

Independent

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Balochistan's budget for next Financial Year presented with total outlay of Rs. 750 billion

Salaries and pensions of employees & pensioners raised on Federal Govt. pattern: Over Rs. 437 billion allocated for non-development expenditures with Rs. 229 billion allocated for public sector development program; 4,389 new vacancies created in provincial departments; over Rs. 115 billion allocated for general public services, over Rs. 61 billion for public order & safety affairs, Rs. 42 billion for health sector, Rs. 88 billion for education affairs and services



QUETTA: Balochistan Minister for Finance Engineer Zamarak Khan Achakzai presenting annual budget of 2023-24 in session of Assembly

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QUETTA: The Balochistan's budget for the next financial year 2023-24 was presented in the provincial assembly on Monday. With total volume of Rs. 750.478 billion, the province's budget shows the estimated deficit of Rs. 49.058 billion. The Provincial Minister for Finance, Engineer Zamarak Khan Achakzai tabled the budget at the session with the Speaker, Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali in the chair. It was the second budget of the Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus

Bizenjo-led coalition government presented by the finance minister in assembly. As per the budget documents and the speech delivered by the Finance Minister, raises have been made in the salaries and pensions of provincial government employees and pensioners on the pattern of federal budget. The 35 percent raise was proposed for the government servants serving in the grades between 1-16 while 30 percent raise was announced for the employees serving above Grade 17. Similarly, the pension of retired employees was also increased by 17.5 per-

Balochistan cabinet approves budget for next FY

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Balochistan cabinet approved the province's budget for the next financial year 2023-24 here on Monday. The cabinet met with the Chief Minister, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo in the chair. The Chief Secretary Abdul Aziz Uqaili and other concerned high ups were also in the cabinet meeting. The cabinet was briefed by the Additional Chief Secretary Planning, Hafiz Abdul Basit and Secretary Finance, Qambar Dastgir about the salient features of the budget besides the annual development programme and other related matters.

cent as was done in the federal budget. The minimum wages of the workers were announced as Rs. 32,000 in the next budget of the province. Moreover, in all 4,389 new vacancies have been created in different provincial government departments during the next financial year budget, the Finance Minister announced. While delivering the budget speech, the Minister Finance total income of the province through different resources has been estimated as Rs. 701.420 billion in the budget with total expenditures shown as Rs. 750.478 billion thus showing the deficit of Rs. 49.058 billion. While over Rs. 437.142 billion were allocated for the non-development expenditures, over Rs. 313.336 billion were allocated for development expenditures including Rs. 229.30 billion proposed for Public Sector Development Programme. The total revenue receipts estimated in the bud-

get are Rs. 645.191 billion. The capital receipts are included Rs. 34.733 billion and state trading - food are Rs. 11.4 billion. Out of the capital receipts, the province would get Rs. 25 billion under the Foreign Project Assistance (loan) and Rs. 9.609 billion would be received from recoveries of the loans, advances and investments. The province would get Rs. 464.705 billion from the divisible pool while it would get Rs. 20

6 divisional HQs approved costing Rs. 2141 mln: **1033 new vacancies created for coastal highway security at cost of Rs. 2234 mn**
Budget white paper reveals Levies recruitment completed in 17 districts with 2040 recruited; process underway in 23 districts

Independent Report
QUETTA: In all 1033 new vacancies were created for security of the coastal highway at a cost of Rs. 2234 million. The security of highways has been enhanced and movement of buses in the convoys through some parts of Balochistan being carried out for the safe journey. Similarly, proper security arrangements have also been made for the safe passage of zaireen from Quetta to Taftan and back. These details were shared in the budget speech and white paper issued on the occasion of next financial year budget of the province here on Monday. According to the data shared, the provincial, divisional and district level Apex committees have been constituted to streamline



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo signing budget 2023-24 documents after approval from Provincial Cabinet

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We have to foil nefarious designs of enemies: Corps Commander highly appreciates role of police in establishing peace

Lt. General Asif Ghafoor says Balochistan police plays lead role against terrorism; Pak army ever ready to impart modern training to police force in prevailing circumstances of country

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QUETTA: Highly appreciating the role of Balochistan police force in establishing peace in the province, the Corps Commander 12 Corps, Lt. General Asif Ghafoor has stated that the police force has played lead role against terrorism in the province. He said that he recognizes the important role that has been played by the Balochistan police in establishment of peace in the province.

He also paid homage to the martyrs and injured of police on their great sacrifices saying that we would not be leaving the heirs of martyrs alone. Rather each and every individual of the motherland is the heir of families of the martyrs. Their sacrifices would always be remembered. The Corps Commander was addressing the passing out parade ceremony of the 14th basic course at ATF training center here on Monday. **Continued on page 2**



QUETTA: DS Railway Balochistan Fared Ahmed meeting with Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

SC reserves judgment on petitions regarding Reviews of Orders and Judgments Act

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court (SC) on Monday reserved its judgment on petitions pertaining to SC Reviews of Orders and Judgments Act 2023. A three-member bench of the top court headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan and Justice Munib Akhtar heard the case. At the outset of the hearing, Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan argued that there were different judgments of the apex court regarding the powers of the Parliament for legislation. A separate scope had been set for the review of the judgments in cases of Article 184/3, he said. The AGP said before introduction of the act which had not affected the right of anybody, there was

no method for review in the cases of Article 184/3. It did not limit the scope of review. He said as per the act it was the court's authority to choose members of the bench for a review case, and that bench should be larger than the bench, which had heard the main case. CJP Bandial remarked that the government could introduce legislation but giving right of appeal in the review cases did not seem appropriate. The government should take a decision on the matter after thorough consideration. He noted that there was also no right of review appeal in India in cases like those of Article 184/3. Justice Munib Akhtar questioned whether the power of review could be compared with civil laws and whether civil laws fell in the jurisdiction of provinces.

Zil Hajj moon sighted, Eid ul Azha on June 29

KARACHI (APP): The Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Pakistan announced on Monday that the Zil Hajj moon has been sighted in Pakistan, adding that Zil Hajj 01, 1444 A.H, will fall on June 20 (Tuesday), thus Eid ul Azha in Pakistan will be observed on June 29 (Thursday).

Chairman Ruet-e-Hilal Pakistan Maulana Syed Abdul Khair Azad announced the decision following a meeting of the committee, held at the Met Complex here after Maghrib prayers to sight the crescent moon.

Bilawal threat works PM approves Rs 25b funds for flood affectees in Sindh

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chairman PPP and Foreign Minister (FM) Bilawal Bhutto threat has worked and Prime Minister (PM) Shebaz Sharif has approved Rs 25 billion funds for flood affectees in Sindh. PM had held out assurance to PPP delegation during a meeting on Friday for providing funds.

It is pertinent to mention here that Bilawal Bhutto while addressing public meeting in Swata day before had complained against non fulfillment of promises in budget by PM. He had warned PPP would not allow the budget to be passed if funds were not provided for flood affectees.

Khawaja Asif calls strong action against illegal human trafficking

ISLAMABAD (APP): Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Monday emphasized the need for firm action against individuals involved in the illegal transportation of people abroad. Speaking on floor of the National Assembly, the minister expressed deep grief and sorrow over the tragic deaths of Pakistani migrants in a recent boat incident near the coast of

Bright prospects of development of rail network: Deficit of railway can be turned into profit by making rail system effective: Governor

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QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has opined that the deficit of railway can be changed into profit by making the rail system effective in the province and by ensuring access of the passenger and goods trains to the neighbouring countries. He said that not only the travelling requirements of the people can be met by running trains on the small routes and distances like Quetta to Chaman and Hamai to Sibi, but the access of the things produced in different districts can also be ensured on the other hand.

In this way, the railway can prove to be the best source of transportation in the province, he maintained.

The Governor was speaking to the Divisional Superintendent of Railways, Fared Ahmed who called on him here at the Governor House on Monday. Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said that it is our good luck that the prospects of development of the railway network from Quetta to the Central Asia are bright in the ever changing situation of the region. While we also have the railway track from Quetta to Zahidan and it can also be made more effective and improved, adding he observed.

ANF Balochistan drug burning ceremony: Collective efforts needed to make society drug-free, says Shahzain Bugti

Federal Minister for Narcotics Control destroys some 85 metric tons of different drugs; DG ANF terms menace of drugs as security challenge

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QUETTA: The Federal Minister for Narcotics Control, Nawabzada Shahzain Bugti has underlined the need to make collective efforts to make the society drug-free. The Federal Minister exhorted upon the parents, civil society and stars of different fields to join hands with the government against narcotics. **Continued on page 2**

PM underlines need to invest in young talent

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday stressed that they had to make huge investments on the country's youth because those nations had always excelled whose youth got skills and requisite degrees in different fields.

Addressing a ceremony of the Prime Minister's National Innovation Awards, the prime minister expressed his pleasure over the strides made by the country's youth in different fields by utilizing their talents and skills. The country's future was in safe hands and they had to make investments on the youth's talent as they directly deserved it, he added.

The prime minister said it was a matter of satisfaction as the young people strived during their educational careers and showed their innovative skills in the information **Continued on page 2**

Incident of boat capsized: Day of mourning observed in Balochistan

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QUETTA: The day of mourning was observed in Quetta and other areas of Balochistan on Monday, on the tragic incident of boat capsized in Greece. The national flag flew at half-mast at all the important government buildings including the Balochistan Assembly, Governor House, Chief Minister House and secretariat, High Court and other ones. Meanwhile, a praying ceremony was held for the deceased persons at the headquarters of Balochistan Boy Scouts Association. The acting Provincial Scouts Commissioner, Amanullah Kanrani and other staff and volunteers participated. They offered fateha for those died in the tragic incident.

Terms boat incident national tragedy: All steps to be taken to stop human smuggling: Zia

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QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove has categorically stated that all steps would be taken for prevention of the human smuggling in the province, and those involved in it would be taken to task. This was stated by the Provincial Minister for Home in an official statement issued here on Monday. In a statement, the Minister Home expressed deep grief and sorrow over the tragic incident of boat capsizing and the loss of lives of people in it. Describing the Greece boat capsizing incident as the national tragedy, Mir Ziaullah Langove said that it is very much condemnable. He said that the day of mourning is being observed on the tragic incident in Balochistan.

CM satisfied with police action: SHO injured in exchange of fire; two bandits arrested; one succumbs to injuries

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QUETTA: The Station House Office (SHO) Police Station Industrial was injured in an exchange of fire with bandits on Sirki road on Monday. According to the police, two bandits attempting to snatch a motorbike on gun point were also injured, and later arrested. One of them succumbed to his injuries, the hospital sources informed. The reports said that two bandits whose names couldn't be disclosed were making an attempt to snatch a motorcycle from a youngster, when the SHO Industrial PS Shahzad Ahmed on patrolling reached there. As he tried to apprehend the bandits, they opened fire on him. As a result, he sustained bullet injuries. On retaliation, both bandits were injured. However, they were arrested and shifted to the civil hospital. However, one of them succumbed to his injuries and died, the hospital sources informed. Meanwhile, the Chief Minister expressed satisfaction against the bandits on Sirki road. He congratulated the police team headed by SHO Shahzad on the arrest of bandits in injured condition.



QUETTA: Federal Minister for Narcotics Control Nawabzada Shahzain Bugti pressing button to burn recovered smuggled narcotics at Kuch-More area.

Faisal Kundi terms holding elections in time crucial for political stability

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) spokesperson and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Faisal Karim Kundi Monday termed holding elections in time as crucial for political stability in Pakistan.

In a press conference along with PPP leader, Nadeem Afzal Chan here, Faisal Kundi said that the people of Karachi gave a full mandate to the Pakistan People's Party in the local body elections.

He said that his party was trying its best to achieve success in the upcoming elections. "We are ready to contest general elections and have started our campaign", he added.

Faisal Kundi emphasized that all allies should go to the elections which are expected to be held by October.

He said that the delegation of the PPP in a meeting with the Prime Minister, Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif presented reservations on the budget. "The PPP delegation will meet the Prime Minister again today".

The SAPM said that in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, funds were given to all MPs except those belonging to the Pakistan People's Party.

About the return of former Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif, Faisal Kundi said that PML-N has to decide when Nawaz Sharif will come.

He said that the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) is benefiting nine million poor families through providing them financial assistance.

The PPP spokesperson said that complaints regarding BISP funds have been received from all over Pakistan.

He said that investigations were being carried out to address the complaints of those having difficulties in getting funds.

Kundi stated that the quarterly payments under Benazir Kafalaat program were being issued with a 25 percent increase.

The SAPM also expressed his grief over the death of more than 100 Pakistanis in a boat accident in Greece.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State Faisal Karim Kundi addressing a press conference along with Leader of Pakistan People Party Nadeem Afzal Chan at PPP Secretariat in Federal Capital.

AIOU's academic council approves new matric tech program

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) on Monday unanimously approved the new programs/courses of BS, MS/MPhil, and PhD.

The decision was taken during a joint meeting of the 49th Academic Planning and Development/Research and Educational Technology Committee (APD/RET) and 65th Academic Council and of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) held yesterday.

Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood chaired the meeting. Registrar, Raja Umar Yunus organizing and supported the meeting.

The department heads, principal officers, and external members attended as well.

The meeting approved providing two reappear chances to the students, i.e., in case of failure in any subject, the students will be provided two chances of examination.

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood directed that the failed students will be given 6 weeks' time for re-enrollment in the examination. The meeting also approved the change of title of certain courses.

The meeting provided an exemption in the quiz component to the students of the spring/autumn 2022 semester in the revised assessment policy and approved the launch of the Matric Tech program.

The meeting unanimously declared the courses of "civilization, culture, language and literature" of all provinces as an integral part of the BS programs.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood directed the faculty members and deans to keep in mind the policy of the University and Higher Education Commission in designing the courses and preparing the teaching materials and not to offer a single program that does not meet the standards and directed to rationalize the courses.



ISLAMABAD: Young girl showing keen interest in traditional stuff on stall during Saqafati Mela promoting Pakistani culture providing entertainment to public at Lok Virsa.

Intl Day for 'Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict' observed

ISLAMABAD (Online): International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict was observed on Monday.

The day is commemorated every year to mark the date of the unanimous adoption of the first UN Security Council resolution to recognize conflict-related sexual violence as a tactic of war and a threat to international peace and security.

The theme of this year's day is "Bridging the gender digital divide to prevent, address and respond to conflict-related sexual violence".

India is using sexual violence as tool to suppress Kashmiris' struggle.

Women are the worst victims of Indian forces' barbarities in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir as New Delhi is using rape as a weapon to suppress the Kashmiris' struggle for right to self-determination.

Mmedia reports on the occasion of International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, today, revealed that Indian forces' personnel had sexually assaulted over 11,259 women during the last 34 years in the occupied territory.

It said India is deliberately targeting women in IIOJK to humiliate and terrorize the Kashmiris. It said like Kunanposhpora mass rape, Shopian double rape and murder, and rape and murder of a minor girl in Kathua depict the brutal face of Indian forces deployed in the occupied territory.

Around a hundred women were gang-raped by Indian troops during a cordon and search operation in Kunanposhpora area of Kupwara district on the night of February 23, 1991. Two women, Aasiya and Neelofar of Shopian, were abducted by Indian men in uniform on May 29, 2009, gang-raped and subsequently killed in custody.

World Refugee day to be marked today

ISLAMABAD (APP): The World Refugee Day will be marked on Tuesday across the globe, the day honors the courage, strength, and determination of women, men and children who are forced to flee their homeland under threat of persecution, conflict and violence.

World Refugee Day honors the spirit and courage of millions of refugees worldwide.

The people honor the spirit and courage of millions of refugees worldwide on World Refugee Day.

It is a day to recognize the contributions of refugees in their communities. Organizations such as Amnesty International and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) often get involved in various activities for the day. They may include:

IRSA releases 234,500 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 234,500 cusecs of water from various rim stations with an inflow of 319,700 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1457.84 feet and was 59.84 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 152,200 cusecs and 100,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1149.35 feet, which was 99.35 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet.



ISLAMABAD: MNA Chaudhry Abid Raza Kotla calls on the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Parliamentary Delegation lauds Green Development

ISLAMABAD (Online): A Parliamentary Delegation visited the Karot Hydropower Project to commemorate its 1st Anniversary and celebrate the 10 years of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the 10 Years of BRI. The Delegation was led by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Pakistan-China Institute. Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director Pakistan-China Institute, also accompanied the delegation. This was the first of its kind Cross Party Parliamentary delegation to have visited the Karot Hydropower Project which included Senator Waleed Iqbal, Senator Taj Haider, Senator Sadia Abbasi, Senator Palwasha Mohammad Zai Khan, Senator Rukhsana Zuberi, Mohammed Khan Dahi, MNA, Senator Pir Sabir Shah, and Senator Muhammad Asad Ali Khan Junejo. Moreover, journalists, bloggers, and students were also a part of this delegation.

The Parliamentary delegation expressed admiration for the commitment of the Karot Hydropower Project to clean energy generation and its contribution to Pakistan's development agenda. They also acknowledged the project's pivotal role in meeting the country's energy-increasing demands while addressing environmental concerns.

The delegation was warmly welcomed by Mr. Wang Minsheng, CEO of CSAIL, who delivered an introductory speech emphasizing the significance of the Karot Project and the operations underway to boost Pakistan's energy sector. He said that the Karot Hydropower Project is the flagship project of CPEC.

Coordination cell set up at Interior Ministry for Greece boat victims

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Interior on Monday set up a coordination cell in its control room to provide updates and information regarding the victims of the tragic boat incident in Greece.

According to an Interior Ministry notification, the decision was taken on the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The coordination cell, headed by the Additional Secretary (Border Management) from the Ministry of Interior, comprises Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Naeemullah, Director General of the National Health Services, Regulation & Coordination Division Dr Baseer Achakzai, Chief (Policy Plan) of the Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Division Tanvir Khalique, and Director of FIA's Anti Human Smuggling Muhammad Alam Shinwari.

The coordination cell's responsibilities encompass several crucial tasks. It will conduct initial screenings, in collaboration with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), to verify the information provided by relatives of the passengers on the ill-fated boat.

May 9 mayhem eliminate PTI from politics: Javed Latif

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister Mian Javed Latif Monday said May 9 incidents have eliminated Pakistan Tehreek Insaf (PTI) from the country's politics as its leaders and party workers were found guilty of committing crimes by attacking state institutions. Talking to a private news channel he accused of PTI chief mastermind of the May 9 mayhem. He held the PTI chairman responsible for destroying state institutions due to poor policies. He said the coalition government after coming into power has taken harsh steps to steer the country out of the economic crisis.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Saleem Mandviwalla Convener chairing the PAC subcommittee meeting in Parliament House.

Court extends bail of PTI's chairman in case of Margalla PS

ISLAMABAD (APP): A local court on Monday extended the interim bails of PTI's Chairman Imran Khan and Asad Umar in a case registered by Margalla Police Station and instructed the accused to join the investigation.

Additional District and Session Judge Sikandar Khan heard the bail petition of PTI's chief who appeared before the court along with his legal team.

Petitioner's lawyer Salam Safdar Advocate said that his client had appeared before the court in a judicial complex in 17 cases in one day. Imran Khan had joined the investigation and gave answers to every question, he said. However, the prosecutor said that the accused had not joined the investigation so far and prayed the court to issue instructions to Imran Khan to appear before the investigation team in the office of DIG police. He said that the said office was safe from the security point of view. Imran Khan said that he was ready to join the investigation into the building of the judicial complex. At this, the court summoned the registrar who stated that a room could be provided for the said purpose.

Heat wave like conditions expected from June 20-24

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) on Monday said heat wave like conditions would persist in most parts of the country from June 20-24 due to the high pressure in the upper atmosphere. Temperatures are likely to increase gradually in most parts of the country during the period due to presence of high pressure in the upper atmosphere the day. Day temperatures are likely to remain 04-06 degree celsius above normal in upper and central Punjab, Islamabad, upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan.

Mushaal pens letter seeking UN chief's intervention to save Yasin Malik's life

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson of Peace and Culture Organisation, Mushaal Hussein Mullick penned a letter to Antonio Guterres, Secretary General, United Nations requesting his immediate intervention to save Mohammed Yasin Malik Chairman JKLF's life from Indian judicial murder.

Mushaal, the wife of Yasin Malik, on Monday, wrote a letter to the UN chief and appealed to him to play his role to avert a judicial murder of her husband, a news release said.

"I am Mushaal Hussein Mullick, the distraught wife of an unlawfully incarcerated husband and mother of an 11-year-old girl who has been denied a father's hug for almost 9 years. I am writing to you at a time when words fall me, yet with great hope in the office you hold and the principles you represent," she added.

She said that help me articulate the right sentences to explain to an 11-year-old that her father is on death row for demanding what the UN has mandated as our right, or should I just tell her justice is dead?

"My husband Yasin Malik 57, is the face of Kashmir's non-violent political struggle, which stems from a resolution of the very organisation you head today," she maintained.

Mushaal stated that he has given away his youth, his family, and his health in the belief that the people of Kashmir deserve, as the most basic of human rights, the right to self-determination: all so with the most non-belligerent, orthodox political ethos for that he currently rots in a death cell of the notorious Tihar Jail in India since 7 May 2019 with no rights of a fair trial. She said that Yasin has spent 25 such years in multiple Indian jails. Are we waiting for him to die and crown him Kashmir's Mandela? "I am practically a widow, but does the English language have a word to describe a child whose father she has not met in almost a decade?"



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Special Committee on Affected Employees Mr. Qadir Khan Mandokhail chairing committee meeting at Parliament Lodges.

NA Speaker urges govt action against human smuggling

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of the National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf on Monday expressed deep concern over the recent shipwreck incident in Greece and the issue of human smuggling.

In his statement during the session of the National Assembly, the Speaker called for immediate action to hold those responsible for exploiting innocent people accountable for their actions.

The tragic sinking of the ship has left the entire nation devastated and grieving. With heavy hearts, Pakistanis mourn the loss of lives and express their condolences to the affected families. The incident serves as a grim reminder of the dangers faced by individuals seeking a better future.

Addressing the National Assembly session, Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf emphasized the urgency of the situation and the need for the government to take swift and stringent action. He stressed that those involved in exploiting vulnerable individuals in the guise of employment should face the full extent of the law.

He urged the government to ensure that appropriate punishment is meted out to the culprits, sending a strong message that such heinous activities will not be tolerated.

The Speaker called upon all members of the National Assembly to play an active role in advocating for their respective constituents. He urged them to discourage and raise awareness among the people about the dangers of engaging in human smuggling, emphasizing the severe harm it inflicts on Pakistani citizens.

The government, according to Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf, bears a significant responsibility to combat this grave issue. He stressed the necessity of implementing strict measures to deter individuals involved in human smuggling. Immediate and decisive action is crucial to prevent future incidents and safeguard the lives of Pakistani citizens.



ISLAMABAD: A view of the Pakistan Flag flying half mast on PM Secretariat, as Federal Government announces bereavement for today on the sad incident of the downed refugee boat from Libya to Italy, in which hundreds of Pakistanis are dead.

Turi directs for thorough report on Jamshoro Coal Mines incident

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Overseas and Human Resource Development Sajid Hussain Turi on Monday took notice of Jamshoro Coal Mines incident that left two labourers dead due to suffocation and sought for a thorough report on the matter. According to the news release, expressing his condolences to the affected families, the Federal Minister said that the provocation of grief-stricken families was estimated due to the loss of their loved ones, where justice would be served to the widows and children of the deceased as soon as possible.

Relevant institutions have been directed to conduct a complete investigation and submit a report, he said.

The Federal Minister added that it was entirely wrong to give coal mines leases to inexperienced individuals. The continuous violation of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, by exploiting poor laborers would not be tolerated, he said.

It should be noted that two laborers, who belonged to a tribe hailing from the district of Karam Shehar in Sindh, lost their lives due to suffocation in Jamshoro Coal Mines during work.

Abdullah Gul condoles sad demise of 298 Pakistanis in Greece boat incident

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Tehreek-e-Jawanan Pakistan (TJP) Mohammad Abdullah Gul on Monday expressed his deep sorrow over the drowning of 298 Pakistanis in the tragic sinking of a boat in Greece.

The TJP Chairman strongly condemned the incident and termed the loss of innocent youth who left the country to seek better livelihood in abroad after falling a prey to human traffickers, a news release said.

Abdullah Gul prayed for the deceased and said, "May Allah grant their families patience and grant His mercy to the deceased." Expressing his sorrow, he said that the FIA department and border security forces should take strict action against illegally crossing the border due to which shameful incident happens. The Greek people were protesting against their government for such a big tragedy that this boat was sunk intentionally.



ISLAMABAD: Heavy machinery being used in construction work of Expressway during development work in the city.

Shah hopeful coalition partners to address PPP's reservations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) MNA Nafisa Shah Monday said she was hopeful that the coalition partners would address the PPP's reservations over budget allocation for flood victims' rehabilitation and urged for gearing up for timely transparent elections.

Talking to a Private news channel, she said her party was neither in favour of early nor delayed general elections, adding, the general elections in the country should be held according to the constitution and democratic norms.

She termed timely elections need of the hour to overcome the chaos and instability in the country.

"No-one is dare to deprive the people of their due rights to elect their representatives and choose their government," she added, PPP considers its workers a precious asset as they made sacrifices and always help party in difficult times.

Replying to a question, she said the PPP did not want any confrontation or deadlock and always preferred table talks to resolve issues.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Inter-Governmental Commercial Transactions (CCoIGCT) held in Islamabad.

Finance Bill 2023: Senate proposes 55 recommendations

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate on Monday proposed 55 recommendations related to Finance Bill 2023 and gave 31 recommendations regarding the public sector development program. The recommendations on the Finance Bill, 2023 would be forwarded to National Assembly which would decide whether or not these recommendations are to be incorporated into the Money Bill. In the session of the upper house of the parliament on Monday, Senator

Saleem Mandviwala, Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance, presented the Senate's budget recommendations. The Senate recommended to National Assembly that tax of 12 percent of the sale on retailers and brands who are registered with FBR should be maintained, instead of increasing it to 15 percent. For filers, it was proposed that a tax on credit card transactions should be increased from 1% to 5%, and for non-filers and 2% to 10% for non-filers to be maintained at previous

rates. Under the laptop scheme, mandatory technical training should be provided to those who purchase laptops so that they can earn income through online businesses. It has been proposed to gradually impose taxes on the real estate and agricultural sectors. Government institutions working in loss should be audited, and reform action should be taken against institutions like Pakistan Steel Mills, which have been incurring heavy losses for years. Income-

generating industries should be given tax exemptions and provided with gas supply. It has been proposed to establish tax-free zones for foreign direct investment and rationalize the subsidy mechanism for seeds, fertilizers, solar energy devices, and essential food items. The Senate proposed to ensure the availability of all items at discounted prices in utility stores, allocate funds for the National Development Volunteer Program in the 2023-24 budget.

Dar chairs meeting of CCoIGCT

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Inter-Governmental Commercial Transactions (CCoIGCT), today. Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Syed Faisal Ali Subzwari, Federal Minister for Power Mr. Khuram Dastagir Khan, Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar, SAPM on Revenue Mr. Tariq Pasha, Attorney General of Pakistan, Secretary Finance, Secretary Maritime Affairs, Secretary Law & Justice, and other senior officers attended the meeting. The CCoIGCT con-

sidered summary of Ministry of Maritime Affairs about the management of operations of Pakistan International Container Terminal (PICT) and was informed that Abu Dhabi Ports (ADP) owned by the Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has shown interest in operating the Container Terminal. The CCoIGCT after deliberation decided to constitute a committee to negotiate the draft Framework Agreement between Govt. of the UAE and Govt. of Pakistan, under Inter Governmental Commercial Transaction Act 2022, to further strengthen the relations between the two countries in Maritime sector.



FAISALABAD: An iron smith is busy in his work near fire at factory during high temperature, just to earn daily wages for the livelihood of his family.

Neelum Jhelum Hydrel Power Station likely to resume generation by July

ISLAMABAD (APP): Neelum Jhelum Hydrel Power Station is likely to resume electricity generation by the end of July as hectic efforts are underway to complete the remedial works being carried out in the tail race tunnel of the project. This was the crux of the briefing given to Chairman WAPDA Engr Lt Gen (Retd) Sajjad Ghani by the management during his visit to the project on Monday, said a press release.

The chairman had a detailed visit of the 3.5-Km long tail race tunnel, the affected stretch in particular. The consultants, dilating upon the progress of rehabilitation works, briefed the Chairman that concrete lining is in progress in the area that had collapsed and caused a blockade of the tail race tunnel. The rest of the affected area is also being strengthened through lattice girders and rock bolting followed by shotcrete inside the tunnel. The contractor

has been carrying out rehabilitation works round-the-clock in accordance with the guidelines of international consultants. The chairman urged the project team to complete the remedial works as per the timeline and re-start Neelum Jhelum Hydrel Power Station by the end of next month without any compromise on the structural integrity of the project. Later, Chairman WAPDA presided over Board of Directors (BOD) meeting of Neelum Jhelum Hydro Power Company, held at the project site. The BOD Members also visited the power house and the tunnel. It is pertinent to mention that the 969 MW-Neelum Jhelum Hydro-power Project started electricity generation in April 2018. Prior to blockade of its tail race tunnel last year, the project had provided more than 18 billion units of electricity to the National Grid.

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) shed 680.08 points on Monday, a negative change of 1.65 per cent, closing at 40,621.22 points against 41,301.30 points the previous day. A total of 179,780,375 shares were traded during the day as compared to 156,023,085 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs.5.624 billion against Rs. 3.746 billion on the last trading day. As many as 320 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 54 of them recorded gains and 224 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 320 companies remained unchanged. The three top-trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 27,671,924 shares at Rs.1.12 per share; K-Electric Ltd with 11,375,247 shares at Rs.1.58 per share and Energycio PK with 9,338,326 shares at Rs.2.91 per share. Colgate PalmXDXB witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.76.72 per share price, closing at Rs.1,287.05, whereas the runner-up was Mehmood Tex with an Rs.74.33 rise in its per share price to Rs.1,065.33.

LAHORE: Members of All Pakistan Clerk Association (APCA) are holding protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products and inflation price hiking, at Lahore press club.



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Russia says regional free trade pact with Iran possible by year-end

MOSCOW (INP): A free trade zone agreement between Iran, Russia and several countries that cover the vast Eurasian region spreading from the borders of Eastern Europe to Western China is possible by the end of the year. Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk told the state agency in an interview that talks between the Eurasian Economic Union — which comprises Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia — and Iran are in their final stages. "We are moving forward," Overchuk said. "We very much hope that such an agreement can be signed by the end of the year." Both the region and Iran have taken on additional significance for the Kremlin after Western sanctions over Moscow's invasion in Ukraine limited Russia's foreign trade routes and forced it to look for markets outside Europe. However, despite tighter ties between Moscow and Tehran since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022 and Iran made big purchases of Iranian-made drones.

PCJCCI keen to boost Pakistan's dairy sector with China's help

LAHORE (APP): Cooperation between China and Pakistan on dairy industry and multifarious demands for high-quality dairy products in China would provide a contemporary path of development for Pakistan's domestic dairy sector. Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President Moazzam Ghurki stated this in a think-tank session, held here at PCJCCI Secretariat on Monday. He said that Pakistan was among the world's top five largest milk producers with over 60 million tonnes of milk production each year. Such ventures and exports could definitely add value to Pakistan's economy. He added that China learned that Pakistan was the most important exporter and producer of dairy products in South Asia. "Chinese technolo-

gies are low-priced, and if we adopt the techniques and technology, used by China, the country can flourish in this industry," he suggested. PCJCCI Senior Vice President Fang Yulong shared his views by saying, "We are willing to explore more about Pakistani dairy industry to see if we have the opportunity to be part of it." From 2011 to 2023, China's dairy imports rose at a compound annual growth of 12.3 percent, and the demand was still expanding. Milk powder, liquid milk, high value-added dairy products such as whey, cheese, butter and cream were also in high demand in the Chinese market, he added. PCJCCI Vice President Hamza Khalid said that currently China's dairy imports mainly come from New Zealand (40.44 per cent), the Netherlands (17.15pc) and Australia

(7.38pc). "Our government should support this industry to boost export and domestic production, especially to control the adulteration of loose milk." He asserted that local farmers were facing many problems such as a lack of education, latest storage facilities, transfer of milk and cold storage, and to get rid of these, the government should come forward to train and educate farmers about modern technology. Joint chamber's Secretary General Salahuddin Hanif added that animal husbandry was one of the pillar industries in Pakistan, specifically Balochistan where Gwadar Port under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was located. Balochistan had the unique advantages of breeding beef cattle and dairy cows and if the industrial chain of China could be extended to Pakistan.



RAWALPINDI: President Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) Saqib Rafique addressing during ceremony regarding "Chances of Trade in Gilgit"

Dams play important role in agricultural development: Fazl

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker provincial minister for irrigation, Haji Fazl Elahi on Monday said that dams play an important role in the agricultural development of any country, while the agricultural sector is affected due to the lack of an excellent irrigation system, which results in shortage of food items. After the completion of the Remodelling of Warsak Canal project, the water flow in the Warsak canals will increase up to 1250 cusecs. The flow of seven hundred cusecs of water will increase with this project. Most of the areas of Peshawar and Nowshera

are irrigated from the canals coming out of Warsak Dam. Unfortunately, a lot of our water is being wasted. He expressed these views during his visits to various ongoing projects of the Irrigation Department in the Khyber and Mohmand districts. During the visit, Chief Engineer South Yasin Khan, Project Director Remodelling of Warsak Canal Roohul Mohsin, Superintendent Engineer Batoor Zaman Khan and relevant officials of the Irrigation Department were present. Minister Irrigation visited the pump house of Warsak Canal in Jamrud where he inspected various parts of the pump house

and inquired about their functions. On this occasion, Project Director Remodelling of Warsak Canal System Roohul Mohsin said during the briefing that the total number of pumps in the pump house is five of which four are in use while one pump is on standby, work is going on for the upgradation of the grade station in the pump house, which will be completed soon. Meanwhile, minister Haji Fazl Elahi reviewed the work on the tunnel under the Remodelling of Warsak Canal project in Malaguri where the Chinese company is doing development work.

Gold prices decline by Rs.1,000 to Rs220,700 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.1,000 and was sold at Rs.220,700 on Monday against its sale at Rs.221,700 the previous day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.858 to Rs.189,214 from Rs.190,072 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went down to Rs.173,447 from Rs.174,232. All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

Yousaf dismissed from LCCI Executive body

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry has dismissed Muhammad Yousaf Shah from the Executive Committee for not renewing the membership within the time stipulated by law, according to the LCCI spokesman here on Monday. He explained that Muhammad Yousaf Shah failed to renew the membership of his company Al Yousaf Enterprises within the stipulated time period due to which he was no longer a member of the Lahore Chamber and at the same time, his eligibility as a member of the Executive Committee also ended. The decision would be applicable from March 31, 2023. "It should be noted that in the LCCI, the registration and membership is obtained by a company or business concern, not by any individual man. On the basis of that company, etc., any individual becomes a member of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry and accordingly he is elected as Executive Committee Member, President, Senior Vice President or Vice President through the election process. If a person does not complete the first basic task i.e. renewal of the company, etc. on the basis of which, he is a member of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce.

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LAHORE: Members of All Pakistan Pan Cigarette Association are holding protest demonstration against Customs, at Lahore press club.

PSX loses 680 points

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Bakhtawari for improving country's food storage system

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan has produced more than 27 million tons of wheat this year, which is a record, due to the Prime Minister Kisan Package. The government and related institutions should ensure timely measures to deliver the fruits of the best harvest to the industry and the people." President ICCI said that Pakistan is primarily an agricultural country, and it is very worrying that we have to import food every year to meet our requirements, which consumes a huge national capital. Pakistan's farmers and industry have all the capabilities to make us self-sufficient in food. He said that the Food Department in collaboration with the flour mills industry should take such steps to ensure that we do not have to install cheap flour points. He said that Deputy Director of the Food Department Maher Ghulam Abbas has rendered valuable services for the improvement of the system of the department. He has very diligently and dutifully implemented the policy of equality and treated all flour mill owners equally which is commendable.

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Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Three ships namely, Mega-1, Golden Denise, and Santa Francesca carrying Palm oil, Chemicals and Coal, berthed at Liquid Terminal, Engro Terminal and Bulk Terminal respectively on Sunday. Meanwhile, three more ships, Maud, Silhouette Island and MSC Rana with Coal and Containers also arrive at the outer anchorage of Port Qasim during the last 24 hours. A total of 06 ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them a chemical carrier "Golden Denise" sailed out to sea on Monday morning & three more ships, Ullswater, Akij Moon and Dona Bibi are expected to sail on same day. A cargo volume of 74,126 tonnes, comprising 54,100 tonnes of imports Cargo and 20,026 tonnes of export cargo.

Tunnel cultivation stressed to meet climatic change challenges

FAISALABAD (APP): Director General (DG) Agriculture (Farm & Training) Punjab Dr Ishtiaq Hussain has said that tunnel cultivation is imperative to cater to domestic food requirements amid the challenges of climatic change. He was addressing a meeting at Ayub Agricultural Research Institute (ARI) here on Monday. He said that climatic changes had posed severe risk of food security in the country. Therefore, the agricultural scientists should introduce new seed varieties which should be not only climate resilient but

also give maximum production amid harsh weather conditions. He also stressed the need to adopt tunnel cultivation for vegetables and said that this technique could help in cater to domestic food requirements at a large extent. He said that cultivation of summer vegetables was not possible in open field during winter in Punjab. Therefore, the growers should use tunnel to grow cucumbers, tomatoes, green chilli, capsicum, gourd (Ghiya Kaddu), pumpkin, bitter melon (Karela), melon, watermelon, Teendi, etc.



KARACHI: A view of cattle market in Karachi, ahead of Eid UlAdha.

Xi says China, US 'made progress' in Blinken visit

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping said the United States and China had "made progress" on a number of issues on Monday as he hosted US State Secretary Antony Blinken for talks in Beijing.



US State Secretary Antony Blinken (L) shakes hands with China's President Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Taliban's treatment of women could be 'gender apartheid' - UN expert

Monitoring Desk GENEVA: A United Nations expert said on Monday that the Taliban's treatment of Afghan women and girls could amount to gender apartheid as their rights continue to be gravely infringed by the country's de facto authorities.

Key Asean members skip Thai-hosted Myanmar talks

Monitoring Desk BANGKOK: Thailand's caretaker government hosted the foreign minister of Myanmar's ruling junta at informal regional peace talks on Sunday, as key Southeast Asian counterparts stayed away from the meeting that has drawn sharp criticism.



People board a truck as they leave Khartoum, Sudan.

agreement on some specific issues", he added, without elaborating. "I hope that Secretary Blinken, through this visit, can make positive contributions to stabilising China-US relations," he added.

On this issue, China has no room to compromise or concede," Wang told Blinken, according to CCTV. US State Department spokesman Matthew Miller called the discussion with Wang "candid and productive".

Cyclone leaves 13 dead in Brazil

Monitoring Desk SAO LEOPOLDO: A cyclone which tore through southern Brazil has killed at least 13 people and forced thousands from their homes, authorities said on Sunday.

UAE, Qatar reopen embassies after years of tensions

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar on Monday announced the reopening of their respective diplomatic missions, six years after the Gulf rivals severed ties during a regional blockade that sent tensions soaring.



US State Secretary Antony Blinken (L) shakes hands with China's President Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Five Palestinians killed as Israel deploys helicopters in West Bank

Monitoring Desk WEST BANK: Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank killed five Palestinians including a militant on Monday, in a raid that saw seven Israeli security personnel wounded and rare helicopter fire.

Russia to stay in touch with African peace mission, some ideas workable - Kremlin

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: The Kremlin said on Monday that Russia would continue to talk to a group of African countries seeking to mediate in the conflict with Ukraine, notably at a Russia-Africa summit next month, and that some of their ideas were workable.



View of a house destroyed in the city of Sao Leopoldo, Rio Grande do Sul State, after an extratropical cyclone hit the southern region of Brazil, causing thunderstorms and windstorms.

Over 10,000 migrants reach UK in small boats this year

Monitoring Desk LONDON: The number of people arriving in the UK in small boats has reached over 10,000 since the start of the year, UK government figures showed on Sunday.

Scores die in northern India as heat wave scorches region

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: At least 54 people died in a district in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh over the last few days, the Times of India newspaper reported on Monday, as authorities probed if the loss of lives was due to the heat wave in the region.

UN chief urges donors to step up aid response for Sudan

Monitoring Desk GENEVA: U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appealed on Monday for countries to step up aid pledges for Sudan, where a conflict between rival military factions has forced some 2.2 million people from their homes and sparked a major humanitarian crisis.

North Korea says botched satellite launch was 'gravest failure'

Monitoring Desk SEOUL: North Korea has said its botched military satellite launch last month was the "gravest failure" at the ruling party's latest key meeting, state media KCNA reported on Monday.

Kuwait names new Cabinet amid infighting with parliament that has paralyzed the political system

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: Kuwait formed a new government on Monday after the previous Cabinet was dissolved following the third parliamentary elections in three years amid infighting that has paralyzed the country's political system.

Swiss voters approve global minimum corporate tax, climate goals

Monitoring Desk GENEVA: The Swiss, feeling the impact of global warming on their rapidly melting glaciers, on Sunday backed a new climate bill aimed at steering their country towards carbon neutrality by 2050.

The UAE and Qatar reopen embassies as Gulf Arab relations improve after a yearslong rift

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates and Qatar announced the reopening of their embassies on Monday following a yearslong rift.

Multiple tornadoes have killed at least one person and injured nearly two dozen in Mississippi

Monitoring Desk JACKSON: Multiple tornadoes swept through Mississippi overnight, killing one and injuring nearly two dozen, officials said.

Iraq unveils ancient stone tablet returned by Italy

Monitoring Desk BAGHDAD: Iraq unveiled on Sunday a 2,800-year-old stone tablet returned by Italy, as the war-ravaged country works to recover from abroad antiquities looted from its territory.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo presiding over meeting of Provincial Cabinet

MNAs appreciate budgetary measures, seek motorways for Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Members of the National Assembly on Monday appreciated the government for proposing significant relief measures for the common man and allocating unprecedented development funds in the Federal Budget 2023-24.

Participating in the budget debate in the Lower House of the Parliament, they sought development projects especially the missing facilities of motorways for the Balochistan province to end the sense of deprivation of its people.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's Ms Asiya Azeem, while strongly condemning the May 9 riots, demanded that no leniency should be given to the culprits involved in the heinous act. She also expressed deep

grief over the boat accident in which scores of Pakistanis lost their lives.

She said Pakistan had been borrowing massively for the last 75 years as the national economy remained dependent on foreign loans. "We cannot achieve economic stability till date," she added. She said inward foreign remittances also witnessed sharp decrease last year.

Asiya Azeem said a meager amount of Rs 5 billion was earmarked for women in the budget, who were 51 percent of the country's population.

She suggested that a separate ministry for women should be set up and lauded the government for announcing tax exemption for businesswomen.

The PTI MNA also appreciated the government

for enhancing salaries and pensions of the employees, however, urged for taking steps to control inflation which had surged to 38 percent.

Minister of State for Power Division Muhammad Hashmi Notezai, while expressing grief over the boat tragedy, said the people had to resort to illegal ways to reach the European countries for better job opportunities and due to increasing unemployment tendency in the country.

He said Balochistan was blessed with many natural resources, but the local people were not getting any benefits from them. Their livelihood largely depended on agriculture and border trade as there was no industry in the province, he added.



ISLAMABAD: As a token of appreciation and to thank the people and Government of Azerbaijan for hosting PM Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and his delegation last week, the Prime Minister is holding hand of the Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan H.E. Khazar Farhadov during a ceremony.

Pakistan's economy to touch \$1 trillion by year 2035: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal on Monday said that the size of Pakistan's economy would be expected to touch \$1 trillion by the year 2035 as the country's economy would become one of the largest in the world.

Addressing 'Master Card Funded Care Ignite Project' ceremony held here, the minister said that the country's economy had the potential to become a major economy in the

world by 2035. Ahsan Iqbal hoped that domestic exports could reach \$100 billion in the next five years and current domestic exports stood at \$30 billion, which was much less than its potential. He said that the current government was following short-term, medium and long-term plans to improve the economy, for which the Economic Council had been formed. Ahsan Iqbalsaid that the economy of the country had deteriorated due to the wrong planning of the previous Tehreek-e-Insaf.



QUETTA: BNP-Mengal Leaders, Malik Naseer Ahmed Shahwani, Ahmed Nawaz Baloch and others are addressing a Press conference.

DG BFA says BFA will continue its mission of eliminating food adulteration

Independent Report
QUETTA: Balochistan Food Authority will continue its mission of eliminating food adulteration and providing safe and healthy food to the people across the province, these views were expressed by Director General BFA Muhammad Naeem Bazai while talking to newly appointed Food Safety Officers, Lab Technologists and Food Safety Supervisors on the occasion of an introductory meeting.

DG said, "The purpose of the introductory meeting was to introduce the newly appointed officers and officials to the vision, mission, and objectives of Balochistan Food Authority."

He emphasized the importance while he informed the new officers and officials about the organizational structure and responsibilities of

Balochistan Food Authority. Apart from this, a four-day training session was also started for the newly appointed officers. On the first day of the session, Director BFA Muhammad Ishaq gave a comprehensive briefing to the participants about better teamwork and the importance of working under a positive strategy.

New officers also expressed their determination that they will use all their abilities to carry forward the mission of Balochistan Food Authority in a better way so that the dream of providing healthy and adulteration-free food to the people of Balochistan will come true. Moreover, the Director General of BFA encouraged the new officers and employees and expressed the hope that they will work together and play their full role for the improvement of the food safety situation throughout Balochistan.

Commander of Iranian Navy calls on CNS Admiral Amjad Niazi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy Rear Admiral Shahram Irani on Monday visited Naval Headquarters Islamabad and called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi.

Upon arrival at Naval Headquarters, Commander of the Iranian Navy Chief and was presented a Guard of Honour, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

After the wreath-laying at Shuhada monument,

the visiting dignitary was introduced to Principal Staff Officers at Naval Headquarters.

Later, Commander of the Iranian Navy called on Chief of the Naval Staff at his office. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest including bilateral and regional collaborations and maritime security in the region were discussed.

The Naval Chief highlighted Pakistan Navy's initiatives to ensure maritime security and peace through Regional Maritime Security Patrols.



TEHRAN: Secretary Defence Lt. Gen (Retd) Hamood Uz Zaman Khan and Commander Border Guards of Islamic Republic of Iran Brig. General Ali Goudarzi signing MoU.

Pakistan-Iran sign MoU to enhance Maritime cooperation

Pakistan, Iran agree to expand cooperation in diverse areas

TEHRAN (APP): Pakistan and Iran have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance Maritime cooperation.

The MoU was signed between Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) and the Iranian border guards during the visit of Secretary Defence, Lt. Gen (Retd) Hamooduz Zaman to Iran. It will strengthen relations between PMSA and Iranian border guards.

Upon arrival in Tehran, the Secretary Defence was welcomed by the Iranian Deputy Defence Minister. During interaction, the Iranian Deputy Defence Minister expressed best wishes for Pakistan's political and military leadership.

The Secretary Defence emphasized the importance of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Iran. He also expressed the hope that bilateral relations will continue to evolve on

PTI is fully prepared to contest election: Asad

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI leader Asad Umar has said it is mentioned in the constitution that election should be held. "It is laid down in the constitution should be held. PTI is fully prepared to contest election. Our party is ready to participate in election whenever they are announced. To a question from a journalist on the occasion of his appearance in District and Sessions Court Islamabad that he will contest election on PTI ticket or on the ticket of some other party, he said if ticket is awarded to him he will contest election at every cost.

Ambiguity was left in Asad Umar reply that ticket means ticket of PTI or from some party other

than PTI. He held it is enshrined in the constitution that election should take place. Our party is ready whenever elections are announced. Be it AJK election or Karachi mayor's election reservations are there on all. All parties have expressed reservations.

He went on to say if the election commission does not pave the way for transparent election then what problems were faced in the past will be faced in future as well. People will say after election that rigging has been committed.

Asad Umar appeared in the district and sessions court Islamabad in connection with case registered against him in Margalla police station.



QUETTA: Former Inspector General Police Dr. Syed Kaleem Imam meeting with Parliamentary Secretary for Law, Parliamentary Affairs, Science & Information Technology Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi

GoB allocates land for setting up of NIFS: Dr. Rubaba says

QUETTA (APP): Parliamentary Secretary Law and Parliamentary Affairs Science and Information Technology Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi on Monday said that Balochistan government has allocated land for setting up of National Institute of Forensic Sciences (NIFS). "With the establishment of this institute, Balochistan's dependence on the Punjab Forensic Laboratory will end and Quetta itself will deal with forensic matters," she expressed these views while talking to the former senior officer of the Police Services of Pakistan Dr. Syed Kaleem Imam (Tamgha Intiaz) and a consultant National Institute of Forensic Sciences called on her here at the Law department.

Mr. Kaleem Imam briefed her about the establishment of the National Institute of Forensic Sciences in Quetta and discussed the necessary legis-

lation in this context.

Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi said that the provincial government has provided adequate land for the establishment of the first forensic sciences institute.

On this occasion, Dr. Syed Kaleem Imam said that an MoU has been inked with the Higher Education Commission regarding the National Institute of Forensic Sciences, while all the administrative and technical issues have been explained in the charter, but the final law prior to the implementation, documents containing the suggestions given by the provincial government can be made. "The institute will hire six highly qualified professionals from Balochistan, including vice-chancellor and professors, he maintained adding that this project would not only ensure educational facilities, but also employment opportunities would be available to talented local people of Balochistan.

PTI govt imposed in country to fulfill foreign agenda: Fazal

TANK (APP): Jamiat Ulema Islam Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Monday said he had raised voice against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government which was imposed to fulfill the foreign agenda in the country. He expressed these views while addressing a public gathering after inaugurating mega development projects worth billions of rupees in Tank. On this occasion, Fazl inaugurated a 36-km long Tank to Pezu Road and a link road from Tank to Yarik Interchange of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) at a cost of Rs 4 billion.

Fazl, who is also chief of the Pakistan Democratic

Movement (PDM), said "We have ended the government which was imposed in 2018 rigged elections." He said the role of that evil has been removed from the politics of Pakistan and now that would not be allowed to rise again.

He said, after coming into power in the federation, the JUI-F got approved several projects worth in billions of rupees within only one year. He said JUI-F served the people before and would continue to do so in the future.

On this occasion, Federal Minister for Communications Asad Mahmood said the ten-year period of darkness has been ended in the province.



ISLAMABAD: Information Secretary of Pakistan Peoples Party Balochistan Sardar Sarbaland Khan Jogezi meeting with Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Sajid Hussain Turi

Jogezi meets Sajid Turi in Islamabad

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Information Secretary of Pakistan Peoples Party Balochistan Sardar Sarbaland Khan Jogezi met Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Sajid Hussain Turi on Monday in Islamabad.

Malik Mustafa Kakar, a member of the Provincial Executive Committee was also present at the meeting.

Commissioner says Public problems will reduce with best performance of administrative officers

Independent Report
QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Sohail Ur Rehman Baloch said that the role of administrative officers is very important, so only with their best performance, public problems would be reduced and administration affairs will be done better. Best arrangements during the 34th National Games and all the administrative officers deserved praise for taking other measures. The best performance of the officers earns the trust of the public. Therefore, it is very important to encourage the concerned officers for good performance.

He expressed his views on the occasion of the distribution of certificates of appreciation to administrative officers and officials who performed best during the 34th National Games.

On this occasion, Commissioner Quetta Division Sohailur Rahman Baloch apprised Deputy Commissioner Quetta Shahak Baloch, Additional Commissioner Quetta Di-

vision Saeed Ahmed, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Quetta Division, Assistant Commissioner Quetta Division Babar Khan, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Revenue Quetta Ms. Sana Majbeen, Assistant Commissioner City Quetta Ataul Munim, Assistant Commissioner Sariab Nisar Ahmad Longu, and other administrative officers and appreciation certificates were given to the officials.

Commissioner Quetta Division further said that improving the performance of administrative officers will reduce public problems as well as improve administrative affairs. During the 34th National Games, the team consisting of Deputy Commissioner Quetta and other administrative officers worked day and night to prove it. He hoped that all the administrative officers would do their best to bring a good name to the government and reduce the problems of the people by showing excellent performance in the future.



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Sohail Ur Rehman Baloch distributed certificates of appreciation among administrative officers and officials for their best performance during the 34th National Games.

Lawyers observe boycott of courts' proceedings in Balochistan

Independent Report
QUETTA: The lawyers' fraternity observed boycott of the courts' proceedings in the courts all over Balochistan province on Monday.

The call for boycott was given by the Balochistan Bar Council (BBC) against the incident of firing at residence of senior lawyer and former Governor Punjab, Sardar Latif Khosa, extra judicial arrests and raids at the residences of lawyers and civil society representatives and other issues.

According to a leader of Balochistan Bar Council, Rahib Buledi Advocate, the lawyers didn't appear in the courts following the boycott.