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Elite class to be brought to tax net, vows PM

Questions KP gov't failure to establish CTD despite receiving Rs590 b funds

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif on Friday hailed the approval of the budget 2024-25 in the National Assembly (NA), vowing to bring elite class and tax defaulters to tax net.

The remarks came during the prime minister's meeting with Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb as he lauded the latter and his team preparing a "pro-people budget" that prioritises welfare of common man and promises to steer the country towards economic prosperity.

Talking to the finance minister, PM Shehbaz expressed his satisfaction over the active participation of all the treasury and opposition members in the budget session.

He also appreciated

the efforts of the officers from ministries of finance, planning, other relevant ministries and Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) in preparation of the budget.

The government, he said tried its best to utilize all possible resources to provide maximum relief to the common man. He said the government provided relief to the salaried class, pensioners and workers.

The prime minister highlighted that a special attention was given in the budget to various important sectors such as health, education, agriculture and information technology.

He said the elite class and the tax defaulters would be brought to the tax net. It is not possible for the poor pay the taxes and the elites enjoy tax exemptions, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar met with Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al-Malkiy, in the Federal Capital.

In a tit-for-tat move

NA passes counter-resolution, criticizes US understanding of Pakistan's democracy

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly (NA) on Friday adopted a counter-resolution criticizing the United States' understanding of Pakistan's democratic system.

The United States (US) House of Representatives, in a resolution passed on June 25, expressed support for democracy in Pakistan, prompting the NA to pass a counter-resolution with a majority vote.

While acknowledging the US as an important and valued partner, the NA em-

phasized the principles of the 1973 Constitution of Pakistan and reaffirmed its commitment to upholding democracy and fundamental human rights.

It reiterated Pakistan's ongoing efforts to safeguard those principles, reflecting the aspirations of its people and the vision of its founding fathers. The NA expressed deep regret that the US resolution demonstrated an incomplete and incorrect understanding of Pakistan's political and electoral processes.



QUETTA: View of traffic jam due to protest demonstration of Zamindar Action Committee for acceptance of their demands, at Kan Mehtarzai.

Tarar assures to form committee on journalists protection

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Friday assured the protesting reporters covering parliamentary proceedings of forming a committee on the protection of journalists and develop a mechanism in that regard in consultation with the provinces.

The reporters staged a walk-out from the National Assembly's Press Gallery to raise their concerns about the security of journalists facing violence across the country and reservations on working environment in the Parliament House.

The minister flanked by Press Information Officer Mubashir Hassan came to the Press Gallery to hold negotiations with the protesting journalists.

Speaking on the occa-

sion, Tarar said, "We have a very strong relationship with journalists. When the gates of Parliament House were closed for us, we used to sit with you and convey our voice to the people."

He said efforts were being made to solve the problems of journalists on priority. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting was working to address the issues of journalist community.

The minister paid tribute to the Parliamentary Reporters' Association (PRA) for upholding freedom of press.

"I have taken strict notice of the coordination problems arising in relation to the budget books, which will be solved immediately."

Tarar confirmed that the matter would be resolved immediately by contacting the National Assembly Secretariat.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti addressing Balochistan Assembly after approval of budget

NA passes Finance Bill-2024 with majority vote

FM Aurangzeb says economy has achieved stability; Announces tax exemption for health, education sectors inputs; PPP supports govt in passing budget

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly on Friday passed the Finance Bill 2024 after a clause-by-clause consideration, incorporating specific amendments.

Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb moved the motion for consideration of the Finance Bill, 2024 to give effect to the financial proposals of the federal government for the year, commencing on July 1, 2024.

The motion was passed with majority vote which led to the passage of Finance Bill-2024 after clause-by-clause reading and adopting amendments after due process of voting.

All the amendments, presented by the opposition members, were rejected.

The total outlay of the federal budget for the fiscal year 2024-25 is Rs. 18,877

trillion. This budget outlines the government's fiscal policies and budgetary allocations for the upcoming financial year, reflecting a comprehensive plan to address various economic and social challenges.

The government has allocated Rs. 1,400 billion for the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) in its current budget, and an additional amount of Rs100 billion would be allocated under Public-Private Partnership, bringing the total to Rs1,500, the highest in the country's history.

In the budget grants amounting to Rs1,777 billion for the promotion of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Gilgit-Baltistan, merged districts of KP, Higher Education Commission, Railways, and IT sectors have been allocated.

To ensure equitable development in AJK, GB, and merged districts of the KP, the government has allocated at 10 percent and around 11 percent for other sectors development including IT, telecom, science and technology, governance, and production sector.

The House also held discussion on the Charged Expenditure that included Demands for Grants and Appropriations for the financial year ending on June 30, 2025.

The House approved 133 demands for grants related to various departments and ministries.

According to the Rule 187 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in National Assembly 2007, not less than four days shall be allotted for the general discussion on the budget.



QUETTA: Chief Justice of Balochistan High Court, Mr. Justice Muhammad Hashim Kakar enquiring about health of school teacher Aamir Ghori who was injured while saving life of a child from passenger train

Deputy PM Dar meets Saudi Ambassador

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday met with Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al-Malkiy and discussed bilateral cooperation and key areas of mutual interest.

In the meeting, the two sides also reaffirmed commitment to further strengthening the strategic partnership between the two brotherly nations, a Foreign Office press release said.

The Deputy PM also appreciated the facilities extended to the pilgrims during the Hajj.

CJP calls JCP meeting to appoint CJs of LHC and SHC

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa has called a meeting of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) on July 2 to discuss the appointment of the chief justices (CJs) of the Lahore High Court (LHC) and Sindh High Court (SHC).

The agenda of the JCP meeting on July 2 includes the consideration of a permanent Chief Justice for the Lahore High Court.

Sources indicate that Justice Shujaat Ali Khan, Justice Ali Baqar Najafi, and Justice Alia Neelam are being considered for the position of Lahore High Court's Chief Justice.

Additionally, the meeting will also consider the appointment of a permanent Chief Justice for the Sindh High Court.

CJ BHC directs to take steps for provision of best medical treatment to Aamir Ghouri

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Justice, Balochistan High Court (BHC), Mr. Justice Muhammad Hashim Khan Kakar visited the Trauma Center Quetta on Friday.

During the visit, he went to see the injured teacher, Aamir Ghouri, being treated at the Trauma Center.

The Chief Justice summoned the high officials of Health Department includ-

ing Special Secretary Health, Commissioner Quetta, Medical Superintendent of Sandeman Hospital and Managing Director of Trauma Center.

He directed them to take every possible steps for ensuring the medical treatment and all other necessary facilities to the injured Aamir Ghouri.

He also prayed for the early recovery of the injured teacher.

Alarming situation of crippling disease: Polio cases continue to rise in Balochistan as another reported from K. Abdullah

Independent Report
QUETTA: The polio cases continued to rise in Balochistan province where another case of the crippling disease has been reported on Friday.

The Health Department sources confirmed that the polio virus has been diagnosed in around two years child belonging to Killa Abdullah district.

It may be mentioned here that it is the third case reported from Killa Abdullah and sixth from Balochistan during the current year. A polio case was reported a couple of days back from Killa Abdullah district. Besides, three polio cases (one each) had been reported from Quetta, Chaman and Dera Bugti earlier this year.

It may also be mentioned here that Balochistan remained polio free province in 2022 and 2023. Earlier, one polio case was reported in 2021 while record 26 cases had been reported in 2020. Aggregately, a total of 59 cases of polio have been reported in Balochistan since 2015.

Can't allow to kill tourists, barbers and security personnels at all: No one would set right Balochistan coming from outside, rather MPAs sitting in House have to correct, asserts CM

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti has emphasized that no would set right the province coming from outside, rather the members of provincial assembly have to correct it.

He said that although he is ready to hold talks with every one, but can't allow to kill the tourists, barbers and security forces personnel at all. He also can't support those who impose their ideology carrying weapons, and as such would deal those who are taking law in

their hands.

He categorically stated that law and order is the biggest problem for us in the province. He stressed that we have to separate our personal interest for the interest of province.

These views were expressed by the Chief Minister Balochistan while winding up debate on the next financial year's budget here in the budget session of assembly on Friday evening.

The Speaker Abdul Khaliq Achakzai was in the chair.

The Chief Minister maintained that the release

of funds would be started for development schemes from July 1, 2024.

He said that we would spend Rs. 229 billion on development in next financial year.

He mentioned that 79 schemes of the province had been sent to the federal government for inclusion in the federal PSDP, however, our two schemes were approved.

He announced that several federal schemes would be seen while completing in the next financial year. He said that our accountability would be started from July 1.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif interacts with Chairman PPP, MNA Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in the National Assembly.

Afghan soil being used for terrorism in Pakistan: Khawaja Asif

ISLAMABAD (APP): Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Friday said that the Afghan territory was being used for committing terrorism, bloodshed, and destruction in Pakistan.

Pakistan possessed concrete evidence that its enemies had sanctuaries in Afghanistan and would take counter measures to defend its citizens, he said while speaking in the National Assembly.

The defence minister recounted his visit to Kabul, during which he had conveyed to the Afghan authorities that fostering good relations would be beneficial for both nations.

He urged the opposition not to do politicking on terrorism as it was a matter of national security and honouring the blood of martyrs. Khawaja Asif highlighted the adverse impacts of terrorism on the country's economy, alleging that some opposition members had links with the Taliban. Such people had facilitated the return of 6,000 terrorists of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) to the country, he added.

The minister stressed the importance of national unity in combating terrorism and protecting Pakistan's sovereignty and security.

Mohsin Naqvi says Pakistan committed to peacekeeping partnership

NEW YORK (APP): Pakistan will work with the United Nations and all interested states to further develop the concept of peace enforcement.

This was stated by Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, while addressing the UNCOPS Summit 2024 at the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The Interior Minister said Pakistan is proud of longstanding contributions to the UN peacekeeping. He said Pakistan is committed to peacekeeping partnership especially with the African Union and the OIC.

He said in today's dangerous time, the world faced threats of forced foreign interventions, suppression of freedom struggles, poverty, inequality, global tensions, military tensions and nuclear arms race.

Mohsin Naqvi said preventive diplomacy should



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary Muhammad Khan Lehri meeting with Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

focus on addressing the root cause of conflicts. He said the UN peacekeeping missions face increasing challenges from terrorist groups, tribal rivalries and threats to safety.

He said Pakistan agrees with the cause of series and broad-based future reflection of the UN peacekeeping. The Minister suggested that peacekeeping missions must be part of an overall political strategy, which seeks to address and resolve the cause of conflict and violence.

Special anti-polio campaign to be launched from July 1: CS calls for taking joint measures for eradication of polio; terms campaign challenge for all

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan has categorically stated that polio is a national issue, and all of us have to play our effective role for eradication of the virus from the province.

He also termed the upcoming anti-polio campaign as a challenge for the district administration and health department emphasizing upon reaching out to

each and every child for immunization during the campaign.

He warned that stern action would be taken against those who made an attempt to stop the anti-polio teams in any area.

The Chief Secretary was presiding over meeting about the forthcoming anti-polio campaign starting from July 1 in different districts of the province, here on Friday.

The Secretary Health, Provincial Coordinator of the Emergency Operation Center for Polio Eradication, Syed Zahid Shah as well as other concerned high ups and representatives of the WHO, UNICEF and other organizations were in attendance. During the briefing, it was informed that the special anti-polio campaign is due to start from July 1 in 16 districts of the province.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Mir Sadiq Umrani, Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran, Mir Ziaullah Lango, Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa, Raheela Hameed Durrani and MPAs Sheikh Zarak Khan Mandokhail, Mir Ghulam Dastagir Badini and Fazal Qadir talking with each other during Balochistan Assembly session

Punjab Governor says: Political parties should play positive role for development and prosperity of the country

Independent Report
LAHORE: A delegation of members of the Punjab Assembly, headed by the Parliamentary Leader of the Pakistan People's Party, Punjab Assembly, Syed Ali Haider Gillani, met Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at the Governor's House, Lahore. During the meeting, the members of the delegation congratulated Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider on assuming the office of Governor.

Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that all political parties including the opposition should play a positive role for the development and prosperity of the coun-

try. Governor Punjab further said that good governance and improving the quality of education in universities is a priority. He said that all resources would be utilized for the welfare of the people. He further said that he was committed to provide the facilities of higher education to the backward tehsils of far flung districts of Punjab. Punjab Governor said that the sub-campus of major universities in the backward tehsils of Attock District would be established in the shortest possible time.

Parliamentary Leader of Pakistan People's Party in Punjab Assembly, Syed Ali Haider Gillani said that People's Party has always

believed in the politics of reconciliation for stability in the country. The delegation comprised Sardar Raees Nabeel, Malik Wasif Mazhar Ran, Mian Kamran Abdullah Mudal, Qazi Ahmed Saeed, Amir Ali Shah, Inam Bari, Sardar Habibur Rehman Gopang, Shazia Abid, Neelam Jabbar and Nargis Faiz Malik.

Earlier, Secretary Home Punjab, Noor Ul Amin Mengal called on Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore. During the meeting, Secretary Home Punjab briefed the Governor Punjab regarding the peace and order plan during Muharram in Rawalpindi Division, especially in Attock district.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan in a group photo with delegation of MPAs, headed by the Parliamentary Leader of the PPP, Syed Ali Haider Gillani at the Governor's House.

KP to start Water Resource Accountability for Pak Prog.

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur presided over the meeting with officials of the Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Drainage, International Water Management Institute.

In the meeting, detailed considerations and important decisions were made on issues related to the protection of water reservoirs in the province, better management and efficient use of available water resources.

The decision was taken to start the Water Resource Accountability for Pakistan Program

(WRP) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with the support of the British Government. This program will provide technical support to the provincial government for the conservation of water resources, their better management and wise use. By implementing the program, reliable data related to underground, surface and rain water will be collected in the province. As a result of this support, the implementation of the Provincial Government's Water Act and Water and Agricultural Sector Reforms Agenda will be ensured.

Under the program, the International Water

Management Institute will provide technical assistance to the provincial government in six different sectors in Pakhtunkhwa. These areas include water accounting and productivity assessment, early draft warning system, water resource management information system, irrigation demand management, water allocation system and capacity building.

This program will be initially started in Charsadda and Mansehra district which will later be extended to other districts of the province. For this purpose, MoUs will be signed between the relevant provincial departments.

Minister for minority affairs meets journalists, Sikh pilgrims

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora visited the Lahore Press Club.

A large number of Sikh pilgrims from India were present on the occasion while former President of Chandigarh Press Club Punjab, India, and Secretary General of Indian Journalists Union, Balender Singh Jammu, and various Indian journalists were also present.

President of Lahore Press Club Arshad Ansari, Member Governing Body Imran Sheikh, Rana Shahzad and Syed Badr

Saeed etc. welcomed the distinguished guests. Ramesh Singh Arora said that he was very happy to come to Lahore Press Club while religious minorities in Pakistan, especially the Sikh community, have complete religious freedom and protection. Sikh pilgrims from India are provided with best facilities and perform their religious rituals without any hindrance. He further said that the facilities that the minorities get in Pakistan are not available to any minority including Muslims in India. "We are living a prosperous and peaceful life in Pakistan."



GILGIT: Rescue 1122 staffer busy in lifting car from the ditch after road accident at Nalter Expressway.

NADRA Chairman visits Central Police Office

LAHORE (APP): National Database & Registration Authority (NADRA) Chairman Lieutenant General Muhammad Munir Afsar visited the Central Police Office here on Friday.

Director General NADRA Lahore Sohail Jahangir, AD Rizwan Ali, and Major Nadeem Gondal accompanied him.

IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar and senior police officers welcomed the NADRA Chairman. A smart police contingent presented a salute to the NADRA Chairman on arrival. The NADRA Chairman visited the Police Martyrs' Memorial and offered prayers for the souls of the martyrs. Chairman NADRA, Lt Gen

Muhammad Munir Afsar paid rich tributes to the sacrifices of the Punjab Police martyrs.

During a meeting with IG Punjab, discussions were held to further enhance strategic partnership, data information sharing and mutual cooperation in cyber security and other professional affairs. The IG Punjab said that NADRA's data sharing in identification of criminals and terrorist elements, verification of citizens, policing issues is highly commendable.

Chairman NADRA, Lt Gen Muhammad Munir Afsar indicated to further expand cooperation with Punjab Police in the process of eradication of crimes and identification of miscreants and criminals.



GILGIT: Fateh Ullah, Chairman Board of Investment Gilgit-Baltistan addressing a post budget press conference along with Finance Minister Engr. Muhammad Ismail.

Larkana police crack down on kidnapers, rescue two victims in joint operation

Independent Report
LARKANA: In a successful operation, the Larkana Range Police, led by DIGP Nasser Aftab, in collaboration with the Shikarpur Police and Sindh Rangers, rescued two kidnapped individuals, Gulzar Phulpoto and Asif Sethar, from the Gharhi Tegho area. The operation was conducted based on intelligence reports of the presence of criminals and kidnapped individuals in the area. The police teams

worked tirelessly to ensure the safe recovery of the victims. DIGP Larkana Nasser Aftab has commended the Shikarpur Police for their role in the operation and issued commendation certificates to the team.

This operation is a significant blow to the kidnapping syndicates operating in the region, and the Larkana Police have proven their commitment to ensuring the safety and security of the citizens.

Uzma warns anti-state elements for creating chaos in name of religion, politics

ISLAMABAD (APP): Punjab Information Minister Uzma Bukhari Friday warned the anti-state elements who were involved in lawlessness to destabilize the country and said that government would adopt zero-tolerance policy in that regard.

Talking to a private news channel, she clarified the issue of restoring a hundred-year-old Gurdwara, adding no discussion was held so far in that regard but some anti-state groups were misleading the people.

The minister said law would come into action if there was a threat of damaging public property or harming the people, adding, anti-state elements were playing every tactic to tarnish the image of the country but would not succeed.

The provincial government would not allow anyone to spread violence and fan anarchy, she added.

Anti-polio campaign officially launched in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur here on Friday officially launched the campaign by administering polio drops to children to be started from July 1, 2024.

The five-day anti-polio campaign will continue from July 1 to July 5 with the Anti-polio campaign in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa being launched in July 2024.

Under the campaign, anti-polio drops will be administered in six complete districts of Swabi, Swat, Tank, North Waziristan, South Waziristan Lower, and South Waziristan Upper. Similarly, this campaign will also be conducted in specific union councils of five districts, including 22 union councils of Dera Ismail Khan, three of Peshawar and one each of Karam, Bannu and Lakki Marwat. Under the campaign, a total of 1299000 children have been set as the target of anti-polio vaccination, said the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Health Dept. KP lifts ban on MTI

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Department has decided to lift the ban on the decisions of the Board of Governors of the Medical Teaching Institution.

A formal letter has been issued by the Health Department to the chairmen of the Board of Governors of all MTIs. On March 8, the Chief Minister had banned the Board of Governors of Medical Teaching Institutions from taking important decisions. As a result of the formation of new boards, the ban on taking important decisions has been removed.

International News

Russia warns it can take unspecified measures in response to US drone flights over Black Sea

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia's Defense Minister ordered officials to prepare a "response" to U.S. drone flights over the Black Sea, the ministry said Friday, in an apparent warning that Moscow may take forceful action to ward off the American reconnaissance aircraft. The Russian Defense Ministry noted a recent "increased intensity" of U.S. drones over the Black Sea, saying they "conduct intelligence and targeting for precision weapons supplied to the Ukrainian military by Western countries for strikes on Russian facilities."

"It shows an increased involvement of the U.S. and other NATO countries in the conflict in Ukraine on the side of the Kyiv regime," the ministry said in a statement.

It noted that "such flights significantly increase the probability of incidents involving Russian military

aircraft, which increases the risk of direct confrontation between the alliance and the Russian Federation." "NATO members will bear responsibility for that," it added. The ministry said that Defense Minister Andrei Belousov has directed the General Staff to "make proposals on measures of operative response to provocations."

On March 14, 2023, a Su-27 fighter jet of the Russian air force intercepted and damaged a U.S. MQ-9 Reaper drone, causing it to crash into the Black Sea. The incident marked the first direct clash between the Russian and U.S. forces since the Cold War.

The Pentagon and U.S. European Command said after the incident that two Russian Su-27 aircraft dumped fuel on the MQ-9, which was conducting a routine surveillance mission over the Black Sea in international airspace.

The Russian Defense

Ministry said then that the U.S. drone was flying near the Russian border and intruded into an area that was declared off-limits by Russian authorities.

Russia has declared broad areas near Crimea off-limits to flights. Ever since Russia's 2014 illegal annexation of Crimea and long before Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, Moscow has accused U.S. surveillance planes of flying too close to its borders while ignoring the notices issued by Russia.

Friday's Russian statement follows a Ukrainian attack on Sevastopol over the weekend with U.S.-made ATACMS missiles, which killed four and injured about 150, according to Russian authorities.

Russian officials have claimed that the U.S. was directly involved in the attack by providing intelligence and targeting and warned to take retaliatory measures.



A woman carries a child as she evacuates with others from the Tuffah neighbourhood, in the east of Gaza City.

Democrats scramble to limit damage after Biden's wobbly debate showing against Trump

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden's allies scrambled to contain the fallout on Friday from his faltering performance at the first 2024 US presidential debate after he struggled to stem a barrage of attacks and false claims from his Republican rival Donald Trump.

The Biden campaign had hoped that a strong debate would quell concerns among voters that the 81-year-old Democratic incumbent is too old to serve a second four-year term.

Instead, a hoarse Biden stumbled over his words

and lost his train of thought at times, especially early in the debate.

One Biden donor, who asked for anonymity, called his performance "disqualifying" and predicted that some Democrats would revisit calls for Biden to step aside in favour of another candidate before the party's national convention in August.

Panicking Democrats exchanged messages wondering whether Biden would consider stepping down. One senior Democratic strategist said there would be calls for Biden to step down.

Bolivian President Luis Arce denies conspiracy after failed coup

Monitoring Desk
LA PAZ: Bolivian President Luis Arce on Thursday denied conspiring with his former army chief, who was arrested after deploying troops and tanks to the heart of the capital La Paz, where they tried to break down a door of the presidential palace.

Fourteen civilians who opposed the coup were wounded by gunfire, according to the authorities. Some had to be hospitalized

and operated on, Luis Arce told the press.

Authorities paraded handcuffed detainees in front of the media on Thursday, announcing 17 arrests including ex-army chief Juan Jose Zuniga, and riot police kept close watch over government buildings a day after the botched coup.

Tensions in the Andean nation have been rising in recent weeks over surging prices.

Russian satellite breaks up in space, forces ISS astronauts to shelter

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: A defunct Russian satellite has broken up into more than 100 pieces of debris in orbit, forcing astronauts on the International Space Station to take shelter for about an hour and adding to the mass of space junk already in orbit. US space agencies said. There were no immediate details on what caused the break-up of the RESURS-P1 Russian Earth observation satellite, which was declared dead in 2022. US Space Command, tracking the debris swarm, said there was no immediate threat to other satellites.

US soldier charged in Japan over minor's rape

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Japan's government is calling for stricter oversight of US troops stationed in the country after a soldier was charged with the alleged sexual assault of a Japanese teenager in Okinawa. Prosecutors in the southern island region charged the US soldier in March, top government spokesman Hayashi told reporters on Tuesday.

Palestinians flee as Israeli forces return to Gaza's north

Monitoring Desk
GAZA STRIP: Palestinians fled eastern Gaza City on Thursday under heavy bombardment as the Israeli military issued an evacuation order for the area it had previously declared clear of Hamas fighters.

The flare-up in the northern Gaza Strip's Shujaia district, which witnesses and medics said caused numerous casualties, comes as fears grow of a wider regional conflagration involving Israel and Hezbollah, a Hamas ally.

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, on a visit to Washington to discuss the Gaza conflict and ways to avoid broader conflict in the Middle East, warned Hezbollah that fighting on a massive scale would send Lebanon

"back to the stone age". With cross-border tensions between Israel and Hezbollah rising, Gallant said, "We do not want war, but we are preparing for every scenario." In Gaza, fighting has ground on despite comments by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that the "intense phase" of the war — now nearing its 10th month — was winding down.

The civil defence agency in the Hamas-run territory and medics said Israeli strikes overnight and early on Thursday killed at least five people in Gaza City and another in Beit Lahia, also in the north.

The Israeli military said it had "attacked terrorists who were in a school complex in Khan Yunis" in the south.

Turkey welcomes removal from a key money-laundering watchlist, hoping to boost foreign investment

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: Turkey on Friday welcomed a decision by an international watchdog to remove it from a so-called "gray list" of countries that have not fully implemented measures to fight money laundering and terrorism financing.

The announcement by the Financial Action Task Force in Singapore could bolster foreign investments in Turkey, which is trying to rebound from a deep economic downturn.

"We succeeded," Turkish Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek wrote on the social media platform X, as the decision was being announced.

Vice-President Cevdet Yilmaz said: "With this development, international investors' confidence in our country's financial system has become even stronger. The decision will have extremely positive consequences for the financial sector and the economy."

Being on the watchdog's gray list can scare away investors and creditors, hurting exports, output and consumption.

It also can make global banks wary of doing business with a country.

FATF President T. Raja Kumar, who is finishing his two-year term, said Turkey was taken off the gray list because of the "substantial progress" that it has made.

Christophe Deloire, the head of media freedom group Reporters Without Borders, has died. He was 53. Kumar said a FATF team visited Turkey in May and confirmed that the country had taken "substantive steps" to improve its anti-money laundering regime, addressing all the items in its action plan.

Kenya's young protesters plot next moves after dramatic tax win

Monitoring Desk
NAIROBI: After their stunning success in forcing the government to shelve \$2.7 billion in tax hikes, young Kenyan activists are setting their sights higher, taking aim at ingrained corruption and misgovernance.

Protesters say the finance bill that President William Ruto abandoned on Wednesday was only a symptom of the problems plaguing a country where many young people have few job prospects despite strong economic growth.

The movement has little precedent in its mass mobilisation of Kenyans across ethnic and regional divisions while rejecting any kind of political leadership.

Protests in Kenya have historically been led by elites, often ending in power-shar-

ing deals that yielded few tangible benefits for demonstrators. Protesters now face the challenge of maintaining unity and momentum while pursuing broader, less immediate goals.

They will also have to decide how to respond to Ruto's offer of dialogue, made on Wednesday but without specifics. Writer and activist Nanjala Nyabola said most of those involved in the recent protests were motivated by legitimate, strong grievances against the government.

"Until those grievances are addressed, it's unlikely that they're going to be willing to make concessions." How the diffuse and leaderless movement, which largely organised via social media, pursues its objectives remains an open question.

Oil edges higher amid crisis in Middle East

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: Oil prices rose about one per cent on Wednesday despite a surprise jump in US gasoline supplies, as investors worried that a potential expansion of the fighting in Gaza could disrupt crude supplies from the Middle East.

Brent crude futures rose 22 cents, or 0.3pc, to \$85.23 per barrel by 1835 GMT. US West Texas Intermediate crude futures settled 7 cents higher at \$80.90 a barrel.

Cross-border strains between Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah have been escalating in recent weeks, stoking fears of an all-out Israeli-Hezbollah war that could draw in other regional powers, including major oil producer Iran.

PM stresses collective efforts for national prosperity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said that Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) played a vital role in country's economy and stressed the importance of collective efforts for the national development and prosperity. Chairing a meeting on the matters related to the FBR, he instructed the hiring of top lawyers to pursue various pending cases of the board in courts and tribunals.

The prime minister instructed that Customs Appellate Tribunals, along with Inland Revenue Appellate Tribunals, be established to expedite the resolution of tax-related cases.

He vowed presiding over the weekly review meetings on FBR's ongoing reforms and revenue.

The prime minister also directed to formulate a

strategy for giving awards to meritorious officers of the FBR.

During the briefing, it was mentioned that the process of establishing Appellate Tribunals in Inland Revenue had begun.

A transparent written examination will be conducted for appointing judges to these tribunals.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar, Attorney General Mansoor Usman Awan, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Economy and Energy Bilal Azhar Kayani, Spokesperson of the Federal Government on Legal Affairs Barrister Aqeel Malik, Barrister Daniyal Chaudhry.

Prime Minister's Coordinator Rana Ishaan Afzal Khan, Chairman FBR, and other senior government officials.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti enquiring about health of school teacher Aamir Ghori who got injured while saving a child from train

Ist-phase of CPEC added 8,000MW electricity in national grid: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal said on Friday that mega infrastructure development projects were completed in the first phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects and added 8,000 MW of electricity to the national grid.

Addressing a high-level policy dialogue organized by the Belt and Road Investment Forum, the minister said the world is undergoing significant change, noting that Asia's share of global GDP was 13 per cent in 2000 and reached 35 per cent last year.

He projected that by 2035, Asia would contribute 50 per cent to global GDP, emphasizing the need to establish the region as a hub of peace, stability, and prosperity. The minister highlighted CPEC as a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative, offering substantial benefits to the country.

He underscored the importance of developing links between South Asia, China, Central Asia, and the

Middle East, suggesting Pakistan could create North, South, and East connectivity corridors to explore regional trade and investment opportunities.

Speaking at the event, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb described the first phase of CPEC as focused on infrastructure development such as roads, electricity, and ports. He noted that the second phase aims to attract investment built upon this foundational infrastructure.

The high-level policy dialogue of the Belt and Road Investment Forum was attended by diplomats from neighbouring countries, government officials, experts, and private sector leaders. Among others, ambassadors from China, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan in Pakistan were present.

The Belt and Road Investment Forum, the first regional economic forum led by the private sector, was jointly hosted by the Embassy of China in Pakistan in consultation with the Ministry of Planning.



Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan addressing at the Wilson Center's South Asia Institute in Washington.

Masood for stronger US-Pakistan security, economic partnerships

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan need sophisticated small arms and communication equipment to combat the growing terrorism, Ambassador Masood Khan has said, while calling for stronger US-Pakistan security and economic partnerships.

"This is crucial for regional security and opposing the rising tide of terrorism that also threatens the interests of the US and its allies," Khan, the Pakistani ambassador to the U.S., told the Annual Pakistan conference titled, 'Looking Back, Looking Forward: Assessing the US-Pakistan Relationship' on Thursday.

The well-attended conference was organized by the Wilson Center's South Asia Institute in partnership with the International Academy of Letters USA. Among those present were policy makers, scholars, intelligentsia, corporate leaders, members of think-tank community and Pakistani community lead-

ers. "Pakistan and United States should continue to invest in the reset of their relationship, maintain strong security links, enhance intelligence cooperation, resume sales of advanced military platforms and sustainment of Pakistan's US-origin defence equipment," he said.

The ambassador said that prospects of Pakistan-United States ties were bright, adding "We share values, our security and economic interests are intertwined, and it is the aspiration of our two peoples that strengthen our ties."

Masood Khan said that they were developing a practical roadmap that would enable them to deepen their understanding and deliver security and prosperity for all. "In this era of renewed strategic competition, the US and Pakistan will build on existing partnerships and explore new horizons for establishing the parameters of mutuality of interests.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on the matters related to Federal Board of Revenue.

Effective measures be taken to make Chaman Industrial Zone & Complex Functional, directs Chief Minister

Bugti directs to ensure provision of basic facilities in Industrial area; take steps for making SEZ functional in Balochistan; announces to make necessary amendments in laws about operationalization of projects under PPP mode

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti has directed to the concerned authorities to take effective steps for making the Industrial Zone and Multipurpose Commercial Complex functional in the border town, Chaman.

The Chief Minister also directed to ensure provision of all basic facilities including electricity in the Industrial area Chaman. In addition to this, he directed to call Expression of Interest for allotment of the plots available in the Industrial area.

The Chief Minister was chairing an important

meeting about the operationalization of Industrial Zone and Multipurpose Commercial Complex under the Chaman Master Plan here on Friday.

The Provincial Minister for Planning and Development, Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi, Provincial Minister Agriculture, Ali Madad Jatak and Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Secretary Communication and Works, Secretary Industries, Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat and other high ups participated in the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister believed that the investors and industrialists can be attracted to make investment in the area by providing necessary facilities to them. He said that the necessary amendments would be made in the existing laws for operationalization of the projects under the Public-Private Partnership.

He on the occasion also directed to take steps for making the Special Economic Zone functional in the province.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister remarked that there is a need to establish new cities equipped with modern facilities in view of the increasing population.

FIA arrests man employed with fake degree for 17 years in PIA

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has arrested a man allegedly used a counterfeit degree for 17 years while employed at Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). According to the FIA spokesperson, the man identified as Rauf Sohail allegedly used a counterfeit degree for 17 years while employed at PIA. Initially recruited as a cargo assistant, Rauf Sohail's employment at PIA came to an end.

China, US ambassadors meet DPM Dar; review bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of China Jiang Zaidong on Friday called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

Reaffirming Pakistan-China All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, the two sides expressed the resolve to implement the bilateral consensus reached during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China, a Foreign Office press release said.

Both sides also resolved to further strengthening of Pakistan-China friendship and up-gradation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Meanwhile, Ambassador of the United States in Islamabad Donald Blome separately met Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar.

The two sides reviewed the latest developments in bilateral relations and discussed ways to move the relationship forward.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Maulana Azad Jameel meeting with Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

PM condoles death of Saudi Prince Mansour bin Saud's mother

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday expressed deep sorrow over death of mother of Prince Mansour bin Saud bin Abdulaziz.

"My heartfelt condolences are with His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, HRH Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman, Prince Mansour bin Saud bin Abdulaziz and the Royal Family," he wrote on his official 'X' account.

International day of Micro Small Medium Enterprises celebrated

QUETTA (APP): International day of Micro Small Medium Enterprises was celebrated under EU funded Growth for Rural Advancement and Sustainable Progress (GRASP) project which is being implemented by International Trade Centre in partnership with FAO, SMEDA and Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF). GRASP is working in 22 districts across Sindh and Balochistan to strengthen MSMEs in Horticulture and Livestock value chains.

To provide easiness to traders Governor stresses need to protect local trade & business activities

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stressed the need to protect the local trade and business activities and provide easiness to the traders community especially keeping the lack of industrial activities and foreign investment in the province.

He said that if our traders and industrialists were provided necessary opportunities and facilities then the day is not far away when own investors would set up the vehicles manufacturing factories at their own or in partnership.

The Governor said that the showrooms play important role in expanding economy on one hand, while on the other hand, there are bright chances of foreign investment in this sector.

He said that the vehicle manufacturing companies from all over the world already have interest in making investment in the province.

The Governor was



HUB: View of site after traffic accident due to speeding and break failed, at Hub River Road.

CPEC success story of resolve for continued Pak-China collaboration in diverse sectors, says Gillani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Friday termed China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a success story and said that the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Pakistan and China for 2nd phase underscored the will for continued collaboration in diverse sectors.

He expressed these views while addressing the launch of the Annual Sustainability Report 2023 in Islamabad. The event was jointly organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and China Chamber of Commerce in Pakistan at Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS), a news release said.

"CPEC is a non-partisan agenda in Pakistan as all political parties stood with the government while having a detailed session with Liu Jian Chao, Minis-

ter of Central Committee of the International Department of Communist Party of China (IDCPC)" Chairman Senate remarked.

Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani also observed that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) was the first which under the leadership of President Asif Ali Zardari paved the way for the initiation of CPEC and economic cooperation between Pakistan and China and successive governments continued their resolve to have CPEC completed. "We are now entering the 2nd phase of CPEC with consistency in our relations and commitments by all political forces in Pakistan" Chairman Senate said.

The PPP's founder Chairman Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Chinese leader Chairman Mao were the architects of strong brotherly relations between the two peoples. Shaheem

Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and President Zardari, continued following the footsteps of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

Chairman Senate observed that Pakistan faced a multitude of challenges on economic, political and socio-economic fronts last year. However, amidst trials and tribulations, there emerged a story of resilience. He observed that Pakistan is fully committed to ensuring foolproof security for Chinese citizens and workers undertaking tasks on CPEC projects.

He highlighted that the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) is working to address these challenges and bottlenecks. He that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor since its inception, has unfolded at an accelerated pace and extended its roots to various sectors.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal attending launching ceremony of Annual Sustainability Report 2023, jointly organized by the SDPI and CCCPK held at Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services (PIPS).

NA approves pay hike for members amid opposition protest

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Assembly has approved an amendment proposed by the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) regarding the salaries and benefits of its members, passing it by a majority vote.

PPP's Abdul Qadir Patel introduced the amendment in the House, aiming to increase the privileges of Members of Parliament. This amendment to the Salaries and Allowances Act was incorporated into the Finance Bill.

NAB challenges PTI founder's bail in 190m pounds scam case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Friday challenged the post-arrest bail of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder before the Supreme Court in 190 million pounds scam case.

NAB, in its plea, prayed the top court to set aside the verdict of Islamabad High Court of May 14, granting bail to the PTI founder. It also requested the court to suspend the IHC's judgment till the final decision into the appeal.

NAB took the plea that the IHC had used the powers of the trial court and did not view the facts completely.

Assures treatment in Agha Khan Hospital: Bugti visits Trauma Center; meets injured "hero" teacher Ghouri, family

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti visited the Trauma Center, Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital here on Friday morning.

During the visit, Chief Minister inquired about health of the teacher, Aamir Ghouri, injured while saving a child from the Chaman Passenger train earlier this week.

It may be mentioned here that the teacher Aamir Ghouri had lost one leg and an arm during the course of saving the child from the hit

of train. The Chief Minister highly appreciated the bravery and human friendliness of the teacher and said that he (Aamir Ghouri). Has raised the head of Balochistan with pride. He announced that the treatment of brave son of the province would be done from the Agha Khan Hospital.

Besides, he also announced that the expenditures of education of children of Aamir Ghouri would also be borne by the provincial government.

All Pak Chambers Conference in Islamabad: Ulas Yar Khan highlights importance of trade with neighboring countries

CHAMAN / ISLAMABAD: The prominent trader and Senior Vice President of Chaman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ulas Yar Khan has underlined the need to promote mutual trade and business activities with the neighboring countries including Afghanistan, Iran, India, China and the Central Asian States.

While speaking on occasion of the Presidents of All Pakistan Chambers Conference in Islamabad the other day, Ulas Yar Khan highlighted the importance of mutual trade

with the neighboring and other Asian countries and stressed that there is a need to promote mutual trade with all the countries.

On the occasion, he also highlighted the hardships being faced by the traders of Chaman and diverted the attention of the concerned authorities towards the protest camp continued in the border town for last nine months.

During the conference, Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani presented commemorative shield to the Senior Vice President of Chaman Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding of meeting of Provincial Project Steering Committee (PPSC) of IFRAP

Asadullah Baloch stresses equal allocation for all districts

QUETTA (APP): Leader of Balochistan National Party-Awami and Member Balochistan Assembly Mir Asadullah Baloch has emphasized the need for allocating sizeable funds for initiating flagship projects in less developed areas to accommodate all sectors and ensuring equal distribution of development budget for all districts of the province. "Equality in the distribution of funds in the Public Sector Development Funds (PSDF) to all constituencies of the province would help remove the sense of deprivation prevalent among people living in remote areas of the province," he said while talking to media persons here Friday.

Asad Baloch said that around 7,000 engineers and over 3,000 doctors were waiting for a decent job and source of income which would continue to increase anxiety among the youth with each passing day.

He suggested that the provincial government should announced employment allowance of Rs 50,000 for engineers and up to Rs 100,000 for doctors.

Baloch stressed that the government should initiate projects for the welfare of farmers and provide subsidy on seeds, electricity, agriculture equipments and fertilizers. He also emphasized that the government should provide scholarships to 10,000 youth of the province and sends them abroad for getting higher education in the world top veracities.

He asked the provincial government to give priorities to less developed areas in the public sector development program as they would help in bringing prosperity to local areas. He also urged the federal government to ensure maximum employment opportunities to the youth of Balochistan in the second phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Reko Diq.

He said that the Balochistan government remained elusive to provide employment and over 25,000 graduates were being added to unemployed individuals every year.