secretariat. Last but not the least, the CM issued an official memorandum to Chief Secretary for limiting the security arrangements during VVIP movement just because the general public suffer due to the extraordinary security arrangements made for the provincial ministers, members of assembly and other senior government functionaries.

Even he also urged the Governor Balochistan to limit his security protocol during his movement to avoid any inconvenience to the people. Undoubtedly, these initiatives taken by the Chief Minister are remarkable, exemplary, and unprecedented. If implemented with letter and spirit, the CM's initiatives and decisions would set new example in the otherwise most backward province of the country.



Ali Tauqeer Sheikh

The Pakistan Economic Survey is a flagship report on the state of the economy. The latest for 2022-2023 was issued last week by the Ministry of Finance. It provides the most authoritative information and commentary on the overall performance of the country's economy, macroeconomic trends, and such indicators as GDP growth rate and the rate of inflation. The Economic Survey has recognised climate change as a cross-cutting subject. How well is it integrated into the country's development goals? This is an important question, particularly since the national economy is still bleeding from the big hit of \$30.13 billion it took in July last year, owing to the flooding triggered by the erratic monsoons.

This year's Survey has 17 chapters, including one on climate change. Except for the chapter on 'Energy', none of the remaining chapters has mentioned climate change, let alone engaged in such issues as adaptation

and mitigation, technology transfer, or climate financing. None of the chapters has highlighted how climate risks are adding to the cost of development, reducing productivity, stunting the GDP growth rate and raising commodity prices and inflationary trends, while pushing people below the poverty line. In fact, except for Chapter 10 on 'Education', there were hardly any efforts to link other sectors with the Sustainable Development Goals.

The very first chapter on 'Growth and Investment' records climate change as a "threat to future global economic growth", but this pedagogical statement is not translated into action points for the national economy in this or any subsequent chapter. Climate change indeed poses several threats, but it also offers many opportunities for growth and investments. The chapter has, however, not acknowledged how it has stunted economic growth or what opportunities it offers for investment if the country decides to follow a low-emissions and resilient development pathway. The chapter has not only set the

direction for the Economic Survey, but has also failed to capture the heartbeat of the global development discourse and national vulnerabilities and investment priorities.

The second chapter on 'Agriculture' also shies away from any reference to climate adaptation, even if the sector suffered a loss of \$12.9bn in last year's massive floods. Food security hinges on following what is called climate-smart agriculture. The changing weather is impacting cropping patterns, yields and even the suitability of certain crops, but the chapter has not referred to it. No lessons from the recent flood losses have been drawn, no recommendations made, no future direction set and no priority areas of investment identified. Ironically, in analysing the challenges to agriculture and livestock, the chapter did not even mention the role that women play and how acutely their vulnerabilities have increased because of climate-triggered disasters.

The chapters on 'Manufacturing and Mining', 'Fiscal Development' and 'Capital Markets and

Corporate Sector' are central to planning growth, mobilising the private sector, and accessing the international climate finance. Yet, they missed an opportunity of mentioning the costs of mitigation, alternative technologies and energy transitions. Collectively, they failed to build Pakistan's business case for climate-compatible development. The chapter on 'Trade and Payments' narrowed its interest to "investment climate" but without factoring in the emerging threats from some of Pakistan's trading partners in the shape of carbon tariffs or carbon intensity per unit of production.

Frequent disasters have begun to affect the affordability as well as the availability of domestic and international finance. In discussing the Pakistan Investment Bonds, the chapter on 'Public Debt' did not provide any guidance on how to mobilise private capital or forge public private partnerships to build upon Wapda's experience with green bonds for wastewater management or urban

rejuvenation.

The chapters on social sectors, 'Education', 'Health & Nutrition' and 'Population, Labour Force and Employment' have maintained their siloed approach and not explained how their delivery is impacted by climate-induced migration, urbanisation, and demographic trends. The chapter on 'Transport and Communication', oddly, makes no references to the need for investments in public or mass transit systems, cleaner fuels to reduce emissions, or how to improve air quality for human health.

The chapter on 'Information Technology and Telecommunication' draws attention to cybersecurity but not on how to enable a better, safer, more sustainable future through the use of innovative technologies.

The chapter on 'Social Protection' has shown how the delivery institutions needed for climate disasters are still absent at the local level and how the role is given to the BISP that was not designed to support natural disaster relief. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Thinking about the news



Kamila Hyat

Generally speaking, the news for Pakistan is not good. It now seems likely that the IMF tranche may not come through, leading to still greater economic chaos. But while all this happens, we have TV channels coming up with headlines about the quality of cherries from Quetta and other places and what each one tastes like. At a time of economic, social and political chaos, we all know why this is happening. But even political chaos and statements from leaders are not the real news. The real news is quite different and really remains something that is not available to many of us.

In a household of six, where a father places his sons in a madrassah and removes his daughters

from school, the impact of poverty is very real. Millions across the country live in such poverty, many not eating more than one meal a day. But even as this becomes hard reality and Pakistan continues to fall down the list of nations in terms of their human development indexes, we do not talk about what people face and how people live. We do not give news about the desperate patients who crowd government hospitals or try and collect enough money to visit private ones in order to deal with hepatitis B, HIV, or any other problems. For them, the battle with costs and the ability to access information is simply too great.

At the same time, we have a situation where the gulf between the rich and those who live at the bottom of the social ladder is growing rapidly. While some are still able to spend four or five thousand rupees per person per meal at the top restaurants in big cities, others line up for a plate full of rice or a naan filled with minced meat distributed by some charity. This,

then, is what has become of a nation that had potential and possibility. Students from top universities admit that there is limited potential, while those graduating from even top engineering schools can become supervisors or engineers who will never go on to develop a new model of any electronic item such as a mobile phone or continue their training by acquiring skills that are currently not available to them and which they will never acquire as they spend years of their life as supervisors, happy that they have a job at all.

In the meanwhile, we have narratives of various kinds that we continue to tell. The political narrative is, of course, clear to all of us. But there are others that only end up adding further to linguistic and ethnic divides. There are also other problems. For example, in Gilgit-Baltistan, where protests are put down regularly and organizations banned at regular intervals. In a tiny province we need to question why this should happen and whether we think of GB as anything more than a

holiday spot for the rich and the privileged.

There are many other questions which need answers and we need to think of what is happening to the minds of children who at the age of eight years have a nine or ten year old looking after them or those in whose homes domestic help is treated as untrustworthy and not quite human.

In this situation, it is hardly surprising that the invisible masses go ignored and neglected. We need to actively think about them if we wish to evolve into a country capable of caring for the people and meeting their needs. At the present time, this is not happening. We can only reach the level of other countries if we alter our state of thinking and remember that there are millions who live amongst us who are barely able to survive. The number of those living below the poverty line is put at one third of the population. But this may be an underestimation, given the unreliability of figures in the country. We should also remember that a huge proportion of these

people are children, given the demographic balance in the country.

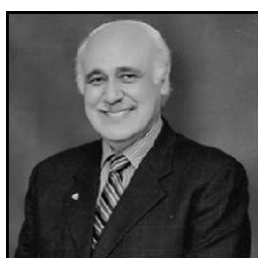
We need to move beyond the kind of lifestyle we have adopted with events of various kinds, in many cases featuring celebrities, being passed off as real news. The real news is written many layers below the surface and very few TV channels or media outlets reach out to pick it up and bring it before the public. This is our disaster and will only lead us to further trouble in the years ahead.

There is also every possibility that these years are going to be very difficult ones. They are going to be difficult for our children and difficult for our youth. There is every indication that more hardship is on the way in the form of inflation in a situation where people already struggle to buy even the most common vegetables or lentils. Even the food which was once common in households has disappeared and even those who can afford more cannot be sure of its quality or how they can purchase items that are safe to consume. The burden of dis-

ease in the country is enormous. But of course, headlines do not speak about the people who die of diseases such as hepatitis every day, or other concerns of a similar nature. This is our tragedy. It can change only if we change our mindset and start thinking of ourselves as a nation which puts its people above all and recognizes that the question of security can only be ensured if people are given a secure foundation and the right to access basic needs, only then can we become a nation able to move forward.

What we consider security, and for each person this may be a different identification, is not really what we need. There are far too many people who go unnamed and move like shadows across our country unnoticed by those more privileged than them, who are able to lead more elitist lives and forget that the gulf we are facing now will continue to grow unless action is taken now and we at least start thinking of those who live or simply exist all across the land. -- Courtesy TheNews

## Juggling budgets



F.S. Aijazuddin

Mr Ishaq Dar's recent address to the National Assembly on the budget for 2023-24 reminded one of the story of a finance minister who had a nightmare that he was presenting his country's budget, and woke up to find that he was.

Mr Dar can be forgiven for sleeping with his eyes open during his own speech. He tried hard to disguise his ennu, for he has juggled too many such budgets during his four tenures as finance minister (1998-1999; March 2008-May 2008; 2013-2017; and from September 2022 until now).

If the website of the Ministry of Finance is to be believed, Mr Dar "is known for his expertise in macro-economic issues, balance of payment crises, energy security, bilateral and multilateral debts, food security, diplomatic crises, parliamentary politics, and international dispute settlements for Pakistan." Heady qualifications.

It does not mention a superior one — his relationship as an in-law to three-time prime minister Mian Nawaz Sharif. Nor does it disclose that between 2000-2002, Dar spent almost two years in custody during which he disgorged ("under duress", he insisted later) information that he had laundered \$14.86 million on behalf of Nawaz Sharif. In June 2013, Mr Dar found himself catapulted again into the finance minister's seat and given less than a fortnight to baste a budget already dressed for the oven by his predecessor. Some journalists questioned whether Mr Dar could man-

age, to which prime minister Nawaz Sharif is said to have retorted: "What else has he been doing for the past five years?"

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

In Pakistan's budget, the constituencies could not be more clearly demarcated. Creditors form the largest bloc. Next year, Rs7.3 trillion is owed to them for debt servicing and repayment. This monumental burden may be renegotiated, but that would simply be postponing the inescapable. "Creditors," as Benjamin Franklin once observed, "have better memories than debtors." The second large constituency (that carries an equally big stick) is Defence Affairs & Services. It extracts Rs1.8tr of flesh from an already emaciated cashless cow.

Those serving the government are a constituency too close not to be appeased. The cost of running the government (Rs714 billion) and pensions (Rs761bn) are shown separately in the budget whereas in fact they belong together. The first is the sum of obligations to current employees, while pensions which include those for retired defence personnel (Rs563bn) are the recurring reward for past service.

The increase therefore of 35 per cent in salaries of government servants of grades 1-16 and 30pc for grades 17-22 are more than open-handed largesse by a nervous government anxious

to buy their help in the next elections. This additional cost will add to the load of future pensions, to be borne by us, the next and subsequent generations of Pakistanis. Pakistan Railways, once the iron horse of our transportation system, will receive a paltry Rs33bn, while the National Highway Authority (a haven for khaki and civil retirees) can expect almost five times as much — Rs157bn.

The allocations for social sectors like population control and management, health (Rs24bn) and education (Rs97bn) receive grudging inclusion in the government's budget. Regard-less of whether these are the responsibility of the federal or the provincial governments, they are the real needs of all Pakistanis, regardless of domicile and age (23m of whom are out-of-school children.) To the government, they clearly do not matter because the future is not a constituency.

The government will argue that with this budget, it has tried to fill a half-empty glass. Sceptics see only a glass whose half contents are draining dry. We are a nation that has enough foreign exchange to cover only one month of imports, yet we posture like Dickens's perpetually insolvent Mr Micawber, confident that "something will turn up" to thwart the spectre of default.

In the 1970s, Mr Ahmed Dawood (then one of Pakistan's richest industrialists) could be seen shopping with a cloth bag in Karachi's Empress Market. That was his way of keeping his finger on prices and the pulse of the economy.

Perhaps, ministers should learn from his example. They should do their own household shopping and let their minimum-wage menials run the country instead. The latter are more adept at balancing budgets than any government functionary. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Fisherfolk misery



Rida Tahir

Sailing the seas in fragile boats to earn a day's living is no easy task. A fishworker, whether in Pakistan or across the border, is exposed to great vulnerability and marginalisation. Fishworkers' communities live in coastal areas where they are affected by the degradation of the ecosystem. Their situation becomes worse when they find themselves arrested and are incarcerated in prisons across the border for years on end. One storm over invisible maritime borders is all it takes for a person to be captured and thrown into prison in an alien country.

It was estimated that 654 Indian fishworkers were incarcerated in Karachi's Malir Jail; 631 arrested fishworkers had already completed their sentences and their nationality had been verified. Meanwhile, 83 Pakistani fishworkers are detained across the border in Indian jails; many of them have completed their sentences, and their nationality, too, has been verified. This information is contained in a joint letter released by the National Fishworkers Forum and the Pakistan-India Peoples' Forum for Peace & Democracy.

It is often said that hope dies last; one cannot lose hope, for if you lose hope, you lose everything. But Pakistani fishworkers languishing in jails across the border for a number of years, had lost all hope. However, with Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari's recent visit to Goa for the Shanghai Co-

operation Organisation meeting, this lost hope might be reignited. For the visit prompted the release of several Indian fishworkers from Pakistan's prisons as a gesture of goodwill.

Of the 654 Indian fishworkers mentioned, Pakistan released the first batch of 198 fishworkers on May 11, 2023. The second batch of 200 fishworkers was released on June 2, 2023. A third batch will be released next month.

The Agreement on Consular Access came into force on May 21, 2008, with the objective of ensuring humane treatment for the nationals of both India and Pakistan, who had been arrested, detained, or imprisoned in the other country and for them to have reciprocal consular facilities. Section 5 of the agreement reads: "Both governments agree to release and repatriate persons within one month of confirmation of their national status and completion of sentences."

Moreover, the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (ratified by Pakistan in 1969 and India in 1977) mandates via Article 36 that the country's consular post must be informed if one of its citizens is detained, in custody, or arrested, "without delay", and that the prisoner be informed of his/her legal rights.

Further, the UN Convention against Torture (which India has not ratified but Pakistan did in 2010) mandates that under Article 6 "any person in custody... shall be assisted in communicating immediately with the nearest appropriate representative of the state of which he is a national" and that when a state "has taken a person into custody, it shall immediately notify the states... of the fact that such person is in custody and of the circumstances which warrant his detention".

Moreover, the Body

of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment and the Model Agreement on the Transfer of Foreign Prisoners and Recommendations for the Treatment of Foreign Prisoners provide important principles and guidelines for the protection of persons under detention or imprisoned in a foreign country.

The national framework regarding the regulation of the entry, movement and removal of foreigners in Pakistan is governed by the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939, the Foreigners Act, 1946, and the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1966. Across these laws and rules, a foreigner is defined as "a person who is not a citizen of Pakistan".

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

Pakistan's gesture of goodwill of releasing the fishworkers is a step in the right direction. A shimmering light has been lit for the fisherfolk community in both countries. India must reciprocate by releasing Pakistani fishworkers languishing in Indian prisons.

At the same time, it is important to highlight that it is not enough to have one-off occasions where fishworkers are released and sent home. Rather, the national and international legal framework must work in a systematic and coordinated manner to ensure that nobody languishes in jails across the borders because they had inadvertently found themselves in the other's territory. -- Courtesy Dawn

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

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

The meeting decided that trial of the May-9 accused would take place in jail. Daily hearing of cases registered under the Anti-Terrorism Act would take place, and the relevant departments would be duly informed about the trial proceedings in jail. Consensus was reached in the meeting to expedite legal actions against the culprits involved in the events of May 9.

The CM instructed the police and prosecution department to present strong evidence against the accused and emphasised that no leniency should be

shown to any culprit involved in the events of May 9, while innocent individuals should not be subjected to punishment. The CM also ordered to intensify efforts to apprehend the absconding culprits.

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

Meanwhile, the meeting held under the chairmanship of caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi at his office decided in principle on Thursday to hand over the management of historic and

cultural landmarks of the province to the Walled City of Lahore Authority (WCLA).

Recognising the mesmerizing allure and profound historical significance of Punjab's cultural heritage, the chief minister emphasised the imperative of restoring these architectural gems to their original magnificence. He ordered to expeditiously remove encroachments surrounding historical buildings in Lahore, Gujranwala, and other cities.

The meeting unanimously resolved to clean up the vicinity of historical buildings and undertake cultural embellishments in the surrounding areas. The CM entrusted the task of restoring historical structures to their pristine glory to the WCLA.



**KARACHI:** Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori visiting coastal area of Younas Abad.

## KP Minister, CEO EZDMC visit Jalozai EZ, inaugurate Aqua Pura Smart Industry

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: KP Minister for Industries, Commerce & Technical Education (IC&TE), Adnan Jalil, along with Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KP-EZDMC), Javed Iqbal Khattak, visited the Jalozai Economic Zone on Thursday.

The visit was aimed at exploring the thriving industrial landscape within the zone and showcasing the remarkable achievements of the company for the growth in the province. During their visit, they inaugurated Aqua Pura Smart Industry, a state-of-the-art facility specializing in advanced drinking water treatment technologies. This cutting-edge enterprise will only

contribute to the local economy. Furthermore, Minister Adnan Jalil and CEO Javed Khattak have had the opportunity to witness the development of Khalid Zubair Chemical Industry that is under construction.

This upcoming venture holds great promise for the industrial sector and will play a pivotal role in fostering innovation, job creation, and economic prosperity.

Emphasizing the importance of environmental sustainability, the provincial minister Adnan Jalil and CEO Javed Khattak also planted a tree under the "green plantation drive" campaign. This symbolic gesture underscores the commitment of KP-EZDMC towards creating a greener, cleaner, and more sustainable industrial landscape.



**KARACHI:** Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon holds a press conference outside Sindh Assembly building.

## 1,100 more cops to become part of police force soon: IGP

LAHORE (Online): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar said on Thursday that 11,000 young officials including 2000 women would become part of the police force soon.

He visited District Police Lines Qila Gujjar Singh and addressed promoted police officers and personnel of Lahore Police. He said he was grateful to caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Chief Election Commissioner and Chief Secretary Punjab for ensuring record promotions of police employees across the province.

He said the Lahore Police had been the first in terms of performance despite challenges in all nine regions of the province. The IGP said that joining of 1,100 police

officers, promoted in the investigation wing, would improve the investigation matters.

He told the young police officers the system of Safe City Authority Lahore had been fixed, and now the project would be launched in other cities also. He said after formation of the service structure in the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), the promotion procedure up to grade 19 had also been approved. He said "we have also formulated promotion structure of wardens and patrolling police, who were recruited in the past". Moreover, all pending promotions from 2009 to 2013 had been completed.

He said Rs 1,750 million were being spent on welfare of the police force. Health screening of the entire force had been completed, liver, kidney,

## Turkey envoy inaugurates Peds Cardiology Ward at PIC

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

Speaking on the occasion he said that modern machinery has been provided to the hospital and hoped that the patients suffering from heart disease would now be able to get better health facilities.

He said the Turkish government is cooperating with Pakistan in health, education and other sectors. "We have long-standing brotherly relations with Pakistan," he said adding that the new government of Turkey is trying to further strengthen these ties.

## Man killed over resistance in dacoity bid

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): Unidentified armed outlaws looted cattle and killed a man for putting resistance at Mouza Pakka Naich in the jurisdiction of Saddar Alipur police station on Wednesday night.

According to a police spokesman, unidentified armed robbers entered the farmhouse of Sharafat, a resident of Pakka Naich, and held hostage the owner at gunpoint. The criminals took away four cattle worth over Rs one million and also tortured to death Sharafat when he tried to resist the dacoity bid. Police concerned reached the spot and started the investigations into the incident while the body had been shifted to a hospital for conducting an autopsy.

## LWMC CEO inspects cleanliness operation

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Waste Management Company's cleanliness operation continued even during light and heavy rain and LWMC Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Babar Sahib Din visited various parts of the city to inspect the process on Thursday. The LWMC officers and workers stayed in the field to ensure smooth disposal of water from low-lying areas. More than 6,000 waste containers were cleared as per the routine operation. Special cleaning arrangements were made in low-lying areas where water mostly stagnates in rain.



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

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

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

According to a press release issued here, the minister wrote two letters to the Prime Minister and the Federal Minister for Planning and Development in support of the demand made by the political parties, social organizations and All Parties Conference (APC) held on June 7, against the results of the census in the division.

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

Meanwhile, Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi here on Thursday gave a cheque worth Rs 4 million

to the leaders of High Court Bar Association (HCBA).

According to a press release issued here, the minister, on behalf of the federal government, handed over the cheque to the recently elected HCBA President Malik Hidayat Ullah Malana and General Secretary Waqar Alam in an event organized by the People's Lawyers Forum here at the High Court Bar.

The minister said the supremacy of law and impartial delivery of justice played a basic role in the development of nations.

He said that an independent justice system was necessary for a developed, prosperous and stable Pakistan.

The mutual cooperation of the bar and the bench was indispensable for the improving the justice system, he added.

He said the federal government would continue its support for resolving the issues of the

lawyers' community.

The minister said the efforts would be made with the cooperation of the federal government to acquire government's land for establishing lawyers' colony in Dera Ismail Khan.

Leaders of People's Lawyers Forum including Member Provincial Bar Council Sardar Hashmat Nawaz Sadozai Advocate, Former President of District Bar Association Quazir Khan Advocate, Sardar Adnan Khan Sadozai thanked the minister on this occasion.

They said the People's Lawyers Forum would continue to play its role in resolving the problems of the lawyers of the district.

On this occasion, Additional Advocate General Malik Muhammad Asad and Assistant Advocate Generals Amir Farid Sadozai, Shah Fahad Ansari, District Bar President Irfan Advocate, Former President Akhtar Hussain Qureshi Advocate were also present.



**GILGIT:** Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Khalid Khurshid Khan giving away winner trophy to team captain of GB Scouts during prize distribution ceremony of Jash-e-Baharan Freestyle Polo Tournament at Aga Khan Shahi Polo Ground.

## ANF seizes 184 kg drugs in seven operations

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

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

near Motorway Toll Plaza Islamabad.

The recovered hashish was concealed in the CNG cylinder of a vehicle. During the operation, an accused resident of Peshawar was arrested. In another operation, two kg heroin and two kg Ice drug concealed in secret cavities of a vehicle were recovered.

The vehicle was intercepted near Sangjani Toll Plaza on G.T Road. Two Afghan nationals were also arrested on the spot.

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

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

During the hearing of the case police authorities presented report in the court on behalf of IG

police. It was told in the report no case has been registered by Punjab police against Aleema Khan. One case is registered against Aleema Khan in Multan with reference to property. The court was informed through the report Aleema Khan arrest is not wanted by Punjab Police at present.

The court disposed of the petition in the light of report presented by police on behalf of IG Punjab.



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

## Jirga meeting of merged areas elders held in Governor House

PESHAWAR (APP): A 60-member Jirga meeting called on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Haji Ghulam Ali at the Governor's House, consisting of tribal chiefs, owners, and elders of the merged district of Bajaur here on Thursday.

The Tribal Jirga apprised Governor Haji Ghulam Ali about the problems and difficulties faced by the business community and the people of the area related to electricity load shedding, educational institutions, hospitals, irrigation, and infrastructure.

"Despite the economic crisis, the federal government has allocated 57 billion rupees for the merged districts in the budget," Haji Ghulam Ali informed the Jirga elders.

"The federal and provincial governments are taking serious steps to ensure the socio-economic development of the merged

districts," Haji Ghulam Ali told the Jirga members. He said, "Tribal districts have become part of the province, problems and difficulties will be solved according to the constitution and law."

"The tribal people have always supported the country's integrity and unity, national institutions, and defense institutions including the Pakistan Army, which is a matter of pride," Haji Ghulam Ali said. "Bajaur is a peaceful area and the land here is also fertile," he said.

He said, "An efficient irrigation system can be implemented with the installation of solar tube wells for the development of the agricultural sector in Bajaur. For the first time, the elders are making the Governor's House like their home and they thanked the Governor for listening to their problems and giving assurance for their solutions."



**LAHORE:** Fahd Haroon, Minister of State/Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Public Communication and Digital Platforms visits Jinnah House.

## CIC KPIC takes serious notice of non-compliance in hearing of complaints

PESHAWAR (INP): The Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) KP Information Commission (KPIC), Mrs. Farah Hamid Khan took serious notice of non-compliance, in a personal hearing of complaint no 9594 of Shaheer Durrani, resident of District Peshawar here in the Commission office.

The complainant namely Mr. Durrani filed a complaint under Section 23 (1) of the RTI Act 2013 to the Commission against the University of Engineering & Technology Mardan (UETM) wherein he had sought information regarding the appointment details of the Additional Registrar from the PIO/Deputy Registrar Establishment Mr. Ishaq Khan and Mr. Kamran, Law Officer UET Mardan.

CIC directed the PIO/Registrar UET Mardan to proactively disclose all the 12 categories of information of the University as mandated in Section 5 of the KP RTI

Act 2013 on the official website of the University which will not only help in merit-based appointments but also enhance public trust in the government institutions. While adjudicating another complaint no 9975 of Dr. Khalid Khan, who had filed a complaint with the Commission against KP Information Technology Board requesting for the provision of attested copies of the amended KP IT Act, amended Service Rules, details of foreign and domestic visits of the employees of the KP IT Board etc. The CIC took serious notice of non-compliance of Section 5 of the KP RTI Act i.e. Proactive Disclosure of Information and directed the PIO/Deputy Director Finance KP IT Board, Mr. Yasir Shafique to provide the relevant documents to the complainant with in the stipulated time so as to meet the objective of transparency in the province.



**LAHORE:** Ms. Fauzia Viqar, Federal Ombudsperson for Protection against Harassment visits Central Jail, Kot Lakhpat.

## Dr Ramesh Kumar says: Picturesque tourist destination Malamjabba destroy in militancy

MINGORA (APP): Minister of State and Chairman of Prime Minister's Taskforce on Gandhara Tourism Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankwani on Thursday said that Malamjabba, located in the Swat Valley of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province is a picturesque tourist destination renowned for its natural beauty and adventure opportunities but unfortunately due to terrorism it was affected.

During his two-day visit to Buddhist Archaeological sites, located in Swat Valley Minister Kumar visited Malamjabba and said he visited Malamjabba to promote inter-faith harmony and generate revenue through the promotion of religious tourism. Minister for State Dr Ramesh Kumar said that

nestled amidst the stunning Hindu Kush mountain range, Malamjabba offers breathtaking panoramic views, and lush green meadows attract tourists from all over the world.

The region is blessed with a moderate climate, making it an ideal getaway for nature lovers, hikers, and skiing enthusiasts, Kumar added. The resort offers well-groomed slopes, ski lifts, and equipment rentals, catering to both beginners and experienced skiers, said Dr. Kumar. Ramesh Kumar further said that the region is also home to several beautiful lakes and offers a variety of other activities for tourists to enjoy. He said Malamjabba boasts a rich cultural heritage, with several historical sites and archaeological remains scattered throughout the valley.

## Pakistan, Azerbaijan sign document to boost trade cooperation

BAKU (Azerbaijan) (APP): Pakistan and Azerbaijan on Thursday signed a Statement of Understanding to enhance bilateral cooperation, particularly to boost the volume of energy trade.

The document was signed by Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar and Azerbaijan's Minister of Economy Mikayil Jabbarov at a ceremony witnessed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, along with his cabinet members.

The signing of the Statement between Pakistan's Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Economy of Azerbaijan is aimed at promoting bilateral trade.

The document establishes a framework

for fostering closer collaboration between Azerbaijan and Pakistan and promoting trade between the two countries.

Recognizing the importance of expanding their friendship and economic partnership, the ministers expressed their dedication to diversifying trade and enhancing economic development through this agreement.

Under the agreement, both countries will collaborate to create favourable conditions for bilateral trade by sharing trade information, organizing events, conducting studies to identify exportable products, and promoting economic cooperation.

For this purpose, both countries agreed to

mobilize their efforts to finalize a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) by early August of 2023.

They emphasized the potential benefits that the PTA would bring and affirmed their commitment to working collaboratively to realize the shared goals outlined in the Statement of Understanding. The signing of this agreement marks a significant milestone in the economic partnership between Azerbaijan and Pakistan, strengthening the foundation for increased trade and economic cooperation. It is expected to create new opportunities for businesses, enhance bilateral investment, and contribute to the overall growth and prosperity of both nations.



BAKU: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif witnesses the signing of Statement of Understanding between Pakistan and Azerbaijan for promotion of trade between the two countries.

## Khurram Dastagir says: No major breakdown reported in prevailing cyclonic situation

HYDERABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Energy Khurram Dastagir on Wednesday said that no major electricity breakdown had been reported due to the cyclonic situation. However, the Federal Ministry of Energy was working on the rehabilitation of the electricity system likely to be affected in Cyclone 'Biporjoy'.

Addressing the press conference in HESCO Headquarters here on Wednesday, the Federal Minister said on the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, He was visiting different areas of the coastal belt to evaluate the cyclonic situation.

The minister said eight poles collapsed in the

Jhampir area due to heavy winds and two electricity towers also collapsed in the Laadiyon area of district sujawal, however, restoration work had been started to restore the power supply.

He said that the Cyclonic situation had put adverse impacts on Shipping activities in Port Qasim particularly on the arrival of RLNG which triggered a shortage of gas however under the leadership of Pakistan Muslim League- Nawaz (PML-N) this problem was also resolved by arranging gas supply internally. The minister said the Federal Energy Ministry was working on a national level because the cyclonic situation was not confined to one province but it was a national issue.

## Ayaz Sadiq vows to tackle smuggling, tax evasion for economic growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Thursday reiterated his firm resolve of the government to take all appropriate measures to end menace of smuggling and tax evasion for enhancing revenue collection to attain sustainable economic growth in the country.

Addressing the ceremony of study conducted by Ipsos on "Unveiling tax evasion: a closer look at five sectors in Pakistan", the minister stressed the need of complete harmonization among the federal and

provincial tax collecting authorities to plug the tax leakages.

The minister said that government was striving to take all the stakeholders on board for making viable tax policies to stop tax evasion and enhance local revenue collection, besides incentivizing local manufacturing sector to discourage the imports.

He said the unrealistic policies of last government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf have sparked the imports as it jumped to \$85 billion, which not only put huge pressure on local foreign exchange reserves but it also suffered the

domestic industry.

First time in the history of Pakistan, the transfer and postings were put on sale during last four years, he said adding that as a result all those who purchased these posts work for their vested interests rather than serving the country. He stressed the need to bring all the industry under track and trace system to stop tax evasion, besides removing tax anomalies at federal and provincial level as well as simplification of tax return by the Federal Board of Revenue to overcome accumulated losses of Rs 500 billion.



JHAMPIR: Engineer Khurram Dastagir, Federal Minister for Power visiting the damaged towers of Wind Power Projects due to recent cyclonic wind.

## Industrialization is key to success: Syed Murtaza

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industry and Production Makhdoom Syed Murtaza Mahmood said that industrialization is key to success and stressed giving due attention to this important sector.

He said this while visiting the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), meeting with

occasion, Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI said that Pakistan will not be able to stand in the list of developed nations until industrialization in Pakistan is not our top priority.

Development of industry will help in increase of export curtail imports and generate employment opportunities for our people. He said that the present century is



the century of economy and economically strong nations will rule the world.

It takes time for SMEs to quickly integrate and align with larger industrial units until proper financing and facilities are not provided to them.

President FPCCI suggested that special areas in our SEZs should be allocated for SMEs.

The FPCCI recommended that the government should ensure the provision of special facilities and interest-free loans to promote SMEs in rural areas to curb migration toward the major cities.

Speaking on the

## Lawmakers advocate for enhanced incentives, development in Agri sector

ISLAMABAD (INP): Lawmakers in the National Assembly have called on the government to introduce increased incentives in the budget for 2023-24 to bolster the agriculture sector and achieve self-sufficiency in agrarian products.

Participating in general discussions on the federal budget lawmakers in the National Assembly have joined forces to emphasize the need for robust incentives and comprehensive development strategies in the agriculture sector in the budget. Khurshid Ahmed Junejo of the PPP highlighted the urgency of safeguarding agriculture from the adverse effects of climate change and underscored the importance of constructing dams for water reservoir capacity.

He urged the

government to explore global markets for key crops to reduce dependence on international financial institutions. Maulana Jamaluddin of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) applauded the increased budget allocation for social support programs but expressed concern over the welfare of people in tribal districts.

He called for dedicated measures to address the neglected regions, combat international conspiracies, and provide further relief for the impoverished segments of society. Moreover, he stressed the rehabilitation of individuals affected by counter-terrorism operations.

Sabir Hussain Qaimkhani of the MQM condemned the May 9 incident and demanded justice for its perpetrators.

## Pakistan's total foreign reserves reach \$9.378b

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

The State Bank of Pakistan, in a statement issued here on Thursday, informed that foreign reserves of the central bank increased by US\$ 107 million to US\$ 4,018.7 million in the week ended on June 09, 2023.

Meanwhile, net foreign reserves held by commercial banks stood at US\$ 5,359.5 million, it added.

In the previous week ending on June 02, 2023, total liquid foreign reserves held by the country was US\$ 9,334.8 million.

Among them, foreign reserves held by the central bank were US\$ 3,912.2 million while net foreign reserves held by commercial banks were US\$ 5,422.6 million.

## Eid-ul-Azha: Dar announces salary-payment to FG employees on June 23

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday announced payment of salaries to the government employees for the current month on June 23, enabling them to meet needs of their families ahead of Eid-ul-Azha. Making announcement on floor of the National Assembly, the minister said he had consulted Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who is currently in Baku - the capital of Azerbaijan - on an official visit; and directed the Secretary Finance to ensure issuance of the salaries accordingly.

He said the decision had been taken after the heads of different divisions contacted the Ministry of Finance, requesting for early-payment of the June salary to the government employees as the Eid-ul-Azha would fall during last days of the current month.

Earlier, the minister said formation of the two anomaly-redressal committees for budget.

## Budget estimates of PC for FY 2023-24 approved

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Privatisation Commission (PC) Board on Thursday approved budget estimates of the PC for the fiscal year 2023-24, amounting to Rs1248.8 million.

The Board met here under the Chairmanship of Abid Hussain Bhayo, which discussed several topics requiring the PC Board's attention, said a press release.

The meeting discussed agenda item entailed the presentation and subsequent approval of the Audited Accounts for the fiscal year 2013-

2014.

The Board expressed appreciation for the extensive deliberations carried out by the Audit Committee and PC management in finalizing the audited accounts.

The Board emphasized the importance of promptly completing the audited reports for the remaining years on priority.

These estimates, categorized under various heads of expenditure, will undergo further approval by the federal government as required by PC Ordinance, 2002.



QUETTA: President Anjuman-e-Tajran Pakistan Ajmal Baloch addressing press conference along with others at press club in Provincial Capital.

## Steps underway to uplift national economy: Tasneem

SARGODHA (APP): State Minister for Productions and Industries Tasneem Ahmed Qureshi said on Thursday the incumbent government was striving hard to uplift the national economy which had been ruined due to wrong policies of the past government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. Talking to APP, he said that political stability was highly important to strengthen national economy, attract investment, and ensure development and prosperity in the country.

"Until there is no political stability, there would not be any economic stability as both are inter-linked with each other," he added.

In a situation where there was political instability in the country,

the political opponents were hatching conspiracies everywhere and misleading the nation; nobody would be ready to invest in the country, he observed.

Putting responsibility of current economic crisis on the past regime, the state minister said it breached its own agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) due to which it was now hesitant to resume its agreement. However, he said the incumbent government had met all the conditions of IMF and hoped that the programme would resume anytime very soon. He condemned and said that May 9 incident was a shameful act, adding that a patriot citizen could not even think of what happened on May 9.

## PSX loses 145.28 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) shed 145.28 points on Thursday, a negative change of 0.35 per cent, closing at 41,369.17 points against 41,514.45 points the previous day. A total of 149,676,270 shares were traded during the day as compared to 179,644,403 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs.3.606 billion against Rs.3.755 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 309 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 77 of them recorded gains and 208 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 24 companies remained unchanged. The three top-trading companies were TPL Properties with 21,691,380 shares at Rs.13.81 per share; WorldCall Telecom with 17,474,550 shares at Rs.1.15 per share.

## Pakistan E-commerce entrepreneurs stand out in UK market

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistani freelancers and entrepreneurs are expanding abroad by establishing a company in the US and UK markets, as data shared by UK government on foreign-owned company establishment shows that Pakistani nationality ranks first in the e-commerce category. In addition, in the State of the Amazon Seller 2023, Pakistan ranks the fifth among the top selling countries in Amazon USA. Considering the number of company establishments, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Workhy, Kenan Aqikelli on Thursday said Pakistan has a great potential in terms of entrepreneurship ecosystem, and added "In the last five years, we see that most of entrepreneurs operating in field of e-commerce and doing business as freelancers are Pakistani citizens."

possibilities of digitalization. The data by the United Kingdom (UK) government on foreign-owned company establishment shows that Pakistani nationality ranks first in the e-commerce category. In addition, in the State of the Amazon Seller 2023, Pakistan ranks the fifth among the top selling countries in Amazon USA. Considering the number of company establishments, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Workhy, Kenan Aqikelli on Thursday said Pakistan has a great potential in terms of entrepreneurship ecosystem, and added "In the last five years, we see that most of entrepreneurs operating in field of e-commerce and doing business as freelancers are Pakistani citizens."



RAJANPUR: Provincial Minister for Industries, Trade and Energy SM Tanveer inspecting the cotton crop during his visit to South Punjab.

## Long term economic polices vital for sustainable economic growth: Ashfaq

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Reforms and Resource Mobilization Commission Ashfaq Yusuf Tolaha said that long-term policies coupled with transparency and self-accountability were indispensable to achieve sustainable economic growth.

Addressing the post-budget session organized by the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), he categorically dismissed the reports of economic default, adding that currently there were some challenges faced by the country on economic front, but we will come out of them soon. He said that he was the representative

of the traders and will play an active role to solve their problems, adding that all the recommendations received by the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce are being seriously considered.

He urged the need to enhance tax compliance culture for broadening the tax base in the country, besides promoting tax return filing for the documentation of the national economy.

Speaking on the occasion, Senior Vice President Fad Waheed said that the Pakistani economy lost billions of dollars due to floods. A taxpayer may be taxed to a certain extent, We have to address the culture of not paying taxes.



Senator Saifullah Abro, Chairman Senate Standing Committee On Power Presiding Over A Meeting Of The Committee At Parliament House Islamabad.

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

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

In an interview on state television on Tuesday, Lukashenko brashly warned that he wouldn't hesitate to order their use if Belarus faced an act of aggression. Russian President Vladimir Putin has said the weapons will be deployed to Belarus next month and will remain under Moscow's exclusive control.

"We are, of course, closely monitoring what Russia is doing. So far, we

haven't seen any changes in the nuclear posture that requires any changes in our posture," Stoltenberg told reporters before chairing a meeting of NATO defense ministers at the alliance's headquarters in Brussels.

NATO's secretive nuclear defense planning group is set to meet on Friday. The meeting has long been planned and is not a reaction to recent developments, but the alliance is concerned about Putin's threats and his decisions to pull Russia out of important arms limitation treaties.

"Russia's nuclear rhetoric and messaging is reckless and dangerous," Stoltenberg said. "Russia must know that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought." He

noted that "Russia has invested heavily in new modern nuclear capabilities and also deployed more nuclear capabilities, including close to NATO borders, for instance, in the high north."

Earlier this year, Putin announced the planned deployment of short-range nuclear weapons to Moscow's neighbor and ally Belarus in a move widely seen as a warning to the West as it stepped up military support for Ukraine. Russia is also using Belarus as a staging base for attacks in Ukraine.

During a meeting with Lukashenko on Friday, Putin said work on building facilities for the weapons would be completed by July 7-8, and they would be moved to Belarusian territory quickly after that.



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

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

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

The decision aims to demonstrate the US military's ability to swiftly reposition forces and deliver overwhelming power when necessary.

"Russian Forces' unsafe and unprofessional behaviour is not what we expect from a professional air force. Their regular violation of agreed upon airspace deconfliction measures increases the risk of escalation or miscalculation," CENTCOM commander Gen. Michael "Erik" Kurilla said in a news

release. "Alongside our partners and allies, we are committed to improving the security and stability in the region."

The F-22 Raptors, hailing from Langley Air Force Base's 94th Fighter Squadron in Virginia, have been integrated with other Coalition forces on the ground and in the air. The move comes in response to Russia's repeated violations of agreed-upon airspace deconfliction measures,

which pose an increased risk of escalation or miscalculation, according to CENTCOM Commander Gen. Erik Kurilla. In recent weeks, Russian military forces in Syria have disregarded deconfliction protocols with American and Coalition troops, causing concerns among US military officials.

## US targets North Korea's missile development in fresh sanctions

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: The United States targeted North Korea's missile development in fresh sanctions, issuing the punitive action after South Korea earlier on Thursday said its neighbor fired two short-range missiles.

The South Korean military said North Korea fired two short-range missiles off its east coast on Thursday, less than an hour after Pyongyang warned of an "inevitable" response to military drills staged earlier in the day by South Korean and U.S. troops.

The U.S. Treasury Department in a statement said it imposed sanctions on two North Korean nationals it accused of being involved in the procurement of equipment and materials that support the country's ballistic missile program.

"The United States is committed to targeting the regime's illicit procurement networks that feed its weapons programs," the Treasury's Under Secretary

for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, Brian Nelson, said in the statement.

Thursday's action targeted a Beijing-based representative for the Second Academy of Natural Sciences, which Washington said is a national-level organization responsible for research and development for North Korea's advanced weapons systems. His wife, who Washington said is assigned to the North Korean embassy in China, was hit with sanctions as well.

The Treasury in the statement said North Korea continues to use a network of representatives abroad, including in China and Iran, to illicitly import components necessary for its weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs.

North Korea's ballistic missile and nuclear weapons programs are banned by United Nations Security Council resolutions that have sanctioned the country.

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

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

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

"Essentially practicing hitting merchant vessels. That's the only reason why you would do that in the Gulf of Oman," the official said.

The United States has accused Iran of being behind a number of attacks since 2019 against merchant vessels in strategic Gulf waters, which contain some of the world's most important oil and shipping routes.

## Iranian president boosts Nicaragua ties on tour of US-sanctioned countries

**Monitoring Desk**  
MANAGUA: Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi pledged to deepen ties between Managua and Tehran on a visit to Nicaragua Wednesday as part of a tour of Latin American countries under US sanctions.

The Iranian leader, whose country is also sanctioned by the United States, kicked off his trip in Venezuela earlier this week before flying to Nicaragua. He is also due to visit Cuba. "We are willing to share our capabilities and our experiences with the brotherly and friendly country of Nicaragua," Raisi said in a speech before deputies in the National Assembly, according to an official translation.

"There is a great geographical distance between Nicaragua and Iran and the Latin American region, but our hearts are very close and our goals are also very close," he said.



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

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

**Monitoring Desk**  
KALAMATA: Rescuers scoured seas off Greece on Thursday in a massive search operation, as hopes dwindled of finding survivors of a shipwreck that killed at least 78 migrants in one of Europe's deadliest such disasters in recent years. Reports suggested hundreds of people had packed the fishing boat that capsized and sank early on Wednesday in deep waters about 50 miles (80 km) from the southern coastal town of Pylos, while being shadowed by the Greek coast guard.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"It was a fishing boat packed with people who refused our assistance because they wanted to go to Italy," coast guard spokesperson Nikos Alexiou told broadcaster Skai TV.

"We stayed beside it in case it needed our assistance which they had refused."

The search operation was due to continue until at least Friday morning, according to government sources. Chances of retrieving the sunken vessel were remote, they said, because the area of international waters where the incident occurred is one of the deepest in the Mediterranean.

## US pushing India to seal drone deal

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

India has long expressed interest in buying large armed drones from the United States. But bureaucratic stumbling blocks have hampered a hoped-for deal for SeaGuardian drones that could be worth \$2 bil-

lion to \$3bn for years. US negotiators are counting on Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's White House visit on June 22 to break the log jam. Since the date for Modi's visit was fixed, the US State Department, Pentagon and White House have asked India to be able to "show" progress on the deal for as many as 30 armable MQ-9B SeaGuardian drones made by General Atomics, two sources said. Modi and Biden are also expected to discuss co-production of munitions and ground vehicles.

## Two killed in shooting at Japan army base

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

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



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

## Arab countries account for quarter of Israeli arms exports

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

The defence ministry, which oversees and approves the exports of Israel's defence industries, said one quarter of deals were for drone systems, with "missiles, rockets and air defence systems" making up another 19 per cent.

Ministry figures show total exports have

doubled over the past nine years.

A breakdown of the regions to which the goods are exported showed a leap among Abraham Accords countries from \$853 million (nine per cent) in 2021 to \$2.96 billion (24pc) in 2022. The US-brokered Abraham Accords from 2020 saw Israel normalise ties with the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Morocco. The defence ministry would not provide further details. "Global instability increases the demand for Israeli air defence systems, drones, UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles) and missiles."

## Police charge India wrestling chief with sexual harassment

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: Indian police said Thursday they had charged the country's wrestling federation president with sexual harassment and stalking, following a protest by the sport's top figures demanding his arrest.

In April, a group of wrestlers began a sit-in in the capital New Delhi to demand the arrest of Brij Bhushan Singh, who is also a lawmaker for the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Singh was accused by Olympic medalists and other Indian wrestling champions of groping female athletes and demanding sexual favours.

## UN requires delegates at climate talks to reveal affiliation in effort to curb lobbying by Big Oil

**Monitoring Desk**  
BERLIN: The United Nations will require delegates attending its annual climate summit to disclose their affiliation in an effort to clamp down on undue influence by fossil fuel companies and others, officials said Thursday.

Climate campaigners have long complained that the so-called Conferences of the Parties, or COPs, are undetermined by lobbyists for oil and gas firms attending under the guise of country delegates. Participants will also be asked to provide optional information on their relationship with the government agency or organization that's nominated them and those declining to do so will be

flagged accordingly.

Civil society groups welcomed the decision, which will apply to them too, but said participants should also have to disclose who is funding their attendance. "Addressing the undue influence of the fossil fuel industry and other Big Polluters must begin, not end, with this step forward," said Tasneem Essop, executive director of the environmental umbrella organization Climate Action Network International.

The measure will be formally announced in the coming days but was confirmed to The Associated Press by the U.N. climate office.

## North Korea fires two missiles off east coast

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

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

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

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it detected the "two short-range ballistic missiles from the Sunan area into the East Sea

between 19:25 and 19:37 (1025 to 1037 GMT)."

"We have stepped up monitoring in case of further provocations and are maintaining readiness in close coordination with the United States," it said, terming the launches as a "grave provocation" violating UN sanctions.

The missile launches were also confirmed by Tokyo, saying that they had landed in waters within Japan's exclusive economic zone.

"The missiles may have flown on irregular trajectories," Japan's top government spokesman Hirokazu Matsuno told reporters, adding that one had flown 850 kilometres (530 miles) and the other around 900 kilometres at altitudes of 50 kilometres, before landing in Japan's EEZ.

## Donor nations commit \$10.3 billion for millions of Syrians at home and as refugees abroad

**Monitoring Desk**  
BRUSSELS: International donors Thursday committed \$10.3 billion in aid for millions of Syrians battered by war, poverty, and hunger, both at home and as refugees abroad.

The funding pledges by 57 nations and 30 international organizations at an annual European Union-hosted conference in Brussels for Syria fell about \$800 million short of a United Nations humanitarian appeal.

Funding from the conference will help provide aid to Syrians in the war-torn country and to some 5.7 million Syrian refugees living in neighboring countries, particularly Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan.

Syria's uprising-turned conflict, now in its thirteenth year, has killed nearly half a million people and displaced half of its prewar population of 23 million.

Amid pressing needs across the globe from

Ukraine to Sudan, the annual donor conference hosted by the European Union in Brussels has had even more political overtones as Syrian President Bashar Assad is slowly carving his way back from being an international pariah to the regional mainstream. Finding hard cash, though, remains key.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres had asked donors at the conference for \$11.1 billion, what he called "our largest appeal worldwide."

"My appeal is simple: Help us help the Syrian people," Guterres said. "We have no time to spare."

But for nations hit by economic difficulties, a surge in inflation that has hurt the poor in even the wealthiest nations and the seemingly hopeless situation that drags on in Syria's 13-year conflict, money is increasingly hard to come by.

## UN nuclear chief delays Ukraine nuclear plant visit over security

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: U.N. nuclear chief Rafael Grossi delayed a trip to the Russian-held Zaporizhzhia nuclear power station on Wednesday for security reasons as Moscow and Kyiv reported heavy fighting in southern Ukraine.

Grossi had been expected to visit the plant (ZNPP) in southern Ukraine on Wednesday following talks in Kyiv on Tuesday but Ukrainian Energy Minister German Galushchenko said the trip had been pushed back, possibly by days.

"Grossi is in Ukraine. The issue of his visit to the ZNPP should be resolved in the next few days," Galushchenko was quoted as saying by Interfax Ukraine news agency.

"I cannot assess the situation - there are hostilities going on and the military is assessing the situa-

tion," Russian news agencies, reporting early on Thursday morning, quoted a senior official in Russia's nuclear industry as saying Grossi was likely to visit the Zaporizhzhia plant on Thursday. "We can say with a high degree of certainty that the IAEA delegation headed by Grossi will still take place on Thursday," Renat Karchaa, an adviser to the general director of Rosenergoatom, which operates Russia's nuclear stations, told Tass news agency.

There was no word late on Wednesday from Ukrainian officials.

A diplomatic source had earlier said security checks were being made and Grossi's trip was expected to take place soon. Russian news agency Interfax quoted a Russian-installed local official as saying Grossi would visit on Thursday.

## Africa needs grain imports, key states say ahead of Putin talks

**Monitoring Desk**  
JOHANNESBURG: Key African states stressed the need for grain imports to tackle food insecurity as Russian President Vladimir Putin prepares to discuss with the continent's leaders the fate of a deal allowing the safe Black Sea export of food and fertiliser from Ukraine.

Putin said on Tuesday that Russia was considering quitting the Black Sea grain initiative - brokered by the United Nations and Turkey in July last year - because its own grain and fertiliser shipments still face obstacles.

The pact could expire on July 17. A delegation of African leaders is due to visit both Ukraine and Russia from this weekend in a push to end Russia's 16-month long war, and Putin has said he plans to use the occasion to raise the matter.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa believes Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy are aligned with him on the "importance of grain deliveries to Africa for the alleviation of food insecurity", said Ramaphosa's spokesperson Vincent Magwenya.

"We are therefore not aware of any threats to pull out of the grain deal," Magwenya told Reuters on Wednesday.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Wednesday that Moscow had not yet made a decision on withdrawing.

Russia has issued a list of demands it wants met, including the resumption of its Black Sea ammonia exports and reconnection of the Russian Agricultural Bank to the SWIFT payment system.

While food and fertiliser exports do not fall under the West's tough sanctions imposed on Russia over the war, Moscow says restrictions on payments, logistics and insurance create barriers.

Putin also complained that under the deal "almost nothing goes to African countries" and said Moscow is ready to supply grain for free to the world's poorest countries.



Singh was accused by Olympic medallists of groping female athletes and demanding sexual favours.

# Asset rich Pakistan can survive without IMF support: Ishaq Dar

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

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

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

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

He said the annual budget allowed freelancers to retain 35 percent of their revenue. Besides, freelancers earning \$ 2,000 were exempted from sales tax and they could also procure duty free hardware.

He maintained that in the current fiscal year, a return of \$ 2.5 billion was expected from the IT industry, which would reach \$4.5

billion by next year. The exemptions were given to the industry keeping in view its potential growth, he added.

The minister said import restrictions were imposed to curb the massive inflows. The external debt of the country had increased from \$70 billion to \$100 billion in the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf regime, which was clearly an outcome of its financial indiscipline, he added.

He said expenditure bill should be made by keeping in view the external debt and import restrictions would be uplifted by June 30.

Ishaq Dar said as far as prevention of illegal border trade was concerned, coordination among intelligence agencies and the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) was of vital importance and deliberations with authorities concerned had also been conducted for in that regard.

Senator Taj Haider proposed that the tariff on tennis and badminton racket and other sports equipment should be exempted.

Ishaq dar said fixation of tariff was a prerogative of the Commerce Ministry and their recommendation would be forwarded to it.



KARACHI: Pak Navy rescue team evacuates local populace from Cyclone BIPARJOY affected areas.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman NDMA Lt. General Inam Haider Malik presiding meeting with USARCENT LtG Frank.

## Zubaida Jalal proposes 25 point economic manifesto for tackle financial crisis

QUETTA (APP) Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) has proposed a 25-point economic manifesto to the government, declaring that in the upcoming elections, we would support political party that would promise to implement this manifesto to get the country out of the current financial and administrative crisis.

The Economic Manifesto suggests that all stakeholders, politicians and bureaucracy must agree on a charter for the economy to save the nation from the worst financial crisis and mismanagement.

These views were expressed by PBF Balochistan Vice-Chairperson and Member National Assembly (MNA) Zubaidah Jalal while presenting a 25-point economic manifesto in front of the media on Thursday.

She said that "two important keys to get the country out of the economic crisis were increasing exports and expanding the tax base."

According to the Manifesto, investment in industrialization ensures revenue for the government, employment for the youth, and profit for the entrepreneurs, a win-win situation for everyone in the country so the government should prioritize industrialization first and real estate second.

Ahmed Jawad said that in the manifesto, 20 percent quota should be allocated for businessmen in national, provincial and district policies so that business circles have an opinion in policy making.

He said that the business forum also suggested creating links between industry and academia through a new curriculum and mandating universities to teach entrepreneurship. Besides, it demanded provision of plots in industrial estates in ten-year simple installments and establishment of fast-track arbitration centers in every district for settlement of business disputes, he mentioned.

## Khurshid says: Only solution to our problems is agriculture

ISLAMABAD (Online): During debate on budget of fiscal year 2023-24, member national assembly demanded special allocation to deal with climate change as Pakistan number three most vulnerable country to climate disasters.

Federal minister for water resources Khurshid Shah said that only solution to our problems is agriculture.

He said what happened on May 09, has never happened in the history, enemy has not made such damage.

Federal minister of water resources Khurshid Shah said required fund be provided to K-4 project so the project can be completed as soon as possible.

Federal minister for professional education Rana Tanvir Hussain said when we took over the government, economy was so worse that send a hair shuddered us.

## Govt working on 5-Es to boost exports, energy, job sectors: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal Thursday said that government was working on 5-Es to boost exports, energy, infrastructure, and job sectors besides taking steps for tackling environmental changes in Pakistan.

The young boys and girls would be provided opportunities for technical skills so that every institution could show progress in a befitting manner, he said while talking to PTV.

"We want to achieve fast growth to make Pakistan a prosperous state," he said. All available resources

would be utilized for benefiting people of all provinces, he added.

Commenting on transparency in the development budget, he said a portal had been developed to ensure transparency in the utilization of funds. He said that general public could click on portal to check transparency in the development projects. The minister said that Imran's party could not pay attention to many sectors during the period of four years.

He said the Pakistan Muslim League-N, had worked on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects.

## Senators call for Charter of Economy to steer country out of economic crisis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senators on Thursday stressed the need for enhancing the country's revenue, besides inking the Charter of Economy (CoE) like Charter of Democracy (COD) to steer Pakistan out of the economic crisis.

They appreciated the government for announcing various incentives for the agriculture and information technology sectors, overseas Pakistanis and youth.

Taking part in the debate in the Senate, Saifullah Abro of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) said there were so many opportunities available in the country which could help

generate revenue. The Guddu Thermal and Lakra Thermal power plants could be rehabilitated with limited funds and could earn hefty revenue for the country, he added.

However, he alleged that the power sector was intentionally destroyed by representatives of Independent Power Producers (IPPs) setting in the every government. Such 'mafias' had vested interests and they never wanted rehabilitation of state-owned thermal powers, he added.

Senator Abro suggested that the government should allocate Rs 2.5 billion for the purchase of CT

scan and MRI machines in two government owned cancer hospitals in Larkana and Nawabshah from the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Rs 450 billion allocation. Many poor patients from both Sindh and Balochistan visited the two hospitals for their treatment, he added.

He was of the view that many lawmakers did not discuss the budget rather they resorted to criticizing their opponent political leaders.

Nuzhat Sadiq of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz termed the budget balanced challenging circumstances.

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

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

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

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

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



QUETTA: Balochistan National Party (BNP) Leader, Sana Baloch expresses his solidarity with Members of Balochistan Government Teachers Association during their hunger strike for acceptance of their demands.

## DG Levies orders to cancel process of recruitment in Zhob district levies

By Mohib Tareen  
QUETTA: The Director General Levies Force Balochistan, Naseebullah Khan Kakar has ordered to cancel the process of recruitment in Levies force in Zhob district.

According to the reports, the DG Levies ordered the cancellation of recruitment process in Zhob levies on a video go viral on social media showing interference of some Levies personals in the physical test conducted for the recruitments.

The DG Levies expressed his displeasure over the interference of the

Levies personals in the recruitment process, which shows a sort of nepotism.

In his official order issued by the DG levies, it was requested to the Commissioner Zhob Division to identify the Levies personals who were allegedly involved in sabotaging the process of recruitments.

The disciplinary action would also be taken against those found guilty in this regard, it was declared. The DG Levies said that the process of recruitment of Levies in Zhob would be rescheduled after inquiry into the matter.

## Masood appreciates Lindsey for role in Pak, US ties

WASHINGTON (Online): Pakistan's ambassador to the United States Masood Khan has appreciated the role of US Senator Lindsey Graham regarding strengthening Pak-US relations.

This appreciation was given during a meeting held in Washington.

Masood Khan also thanked Lindsey for strong advocacy and support for US flood relief assistance to Pakistan and said Islamabad will never forget this role during the difficult times of floods.

Both also expressed commitment to further strengthen Pak-US relations during the meeting.

## Four TTP workers held, hand grenades, arms recovered

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Rangers Sindh and Police, in a joint intelligence-based operation in Manghopir area, arrested four alleged accused of Hizb-ul-Ahrar (banned TTP, Mohmand Group) and recovered hand grenades and illegal arms from their possessions. Arrested were identified as Qari Alamgir, Muhammad Zahid alias Qari, Muhammad Kashif alias Kashi and Muhammad Yusuf, said a news release on Thursday.

The accused used to provide mobile phone numbers, locations of workplaces, houses and transport videos of businessmen from different areas of Karachi to commander of Hizb-ul-Ahrar (banned TTP and Mohmand Group) Muhammad Shoaib alias Jan Nisar.

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

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

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

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

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



QUETTA: A delegation of traders of Balochistan led by President All Pakistan Anjum Tajiran Ajmal Baloch meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

## Education Ministry approves new National Curriculum of Pakistan

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

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

The task of curriculum development for grades 9 to 12, was carried out in an inclusive manner. Relevant

stakeholders were taken on board with all the steps of curriculum development, the notification said.

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

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

## Pak, EU agree to enhance Parliamentary cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and the European Union have agreed to enhance parliamentary cooperation.

The understanding to this effect was reached during a meeting between Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar and EU Chair of delegation for relations with countries of South Asia Nicola Procaccini in Brussels.

The Minister of State

stressed that stability in South Asia is imperative for global peace, according to a statement received here on Thursday. Hina Rabbani Khar also held fruitful exchange with Rapporteur of Trade Monitoring Group for South Asia and member Sub-Committee on Human Rights Krah Max. She also met Vice President of European Parliament and Rapporteur of new GSP Plus Heidi Hautala.



GADDANI: DHO Dr. Qamar Ronjha briefed GOC Gwadar Major General Ahsan Waqas about medical camp set up under supervision of district administration

## Pakistan army our red line: Overseas Pakistanis

LONDON (Online): Overseas Pakistanis have declared armed forces of Pakistan red line.

The overseas Pakistanis in England have said army is very strong institution of Pakistan. May 09 incident is pre-conceived conspiracy against the institutions. This is good that the conspiracy of these people has been exposed.

They held we are if army is. Army is red line of any country. Pakistan army is red line of Pakistan.

They observed miscreants attacked radio Pakistan. They too attacked PTV and parliament. Attack on military installations is unpardonable at all.

## Efforts underway to provide facilities to flood victim: DC Jhal Magsi

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Jhal Magsi Muhammad Ramzan Palal on Thursday said that measures were being taken to provide facilities to flood victims in the district.

He said last year the infrastructure of Jhal Magsi district was damaged due to the worst floods in the history and destructive monsoon rains.

He expressed these views while chairing a meeting to review measures for flood victims and asked the welfare institutions to provide all possible relief activities to the victims in Sarkardan district.

In the meeting, provision of health facilities, maintenance of health centers and other issues were discussed while DC was also briefed about the measures in detail during the meeting.



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

## Call for introducing constructive reforms in Balochistan's health sector

QUETTA (APP): The provincial leader of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Shams Hamzazaon Thursday urged the Balochistan government to introduce constructive reforms in the health sector to bring the province at par with other provinces.

Talking to APP, the PPP leader stressed the need for taking prompt action for the provision of basic facilities, and cleanliness in the hospitals.

Hamzaza said that the government should take stern action against the ghost and absent doctors and conduct inquiries against staffers and employees of the department for not performing their duties.

He requested the chief minister to take notice of

the poor condition and lack of facilities in the public sector hospitals of the province.

He regretted that the Balochistan government could not initiate its cleanliness drive and renovation of the government hospitals in the province.

Balochistan government, he said had promised to revamp the health sector on modern lines and provide equipment to fulfill the need of the hour but the situation was not conforming to the ground situation.

"The government should expedite efforts to ensure the availability of free medicines in public hospitals of the province as many people could not afford expensive medicines," he added.



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

## UoG's syndicate decide to establish CPEC study center

QUETTA (APP): The University of Gwadar's third syndicate meeting was held at the higher education commission regional centre Quetta with Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr Abdul Razaq Sabir in the chair, a hand-out said on Thursday.

The syndicate besides a few new teaching departments decided to establish a CPEC study center and a Center for Marine Affairs and Marine Sciences.

The meeting among others was attended by syndicate members including UG's Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr Syed Manzoor Ahmed, Secretary Colleges & Higher and Technical Education Balochistan, Hafiz Abdul Majid Bohair, Registrar Dolat Khan, Director Finance Shafi Muhammad, acting Dean faculty of Management Sciences, Commerce and So-

cial Sciences Prof. Dr Jan Muhammad and acting controller Examination Dr Kambar Farooq.

The UG's registrar presented the agenda of the meeting before the house for deliberation and decisions.

The August forum discussed each agenda in detail and decided on important matters such as launching new programs and granting approval to regularize the services of contract employees who have fulfilled all recruitment procedures and completed their probation periods. The members deliberated and resolved all the immediate issues related to the academic, administrative, and finances of the university.

The house confirmed the minutes of the 1st meeting of the Syndicate, the 3rd meeting of the academic council.