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# Govt. unveils Rs. 18.877 trillion relief-oriented federal budget

Proposes up to 25% increase in salaries, 15% in pensions of employees; Minimum wages raised from 32,000 to 37,000 rupees; Income tax rates for salaried individuals remain unchanged, with exemption limit at Rs. 600,000 annually; GDP growth target for the fiscal year 2024-25 is fixed at 3.6 percent, whereas the inflation rate is expected to remain 12 percent; Rs. 2,122bn earmarked for defence sector in budget 2024-25; Govt allocates record Rs1400 bln for PSDP; Rs 45 bn to be saved annually by abolishing public sector vacancies; Govt plans to invest a hefty amount in education sector in order to provide suitable environment for the education of children; BISP's budget increased up to Rs. 593 billion to support disadvantaged segments; 5,000 journalists, media workers to get health insurance in first phase; Announces tax relief on import of solar, aquaculture's raw material; No duty increase on import of essential items

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Wednesday unveiled the Rs18.877 trillion relief-oriented federal budget for the fiscal year 2024-25.

Presenting the federal budget 2024-25 in the National Assembly, the fifiscal year 2024-25 is fixed at 3.6 percent, whereas the inflation rate is expected to remain 12 percent



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif signs the documents of the Federal Budget 2024-25 after its approval from the Federal Cabinet to be laid before the National Assembly.

He said that the bud-get deficit to GDP during share would be Rs7,438 provide Rs2,122 billion for allocations, which would the period under review is billion He said that the nonestimated at 6.9 percent, whereas the primary surtax revenue targets of the plus during the review pefederation are fixed at riod is projected at 1.0 per-cent of the GDP. Rs3,587 billion, whereas

the net income of the federal government would be The minister said that the Revenue collection of Rs9,119 billion. The total expenditures cated for the subsidy of the the Federal Board of Revnance minister said that enue is estimated to of the federal government GDP growth target for the Rs12,970 billion during is estimated at Rs18,877 up-coming fiscal year, billion out of the total adding that tax revenue colamount of Rs9,775 billion lection during the current fiscal year grew by 38 per-

further said that total grants amounting to Rs1,777 billion is allocated would be spent on interest payments. The government has for the promotion of BISP, allocated Rs1,400 billion AJK, Gilgit-Baltistan, for the promotion of BISP, for Public Sector Developmerged districts of KP, ment Program in its current HEC, railways and IT sec-

budget, adding that an adtors ditional amount of Rs100 billion would be allocated that the government has under Public Private Partdeclared a historic federal nership, he added. PSDP valued at Rs1,500 This year, he said, over billion, which was higher

all development budget than 101 percent of the last was the highest in the year's revised PSDP. country's history compristhe fiscal constraints, the ing Rs1,500 billion

The minister said that government has enhanced its

Administration.

sectors.

#### *Federal cabinet approves budget* proposals for fiscal year 2024-25 ISLAMABAD (APP): The federal cabinet on Wednesday

approved the budgetary proposals for the coming fiscal ear 2024-25 Chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the spe-

cial cabinet committee deliberated on the budget proposals and accorded its approval to the Finance Bill 2024.

The cabinet meeting also okayed the budgetary proposals to be presented before the National Assembly for its onward consideration.

defence, and Rs839 billion help to develop the volume would be allocated for Civil of infrastructure including transportation, energy, IT Meanwhile, an amount of Rs1,014 billion is also and water resources and improve the living stan-

allocated for pension exdards of the people in the penses, adding that Rs1,363 billion are allocountry Senator Aurangzeb said that in PSDP 2024-25 special focus is paid to the gas, electricity and other completions of ongoing The Finance Minister projects as 83 percent of resources are allocated for the completion of ongoing schemes and 17 percent for

the new development schemes During the financial year 2024-25, it is proposed to allocate 59 per-Finance Minister said cent of resources for the development of infrastructure development and 20 percent for the social sector development.

To ensure the equitable development in AJK, He said that despite 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 government has included projects related to support the productivity of exports oriented industries

to enhance their competitiveness, to expend the digital infrastructure in the



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb parented the Federal Budget 2024-2025 before the National Assembly of Pakistan.

#### It is fake and anti-people budget: Opposition

ISLAMABAD (INP) - Leader of the opposition in National Assembly Omar Ayub termed the federal budget as anti-people and said that the government didn't consult any stakeholder.

Talking to media outside the parliament house after the budget speech of Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, the opposition leader said that the constitution was violated for the very first time in National Assembly during the presentation of budget.

"I have presented four budgets in this house. These are fake documents as government didn't mention the total volume of budget and its deficit," said the opposition leader.

He added that the PTI government eliminated electricity loadshedding by 80 percent during its tenure.

"The PPP has stabbed the government in the back as their MNAs didn't want to participate in the budget session today," Ayub said. MNA Ali Muhammad Khan of Sunni Ittehad Council said that the budget is anti-

cople as it doesn't have anything for the masses. "The party that got majority in the house was thrown on the opposition benches. The budget was presented by those who

## **Conspiracies to bankrupt Pakistan thwarted;** economic stability achieved: PM Shahbaz

reached parliament on Form-47," said Ali Muhammad Khan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Wednesday said that conspiracies to bankrupt the country had been thwarted, steering it away from economic hardships towards stability.

Presiding over the meeting of the Pakistani Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) Parliamentary Party at the Parliament House, he said, "We have left behind the conspiracies of those who dreamed of bankrupting the country and guided it from economic hardships to stability."

The prime minister briefed the parliamentary party about the budgetary proposals.

He assured that maximum relief would be provided to the common man in the budget, with specific measures aimed at easing the burden of workers, farmers, and salaried people.

He expressed gratitude to the party members and allies for their confidence in him and their full support of the government policies benefiting the common man and the country.

Pm Shehbaz urged the parliamentarians to actively

participate in the budget sessions, offering suggestions, and providing a robust and reasoned response to any falsehoods or propaganda regarding the budget. He stated, History is witness to our efforts for rescuing Pakistan's economy through prioritizing national interests. With the guidance of Allah Almighty and under the leadership of Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, we averted bankruptcy and default in the country."

He said that a conspiratorial group posed a threat to the country's security and undermined those who had sacrificed their lives for it.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that the Almighty entrusted him with serving Pakistan for the second time, expressing his determination to resolve the nation's issues.

Resolving to meet everyone's expectations, the prime minister lauded the trust of brotherly countries and investors in the government's economic policies and increasing the foreign investment.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding the rightsizing of the government.

**OUETTA:** Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over a meeting held to review the progress of the proposed development projects of next financial year budget 2024-25

#### Security forces kill 181 terrorists in Balochistan, Sindh & KP perations

RAWALPINDI (INP): As forces, the banned terrorist many as 181 terrorists have been sent to hell in 7,745 operations conducted by security forces, who are determined to eliminating the menace of terrorism from the country, from April 1 to June 10. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), 2,701 operations were conducted in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 4,902 in Balochistan and 142 in Sindh. During these operations, 181 terrorists were sent to hell. As many as 128 terrorists were killed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 51 in Balochistan and two courts. in Sindh. In May, 12 terrorists were killed in Balochistan while 42 were killed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. 61 terrorists were arrested from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan during this month. Owing to the timely DI Khan and Tank. action of the security

organization TTP failed in RAWALPINDI (APP): At its nefarious designs in the urban areas. To cover up its failure, the TTP forced and targeted the poor people of the tribal areas for kidnapping for ransom and target killing, the military's media wing said. Besides, at least 20 infiltration attempts in Bajaur, Dir and Chitral areas were thwarted due to timely intelligence. A TTP network targeting Chinese citizens has been bushed in Besham. The terrorists involved in the Besham at-

Force (ANF) personnel were martyred on Wednesday in a shootout with suspected drug traffickers near Furkey toll plaza, Jhelum. According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, the suspects were traveling on GT Road when they were signaled to stop at the toll plaza. The smugglers tried to escape from the scene. The ANF team after a brief

tack are facing cases in the Security forces ambushed the terrorists during infiltration from the Zhob border in which seven terrorists were killed and two others arrested. Twelve terrorists were ambushed in an intelligence-based operation in

#### Instead of number of students in public universities Governor emphasizes on paying attention on increasing capacity

#### **Independent Report**

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that the real recognition of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) is linked with raising the standard more than increasing quantity

The Governor said that although increasing quantity at the level of university in the backward province of Balochistan is also welcoming, but to him, ac-**Three ANF** tual thing is standard instead of quantity. He stressed that we have to pay attenmartyred in tion on the capacity more encounter with than number for transforming the available quantity in smugglers the public sector universities of Balochistan in the

least three Anti-Narcotics high standards. He said that our head would raise with pride when name of any of 11 public sector universities would be included in the

chase managed to intercept them when the suspects opened fire on the ANF team, resulting in the martyrdom of three personnel, including Head Constable Gulzar, Lance Naik Mazhar and a civilian. A jawan and the civilian lost their lives on the spot while another jawan was shifted to District Headquarters Hospital, Jhelum where he succumbed to his injuries.

personnel

best universities of country. The Governor was speaking to the Vice Chancellor of Turbat University, Professor Dr Jan Muhammad who called on him here at the Governor's House on Wednesday.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor said that there is a need to change our traditional methodology and curriculum in accordance with the changing requirements and human needs. For the purpose, the Vice Chancellor of Turbat University and his whole team needs to take concrete measures to make them compatible with the modern requirements, adding he stressed.

However, the Governor appreciated the performance of University of Turbat and directed to expand the process of learning modern skills to the local people.



**QUETTA: Provincial Minister Bakht Muhammad** Kakar meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

## Balochistan has not been ignored in federal budget, several schemes included, says Chief Minister

Mir Sarfraz, Bugti says we are determined to present public friendly budget of province for next financial year; endeavouring to increase resources of province's own income

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that

Balochistan has not been ignored in the federal budget, rather several development schemes of the province have been included in it (federal budget) this time. The Chief Minister

was speaking to the media persons soon after his appearance in the Balochistan High Court in the case regarding wheat procurement in the premises of High Court on Wednesday.

Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti said that he presented the case of Balochistan in health and students' scholthe federation and also gave arships have been focused certain suggestions regard-

# Government decides to

extend cabinet ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal government has decided to extend federal cabinet.

More ministers from coalition partners will be taken in the cabinet.

According to sources two ministers each from MQM and Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) will be included in cabinet. More ministers from PML-N will also be taken in the cabinet.

budget of the province. He ing case of the province in said that there are condi-

federal budget. He said that many tions by IMF for preparprojects of Balochistan have been re-included in the that we are endeavouring to federal budget this time. He said that there has been province's own income. complaint of Balochistan with the federation that attention was not given on its allocation in the federal bud-

of his government. Referring Balochistan's next financial year budget, the Chief Minister said that we are deterfriendly budget of the prov-He said that education,

cess of reforms has been continuing for ending street crimes. Reforms the overmined to prepare public all reforms in the government's sectors, Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that we have brought about at least

67 reforms in different departments including the in the next financial year's Food department.

ing surplus budget. He said

increase resources of the

mentioned that restoration

of peace in Balochistan in-

cluding Quetta is priority

The Chief Minister

He said that the pro-

#### Fatima Jinnah Hospital Quetta ever, he breathed his last

Congo virus patient dies in

on Wednesday morning. The FJ Hospital ad-

ministration informed that two more patients suffering from the Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever are also admitted in the Hospital and being provided medical treatment. However, their condition is out of danger. During the current season, Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever was diagnosed in five patients so far. Out of them, one patient died

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The patient suffering from Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever died in Fatima Jinnah Hospital and Chest Institute here on

Wednesday. According to the administration of Fatima Jinnah Hospital, the patient was brought to the Hospital from Killa Saifullah on Tuesday morning. e was being provided necessary medical treatment after his admission in the Hospital, howPage 02

tion.

in Pakistan.

etc.

policies

**OPINION** 

#### Daily **Independent**

# Daily A oice of Masse Independent

## Unyielding onslaught

Seven soldiers paid the ultimate price in Lakki Marwat on Sunday when their vehicle was blown up in an IED attack, another painful reminder of the state's inability to effectively counter rising terrorism. That same night, policemen successfully defended their post in Bajaur from a militant attack with no loss of lives. While we may be grateful for small mercies, it must be acknowledged such incidents are occurring with alarming frequency: CRSS data shows 281 fatalities of civilians and security personnel in the first quarter of 2024. This necessi tates action on a war footing.

Several pivotal developments have led to the resurgence of terrorist activities in Pakistan, notably the Afghan Taliban's takeover of Kabul in 2021 The collapse of the ill-advised ceasefire with the banned TTP has only exacerbated the situation. Meanwhile, Kabul's reluctance to rein in the group and ensure Afghan soil is not used for launching attacks against Pakistan has made an already messy situation even messier. Despite repeated diplomatic engagements and cross-border actions, the Taliban have shown little inclination to curb the activities of their ideological brethren. And so, an emboldened TTP has been able to regroup and mount sophisticated attacks against targets inside Pakistan. The presence of TTP sanctuaries in Afghanistan, reportedly supported by modern weapons and financial aid from the Taliban, poses a significant threat to Pakistan's national security.

To counter this escalating threat, Pakistan must develop a strategy that integrates both military and civilian efforts. The National Action Plan needs to be revitalised and enforced with renewed vigour. Our security forces need to be adept at ha ndling asymmetric warfare including detecting and defusing IEDs, urban combat, and intelligence gathering. The military must be supported by well-trained, well equipped police forces to ensure a holistic approach to counterterrorism. Ensuring that no space is available to militants and their sympathisers is just as crucial. This includes rigorous monitoring of educational institutions, madressahs, and other potential recruitment grounds for extremists. The state must also cut off funding sources for terrorist groups. Border security is another area to consider. This involves not only physical barriers but also the deployment of advanced surveillance technologies and increased patrols to prevent cross-bor-der infiltration by militants. All the while, diplomatic efforts must continue to exert pressure on the Afghan Taliban to take concrete actions against the TTP. This should be complemented by engaging with stakeholders such as China, Russia, Iran and the UAE, to form a united front against the threat posed by Afghanistan-based militants. The battle against terrorism is not solely the responsibility of the military. Civilian institutions, LEAs, and society at large must get to work to counter this menace. The martyrdom of our security personnel must not go in vain.

# **Thinking pink**

Even in 2024, women adequate female repre- tion, stand a long way from accessing equal oppora house of cards. Sustunities with men. The tainable economic recovpersistent gender disery is contingent upon parities across various the mainstreaming of spheres of life — educaemployment, across all sectors. This healthcare, and beyond - are stark reminders of the gendered impacts of the structural barriers policies into the planning confronting women in process, rather than Pakistan. Despite efforts, treating them as an afterthe nation consistently thought. lags on gender parity in-In this context, the

dices, raising concerns federal and provincial about the adequacy and budgets can be leversufficiency of initiatives aged by respective govtargeted at closing the gender gap. Placed 142<sup>nd</sup> ernments to address disparities through genderout of 146 countries on the WEF's 2023 Global responsive budgeting. GRB entails evaluating the gendered impacts of Gender Gap Index, it is evident that significant budgetary allocations, strides are needed to adintegrating gender equality in planning prodress gender inequities cesses, and establishing An examination of monitoring mechanisms past budgetary allocafor greater accountabil-

tions and policy docuity. The overarching goal ments unveils a persisis to ensure equitable tent neglect of gender distribution of resources considerations, manifor inclusive developfesting in inadequate rement source allocation for

It is disconcerting women across crucial that despite the widesectors. These systemic spread adoption of GRB imbalances perpetuate in many countries, ingender inequalities, cluding South Asian thwarting the full counterparts India and realisation of Pakistan's Bangladesh, Pakistan human potential. Recent has yet to present a genstabilisation policies der-responsive budget. have further tilted the As a first step, all PC-1 scales against women forms must incorporate a due to discriminate acdedicated section oblicess to formal capital gating departments to markets, decent jobs, fithoroughly assess the nancial and digital tools, gendered impacts of the proposed projects. As the new fiscal

Projects that help level year approaches, it is imthe playing field should perative to remind the be prioritised over those government of the genthat magnify distortions. der issues that have only Additionally, macroecoreceived perfunctory atnomic policies must only tention over the years. be implemented after Policymakers must accarefully assessing their differential impacts on knowledge that no economic recovery can be women.

sustainable if half the To further promote country's population is gender equity, several inhibited in its capacity key demands must be to contribute produc- addressed, including entively, underscoring the suring equal employneed for gender-centric ment opportunities, pay equity,

While economic re- women-owned busi- clusive economic resurvival must remain a top nesses with financial in- gence. -- Courtesy Dawn

Arooj Waheed Dar priority, any effort to- centives, and increasing wards this goal without funding for girls' educaespecially sentation is like building underserved areas. Expanding maternal, reproductive, and mental health services, establishing affordable gender-centric policies childcare facilities, and streng-thening laws and necessitates integrating support services against gender-based violence are also essential, particularly in the face of climatic cha-l-lenges. Ad--diti-o--nally, enmatic hancing social protection program-mes for

uity Greater representation of women in deci-

sion-making roles is of utmost import-ance. Currently, political representation seems confined to a few privileged women, often detached from the everyday challenges faced by the majority. This lack of repre-

sentative female voices in the political arena results in the formation of ineffective policies that overlook critical gender Developing issues. mechanisms to facilitate participatory budgeting

can help address this concern. The government must also prioritise data consolidation to support evidence-based policymaking. At present, the inadequate targeting of social programmes stemming from deficiencies in data undermines the effectiveness of initiatives. With limited fiscal space, the government must calibrate each and every budgetary allocation judiciously for maximised impact, for which data is key. In a nutshell, mainstreaming gender considerations across all sectors during the plan-

ning phase can enable policy-makers to significantly enhance the prossupporting pects for fairer, more in-

# Whither Europe?

some recent scandals in-

#### Mahir Ali

Shortly after Joe Biden and a phalanx of European leaders gathered in Normandy last week to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings that launched the endgame in the continent's bitterest conflict, citizens in 27 states began to vote in European parliamentary elections that were predicted associations — kowtowto demonstrate a surge in support for precisely the kind of ideologies that China — the AfD did betpurportedly perished in 1944-45

any component of Chan-One aspect of Operacellor Olaf Scholz's suption Overlord that seldom posedly centre-left coaliscores a mention in current commentary is that Christian Democrats the Soviet Union had (CDU). been pleading for a second front since soon after von der Leyen, who Operation Barbarossa, greeted the European when the Nazis swept election results by offeracross its territory three ing the assurance that the centre is holding, hopes years before D-Day. There were those in Europe who to win a second term as relished the prospect of a European Commission combat between the president. She has lately USSR and Nazi Germany, been courting Giorgia and the Normandy land-Meloni, whose 'postneofascist' Brothers of ings were at least partly motivated by the fear that Italy came on top in anthe Red Army would overother former Axis state. run Europe and take sole Meloni postures on the credit for Hitler's defeat. international stage as the

Soviet forces did inacceptable face of deed reach Berlin before Europe's far right, while their Western allies — and her government's domesa brief camaraderie made tic attitudes reflect a way before long for the clearer image of its per-Cold War. Stalin's regime verse inclinations. is accurately accused of imposing its will on Eastern Europe. Somewhat cent decades has been the more subtly, the US did extent to which the centre the same in Western Europe. One of the CIA's first missions was to ensure that Italy did not vote in a communist or socialist majority in its first postwar poll. Part of the effort involved incorporating Nazi operatives or collaborators into 'democratic' Europe's postwar establishments.

The precursor of immigration as a pos-France's Rassemble-ment sible solution? The fo-National, whose gains in cus is identitarian, powlast week's polls panicked Emmanuel Macron into Christian nationalism, to doom, regardless of calling a snap parliamentary election, was Front cluding black and brown Jinping might be plot-National, which was co- ethnicities. Hence the ting. -- Courtesy Dawn

founded by Nazi collabo-rators. RN leader Marine not to educating the Le Pen has been trying to masses but to bribing cleanse the party of its fas-North African states to cist associations, includdetain and brutalise the ing by distancing it from politically or economi-Germany's Alternative für cally persecuted unfor-Deutschland, some of tunates who aspire to a whose leaders refuse to new life on the fringes stop expressing their adof a European experimiration for the Third ment that they don't

Reich. Notwithstanding realise has failed. The second rou-nd volving its international of the French election, on July 7, will precede ing to the Kremlin, for inthe op--ening ceremony stance, and spying for of the Paris Olympics barely by a fortnight. ter in the Euro polls than Macron is obviously hoping that the anti-fascist voters will emerge to thwart the likelihood tion, but not as well as the of an FN majority. As many commentators have indicated, though, The CDU's Ursula it could mean cohabiting with the hard right for the remainder of his presidential term, and then handing over to Le Pen in 2027.

Whether or not it crossed voters' minds. the war in Ukraine was a factor in the EU elections, with some of the far right as well as far left parties calling for accommodation with Vladimir Putin — the D-Day ceremonies also highlighted Russia's aggression as an echo of Nazi attitudes from long ago. Without excusing Putin's self-serving trespasses, it might have been more fruitful to fo-A defining feature of European politics in re- cus on why Moscow might suspect the intentions of hostile

(both left and right) has neighbours. sought to 'combat' the Neither the EU's hard right by co-opting its dedication to Ukraine nor ideas, notably (but not exits devotion to Israel, notwithstanding the clusively) on immigration. latter's genocidal ten-In many parts of Europe, for instance, economic dencies, is likely to shift distress is related to agemuch in the near future, ing societies and diminbut the future of the anyishing populations. But inadequate how Europ-ean Green Deal is where is the party advoin doubt. Add a second cating better-organised Trump administration to the equation, and humanity's short-term ered mainly by white future shifts from gloom and dedicated to ex- anything Putin or Xi

# **Commerce** News

more coverage, along with increasing digital and financial access is essential to promote eq-

## **Govt earmarks Rs 267,952m for various** ongoing, new schemes of power sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): million (own resources) for electrification works at distribution efficiency The government has allocated an amount of Rs 267,952.773 million for various ongoing and new schemes of power sector in annual public sector development programme (PSDP) for year 2024-25.

According to the getary document budgetary released here Wednesday, out of total allocation, a sum of Rs 113,760.301 million has been specified for ongoing schemes through PSDP, Rs 17,401 million for new schemes and Rs 136,791.472

different valleys of district year 2024-25.Out of total allocation, the local Chitral, Rs 4,536.225 component stands at Rs million for 220 kV Quaid-135,564 million and foreign e-Azam Apparel and loan component is Rs Business Park Grid 132,388.208 million during Station, Rs 38,000 million the said period. for installation of 2x600

For ongoing schemes, MW Coal Fired Power a sum of Rs 4500 million Project (Jamshoro), Rs 3,808 each has been earmarked for 220/132 Kv GIS million for Power substation Dhabiji and 220 Distribution Enhancement Kv Haripur Substation, Rs Investment Program-II, Rs 6,000 million for 220Kv 4,499 million electricity Swabi Substation, Rs 6,500 distribution efficiency million for 500 Kv Allama improvement project Iqbal Industrial City, Rs (MEPCO), Rs 3,691.509 1,424.360 million for million for electricity

improvement project (HESCO) and Rs 2,600 million for 500 kV

Matiari—Moro-R Khan. For New Scheme, an amount of Rs 6,250 million has been earmarked for land acquisition for GENCO-I installation of 1200 MW solar power plant Layyah, Rs 4,500 million for electricity distribution improvement and Rs 6,000 million for installation of assets performance management system on 100 kV and 200 kV distribution transformers.



Federal Minister for Communications, Privatization and Investment Board Abdul Aleem Khan presiding over a meeting of NHA in Islamabad.

Economists, businessmen,

## Chairman WAPDA reviews inspection of Neelum Jhelum Project's Head Race Tunnel'

ISLAMABAD (APP): accompanied by Project Chairman WAPDA Engr Lt Gen Sajjad Ghani (Retd) Wednesday visited Neelum Stevenson. Jhelum Hydropower Project to review ongoing inspection of the Head Race Tunnel

He reached Dam (Weir) site of the Project located at Nauseri, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, said a head race tunnel had been press release issued here. completed from the

elevation of 1012 feet to The Chairman visited in detail the de-watered 607 feet above mean sea head race tunnel to inspect level

tunnel.

PESHAWAR

Governor

and review damages that Subsequently, inspection of the head race might have occurred to the was tunnel has commenced. He

budget 2024-25 PESHAWAR (APP): finance team deserved full Senior economists, traders, credit and appreciation for businessmen and people of presenting a goal-oriented all walks of life Wednesday budget despite prevailing highly lauded the federal economic and fiscal budget 2024-25 and termed challenges.

it goal oriented with three-pronged strategy announced by the Finance maximum relief provided to all sectors in the country.

Dr Muhammad Minister to reform the Naeem, former Chairman pension scheme in line with Economics Department, international University of Peshawar told APP that Prime practices. He said after reforms in the pension scheme, the pension liability would be reduced Minister Muhammad considerably in the next three decades.

Dr Naeem supported the proposal of launching a contributory pension scheme for new recruitment for which the government would deposit its share every month and praised He appreciated the the proposal of the pension fund.

> Dr Muhammad Naeem highly appreciated the strong best 6.25 percent expansion in the agriculture sector of Pakistan as indicated by the Economic Survey of Pakistan 2023-24, which is the highest in 19 years.

**Coca-Cola** appoints

Volkan as new VP for

LAHORE: Business community persons and LCCI members listening the budget 2024-25 at LCCI.

## **UAE-based British Pakistani** launches Trade Gate, offering diverse trading opportunities

joint ventures.

ISLAMABAD (APP): UAE-based British Pakistani Shakeel Ahmad Meer of the Meer Group launched the first Trade Gate branch in Dubai. aiming to innovate trading and joint ventures by integrating various business sectors.

It offers scholarships, practical training, and milestone. trading diverse automotive, e-commerce, dvnamic real estate, and luxury cars, said a press release issued here.

Meer's vision is to democratise financial

education and global to wealth creation and investment opportunities, management participants a broad fostering a vibrant through community seminars and networking. The initiative plans

global expansion, aiming to diverse lead in trading education opportunities, allowing and business investment participants to explore globally, starting with Dubai as a transformative vehicles, automotive, ecommerce, real estate, and Trade Gate goes luxury car advisory opportunities across beyond a conventional services. With expert sectors like EV, training center, becoming a guidance and investment prospects, Trade Gate helps individuals capitalize hub that empowers individuals with the knowledge and tools on cutting-edge trends and for success in trading and market dynamics, paving the way for trading Its holistic approach success.

platform to explore and invest in various sectors. Trade Gate offers trading

Chairman State Life Corporation Shoaib Javaid Hussain here at the Governor House on Wednesday emphasized the economic well-being and alleviation of deprivation for the residents of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

offers

discussions were held on improving State Life facilities in Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa, said a press (APP): release issued here after the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim meeting adding that the Kundi in a meeting with governor issued directives to strengthen the health and Takaful zones of State Life

in Dera Ismail Khan. The meeting also discussed the SOS Village project, with an announcement of full cooperation from the Governor House. Additionally, deliberations

During the meeting, took place on a pilot project for expensive treatments initiated by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

# ISLAMABAD (APP): The

retailers may face penalty for selling fake, smuggled and non-taxpaid cigarettes as strict action has been proposed against such practices in the Federal Budget for the fiscal year 2024-2025. Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb proposed the strict action while presenting the Federal Budget 2024-25 in the National Assembly on Wednesday,

Pak & Afghanistan region ISLAMABAD (APP): a key asset for the Coca-Cola Company has Company since he joined appointed Volkan Öngüç as new Vice President for Pakistan and Afghanistan of Eurasia & Middle East Operation Unit of the company.

Volkan's professional experience in commercial management, business development, and sales spans over two decades. Ĥis expertise in revenue Turkey

in April 2021, said a press release issued here on Wednesday. Speaking about his vision for Coca-Cola Pakistan, Volkan Öngüç said, "I believe Pakistan is a country of immense potential with over \$1 billion invested in the country by the Coca-Cola System. This is truly a second home and has growth management, both many similarities with my and home country Türkiye, internationally, have been such as our love for music.

**Retailers** may face penalty for selling smuggled cigarettes

Shehbaz Sharif, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb and their

**KP** Governor for economic well-being of KP people, alleviation of deprivations

watering of 48-Km long

people laud federal Manager, Neelum Jhelum Consultants James The Consultants, the Contractors and the Project Team briefed the Chairman about the progress achieved so far. It was briefed that dendependent

Thursday June 13, 2024

issues

## Task forces to be formed to fight KP's case, address problems of universities: Governor

PESHAWAR Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Faisal Karim Kundi has said that a task comprising force representatives of political parties would be formed to fight the case of the province.

He was talking to a representative delegation of Peshawar Press Club (PPC) led by its President Arshad Aziz Malik here Wednesday. The Governor said that the task force would be formed after consultation with political parties with an aim to fight the case of the province and to improve the education system.

that He told consultation process with political parties was underway and afterwards, political leadership would be contacted to nominate Chairman State Life has their representatives for also been directed to devise inclusion in the task force. a strategy to resolve



universities.

LAHORE: Provincial Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat and others in a group photo on the occasion of opening ceremony of Digital Education at a local hotel of the provincial capital.

#### **Provincial** ombudsman chairs monthly review meeting

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Ombudsman, Syed Jamal Ud Din Shah while chairing the monthly review meeting of the secretariat said administrative that accountability and measures for the prevention of abuse of authority are vital for further enhance efficiency maintaining good governance. and to produce qualitative He said that it is the results for the satisfaction

constitutional right of every of complainants.

(APP): He said that task force pension would prepare papers universities. The Governor mentioning arguments and said that, he was being reasons, adding it would informed that Peshawar-D serve as a milestone for I Khan Motorway was not others and help getting executed according to the rights of the province. The KP Governor standard and its length has been increased without any

said that a similar task force reason. He accepted the would be constituted to invitation to visit PPC and address education sector said that he would also and to resolve issues being faced by universities. bring the Federal Information Minister to

He also expressed the Club. The delegation concern over deteriorating also invited Chairman standard of education in Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to Edwards College and said visit PPC. Earlier, the that it was astonishing that President PPC informed provincial government was the Governor about the ignoring education sector affairs of the Club, including and on the contrary, Punjab strength of its members and Sind governments have audit system and medical facilities. He briefed the allocated a considerable amount of Rs. 6 billion and Governor about the working of the Capacity 20 billion respectively for Building Committee of the He said that the Club and the amount

**Pesco**, police

launch joint

operation against

power theft

ESHAWAR (APP): The

Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) and

police on Wednesday

launched a joint operation

to curb power theft in the

province. According to

the PESCO spokesman, the KP police had

provided the personnel

and more than 800

collaborate with the

company's teams in the

field across all circles,

subdivisions of the

company.Under the joint

operation plan, the police

force would accompany

each SDO along with their

respective staff in the

field. He said that the

operation was not only

aimed at apprehending

electricity thieves but

also to impose fines and

register cases against

them. He hoped that the

joint operation would lead

to swift recovery of dues

besides to decrease

incidents of attacks.

would

and

policemen

divisions,

provided to members on Eids and under the head of medical expenses.



PESHAWAR: Ambassador of Iran Reza Amiri Moghadam and Consul General Ali Banafshekhah called on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi at Governor House Peshawar.

## **US consul general** Lahore meets Punjab law minister

Consul General Lahore Kristin K Hawkins on province. Wednesday met Minister

government was focusing on environmental issues and plantation drive he added and further disclosed that defamation law was very much beneficial to curb the fake news and in this regard Punjab government appreciated the constructive criticism.

## **Indus Telemetry system** launched to revolutionize irrigation system in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): In in the province's irrigation a landmark development, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa system. Minister of Irrigation for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, government with support from the Aqib Ullah Khan officially

USAID and the International Water launched the Indus Telemetry System at a ceremony held here on Management Institute (IWMI)-deployed the Wednesday. "The deployment of Indus Telemetry System the Indus Telemetry System

International News

across 11 main irrigation canals in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). transformative step in our This cutting-edge efforts technology sustainable will revolutionize water management and equitable management and reporting distribution.

district administration on LAHORE (APP): US must have equal progress Wednesday arrested two people for packing fake opportunities in the engine oil and seized packing materials during Puniab The

the ongoing crackdown against adulteration. According to the district administration, the relevant team conducted raids on GT Road Chughalpura, where two people were found packing counterfeit engine oil in the renowned packaging material, and the warehouse was sealed.

A large quantity of counterfeit motor oil estimated at 10,000 liters, intended for distribution.

brand's

**Two arrested** 

for packing

fake engine oil

PESHAWAR (APP): The

#### Youth dies in dumper, bike collision

SARGODHA (APP): A motorcyclist died after being hit by an over-speeding dumper, here on Wednesday.

Police said that a recklessly driven dumper knockeď down Muhammad Asif Gujjar near Chak No 138-SB. The deceased was a

resident of Chak No 128-SB. The body was shifted hospital to for а postmortem.

Sillanwali police have registered a case against the dumper driver and started investigation.

high-level investigation team has been constituted to probe the multibillion scam that has left countless

inquiry

Punjab.

into

investors of Punjab and for the frozen assets.

## **PHC** launches "Advocate's Case **Diary**" web application

Page

03

Some features of the

Advocate Case Diary

includes fixation of cases of

each advocate on a calendar

basis. Moreover, it will

keep a record of all pending

as well as decided cases of

has a feature to display all

issued summons in a

particular case as well as

show the complete fixation

history of a particular case.

The web application

The advocates will

Besides

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief effective and efficient Justice Peshawar High Court (PHC), Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim on web application, the Wednesday launched a web application "Advocate's Case Diary" which went online on the official website of the Court.

National News

Deployment of the a particular advocate. web application marked a significant step forward in the modernization of the Judiciary, one that embraces the transformative power of technology. The web application

have the facility to access Advocate Case Diary is not all scanned records of their just a software program but cases with added features like print and download a bridge between tradition and innovation. options. This web application

facilitating the lawyers, the web application has the streamlines processes and feature of displaying a real-time online cause list. judicial procedures by making them more cost-



LAHORE: U.S Consul General in Lahore Kristin K. Hawkins meeting with Punjab Transport Minister Bilal Akbar Khan.

## NAB takes action on sugar broker's mysterious disappearance

LAHORE (APP): National several cities of Sindh, in Accountability Bureau distress. As per details, the (NAB) Lahore Director NAB investigation team's General Amjad Majeed initial raids uncover a web Aulakh takes swift action of deceit by revealing against a mega sugar scam warehouses and shops in by authorizing an instant Sadiqabad, being used to the stock misappropriated disappearance of a sugar commodities by accused broker named Sheikh Sheikh Rashid and his Rashid, who absconded accomplices. Taking decisive action under Section 12 of NAO 1999 with billions of rupees in investments from traders and sugar stockists across DG NAB freezes all properties and stocked Keeping in view, a commodities owned by the accused persons and appoints Assistant Commissioner (AC) Sadiqabad as "Receiver"

Communication and Works were also present. The minister briefed that the Punjab government had been taking all for the protection of minorities

living in Punjab, and it had of formulation of the been ensured that they defamation law.

for Law/ Communication

and Works Sohaib Ahmad

Bharth at his office and

discussed the matter of

Dukless and Secretary

Political Assistant

mutual interest.

measures

He further disclosed that all stakeholders were taken on board and their suggestions were considered at the time

marks

ensure

water

to

# **Russia fires more missiles** and drones at Ukraine ahead of diplomatic eff

citizen to file complaints

against the misuse of power

and authority by any

government department. He said that the

Ombudsman Secretariat,

since its inception has

followed the steps to

**Monitoring Desk** KYIV: Russian forces fired missiles and drones at the Kyiv region and five other areas of Ukraine in a nighttime attack, officials said Wednesday, ahead of several days of intense diplomatic activity around the war that is now in its third year.

Ukraine's air force said it shot down 29 out of 30 air targets, including four cruise missiles, one Kinzhal ballistic missile, and 24 Shahed drones. Several people were injured, authorities said.

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy praised the air force's response, calling it a "daily achievement." He has repeatedly appealed to Ukraine's Western partners to provide more air defense systems, and the United States has agreed to send another Patriot missile system,

Monitoring Desk

GENEVA: Both Israel and

Hamas committed war

crimes in the early stages

of the Gaza war, a UN in-

quiry found on Wednesday,

saying that Israel's actions

also constituted crimes

against humanity because

of the immense civilian

losses. The findings were

from two parallel reports,

one focusing on the Oct. 7

Hamas attacks and another

sponse, published by the

UN Commission of Inquiry

(COI), which has an unusu-

ally broad mandate to col-

lect evidence and identify

perpetrators of interna-

tional crimes committed in

Israel and the occupied Pal-

erate with the commission,

which it says has an anti-

Israel bias. The COI says

Israel obstructs its work

and prevented investigators

from accessing both Israel

and the occupied Palestin-

Israel does not coop-

estinian territories.

on Israel's military re-

'Immense' scale of Gaza killings

amount to crime against

humanity, UN inquiry says

ian territories.

ian tallies.

cruel treatment.

Israel's diplomatic

mission to the UN in

Geneva rejected the find-

ings. "The COI has once

again proven that its actions

are all in the service of a

two U.S. officials said late Tuesday. How best to sup- able to mount its own ofable to mount its own ofport Ukraine's efforts to stop fensive Russia's invasion will be a central issue in international

meetings in coming days. Kyiv's outgunned and outnumbered forces are battling to hold back the bigger Russian army, which is trying to exploit Ukrainian vulnerabilities. Ukraine has been short of troops, their countries. ammunition and air de-

fenses in recent months as the Kremlin's forces try to cripple the national power supply and punch through the front line in eastern parts of the country.

Ukraine will need to weather the Russian onslaught through the summer, military analysts say, and in the meantime train more soldiers, build fortifications and hope that the provision of Western military aid picks up speed so

Leaders of the Group of Seven rich democracies. including U.S. President Joe Biden, are due to gather Thursday in Italy for their

annual summit to discuss how to squeeze more money for Ukraine from Russian assets frozen in Also Thursday, de-fense chiefs from the U.S., Europe and other nations

> hold their monthly meeting on Ukraine's security needs. U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin is to host the event in Brussels.

Next weekend, representatives of nearly 90 countries and organizations, half from Europe, are to attend a Swiss-hosted Ukraine peace summit, which will take place without Russia

**Rwanda says** UN refugee agency lying in Hezbollah and Israel have

**British asylum** policy case **Monitoring Desk** IGALI: Rwanda said the N refugee agency had lied when the organisation told a British court this week

torture or death. Lawyers representing the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) told the court on Monday that Rwanda's asylum system was inad-

to the British government's policy to deport asylum that has since killed over seekers there. The lawyers 37,000 people, by Palestinsaid removing asylum seekers to Rwanda put them at The reports, which risk of being transferred again cover the conflict through in a banned process known to end-December, found as refoulement - building on that both sides committed past evidence which formed

war crimes including toran important part of the UK ture; murder or willful kill-Supreme Court's reasoning ing; outrages upon personal when it ruled last year that dignity; and inhuman or the British plan.

**Monitoring Desk** Tuesday killed three JERUSALEM: Hezbollah Hezbollah fighters alongside the senior field comfired big barrages of rockmander Taleb Abdallah, also known as Abu Taleb, Israel and three security sources in Lebanon said. He was the most se-

nior Hezbollah commander killed during eight months of hostilities, one of the The Iran-backed sources said.

Palestinians inspect the site of an Israeli strike on a UNRWA school shelter-

ing displaced people, amid the Israel-Hamas conflict, in Nuseirat refugee

The Israeli military been trading fire since the confirmed that it had killed him as well as the three other Hezbollah fighters in a strike on a command and control centre. The sources in Leba-

said he was non Hezbollah's commander for the central region of the southern border strip

#### **Biden heads to G7 summit** focused on Ukraine aid, China's support for Russia Monitoring Desk

as they seek solutions for US many of the world's most pressing problems.

Biden, 81, spent Tuesday evening at his home in Wilmington, Delaware, after a 12-member jury convicted his son Hunter Biden of lying about his drug use to illegally buy a gun in 2018, making him the first child of a sitting US presi-

dent to be convicted of a at the summit confronting myriad woes at home even crime

Chilima was killed in a plane crash, the nation's president said on Tuesday, after searchers located the wreck age of the aircraft in a mistshrouded forest. The military plane carrying Chilima,

Malawi VP.

nine others

killed in plane

crash

**Monitoring Desk** LILONGWE: Malawi's Vice President Saulos

51, and nine others disappeared on Monday, after it failed to land in the northern city of Mzuzu due to bad weather and was told to return to the capital, Lilongwe. Photographs shared by a member of the military rescue team showed army personnel standing on a foggy slope near debris bearing the registration number.

**Kyiv hopes Russia** will attend second Ukraine peace summit

#### **Monitoring Desk** GENEVA: Ahead of the

first summit on peace in Ukraine, Kyiv said on Tuesday (Jun 11) it wanted Řussia to attend a second summit, to receive an internationally agreed roadmap towards ending the conflict.

Moscow said it had no interest in joining this weekend's meeting and so was not invited by hosts Switzerland

## **Russian warships** enter Havana harbor

**Monitoring Desk** vessels that arrived off Cuba on Wednesday, HAVANA: Russian had conducted missile navy ships churned into drills in the Atlantic Havana harbor on Ocean en route to the is-Wednesday, a stopover land, Russia's defence the U.S. and Cuba said ministry said the previposed no threat but ous day. which was widely seen as a Russian show of that the visit was stanforce as tensions rise

dard practice by naval over the Ukraine war. vessels from countries Small groups of friendly to Havana. fishermen and curious onlookers lined the run government's for-Malecon seafront boueign ministry said the levard in light rain to ships carried no nuclear welcome the ships as weapons, something they passed the 400year-old Morro castle echoed by U.S. offi-

trance

at the harbor's en- cials. "We have been The first to arrive monitoring the ships' was a fuel ship, the paths closely," a U.S. official told Reuters on "Akademik Pashin" and a tug, the "Nikolay Chiker," while a Ruscondition of anonymity late on Tuesday. sian navy frigate and

Cuba said last week

The communist-

"At no point have the ships or submarine posed a direct threat to marine waited offshore the United States.' and were expected to

Havana is just 100 miles (160 km) from The frigate and Key West, Florida, submarine, part of the home to a U.S. Naval group of four Russian Air Station.

Col. Sayed Hassan

Kuwait, like other

### At least 41 die in a fire at a building housing workers in Kuwait

**Monitoring Desk** living in the building in DUBAI: At least 41 the southern Mangaf people died when a fire district, without giving swept through a buildtheir nationality. ing that housed workers in Kuwait early Wednesal-Mousawi, head of the firefighters' Accident Inday, and officials said the blaze appeared to be vestigation Department, linked to code violasaid there were dozens of

nuclear-powered sub-

enter the harbor by

mid-morning.

casualties and that the tions. final death toll may be Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousuf higher. Al-Sabah confirmed the Persian Gulf countries, toll and ordered the arrest of the building's has a large community of owner during a visit to migrant workers who far the site, local media re- outnumber the local population. ported.

property.'

"We will address The nation of some the issue of labor over- 4.2 million people is crowding," he said. "I'm slightly smaller than the U.S. state of New Jersey now going to see what violations were commitbut has the world's sixthted here and I will deal largest known oil rewith the owner of the serves.

A fire at an oil refin-Local media said ery in 2022 killed four scores of workers were people.

narrow-led political agenda against Israel," said Meirav Eilon Shahar, Israel's Ambassador to the UN in Geneva. Hamas did not immediately respond to a request for comment. By Israel's count more than 1,200 people were killed and 250 taken hostage in the Oct. 7 cross-border attacks that sparked a military retaliation in Gaza

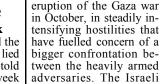
that asylum seekers sent to the East African country could be moved on again to states where they risked

strike in the south Lebanon village of Jouaiyya late on

equate, as part of a challenge WASHINGTON:

President Joe Biden flies to Italy on Wednesday for meetings with Group of Seven leaders aimed at increasing pressure on Russia over its war against Ukraine and China for its

support of Moscow and excess industrial capacity. The G7 leaders arrive



ets at Israel on Wednesday and vowed to ramp up its attacks in retaliation for an Israeli strike which killed a senior Hezbollah field commander, as the conflict across the Lebanese-Israeli border escalated sharply.

Hezbollah vows to escalate

attacks after Israel kills

a top commander

camp in the central Gaza Strip.

### Daily **Independent**, Hub

#### Thursday June 13, 2024



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs Parliamentary Party meeting of Muslim League (PML-N), held at Parliament House in Islamabad.

# Zia Lango hails EU, UN's support in rule of law

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Home Minister, Ziaullah Langua has lauded the European Union and UN partners for supporting the Government's rule of law reform agenda. He said that it was a journey that we all were looking forward to as we were taking the work under the new Rule of Law Roadmap to the next level to realize our vision of a people centered rule of law in Balochistan. He also appreciated the Police, Levies, Prosecution, Probation and Parole, and Prisons for their commendable work by improving their legal and op-

erational capacities. Chairing the 7th Steering Committee meeting of the European Unionfunded 'Deliver Justice Project' here Wednesday, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Balochistan, Zahid Saleem, congratulated all partners for their longstanding collaboration with UNODC and other UN agencies, particularly UN Women and UNDP. He lauded their institutional

the importance of achieving desired results while aligning ongoing efforts on legislative, police, prison and women-focused re-forms. Additionally, he highlighted the importance of the citizen-centered and evidence-based rule of law initiatives. During the meeting, key stakeholders reaffirmed their commitment to advancing evidence-based reforms in the rule of law sector to enhance public trust and confidence in law enforcement institutions in Balochistan. The Rule of Law Roadmap was initially approved for four years (2018–2022) and expired in May 2022. A recent evaluthe ation informed a revised

RoLR for another four years (2023–2026) to consolidate, sustain, scale up, and institutionalize good practices and data-informed approaches in the sector of

Balochistan. Highlighting the need for Government's ownership and provision in order to measure instituof matching resources for tional performance and impleeffective implementation of menting robust reforms.

work would be started on development projects of next financial year without any delay. In this regard, the Chief Minister directed to support by emphasizing the Rule of Law Roadmap, the concerned high ups to Jeroen Willems, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegaensure issuance of the tenders of development tion to Pakistan stated that projects in first week of revalidated Rule of Law July after approval of the Roadmap 2023-2026 was provincial budget. pivotal in advancing justice, He was chairing a peace, and security, particumeeting held to review the larly for women and girls He also said that data-cen tric, results-based ap

**Independent Report** 

ister Balochistan, Mir

Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has

categorically stated that

proaches remained the backbone of the roadmap, serving as a tool to monitor progress and make timely decisions, while citizencentric interventions aimed to enhance public trust in the justice system. Dr. Jeremy Milsom. Representative, UNODC

Country Office, thanked Government of Balochistan for its vision and commitment and facilitating the revalidation and approval of the revised road map. He emphasized the need for institutional leadership to embrace evidence-based approaches to improve performance, noting the effectiveness of such methodologies

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday lauded Finland's support to Pakistan in winning a nonpermanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for 2025-

In response to Finnish President Alexander Stubb's remarks on X, the prime minister appreciated their support to Pakistan and reiterated his country's

ing international law and the UN Charter. Earlier, President

Govt proposes ban on foreign travel of non-filers in budget

ISLAMABAD (INP): The has blocked SIM cards of federal government has de- the non-filers in the first

progress of the proposed also issued directives redevelopment projects of garding preparation of the next financial year budget budget.

2024-25, here on Wednes-Speaking on the occaday. The provincial minission, Chief Minister said ters, Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan, Addithat good governance is possible with improvement tional Chief Secretary planin financial matters.

memorial

hospital

Independent Report

QUETTA: Deputy Com-missioner Mastung

Samiullah Agha, visited the

Shaheed Nawab Ghaus

Bakhsh Riasani Memorial

Hospital in Mastung on

Wednesday. He was accom-

panied by District Health

Officer Mastung, Dr. Muhammad Anwar Gohla,

and other officials. During

the visit, the Chief Execu-

tive Officer of the hospital,

Dr. Saeed Ahmed Mirwani

briefed the Deputy Com-missioner on the hospital's

management and various

tion theater, dialysis ward

**Cleaning work** 

of Phalili Nala

started in Uthal

QUETTA (APP): On the

special directive of District

Humira Baloch, Chairman

of Municipal Committee

(MC) Uthal Syed Somar

Shah Kazmi, Chief Officer

of Municipal Committee

Uthal Haji Muhammad

Khan Duda started clean-

ing work of Phalili Nala

Uthal by using heavy ma-

The people of the area

services

chinery

ning and development and He was of the strong other administrative secreview that the goals of taries of provincial governtimely completion of the ment departments particidevelopment schemes can't pated in the meeting. be achieved by delaying the The meeting was issuance of tenders. briefed about the proposed He said that we can

development projects for put our province on path the next financial year of development with timely completion of the develop

The Chief Minister ment projects



2024-25

CM vows to start work on

year without any delay

July after approval of provincial budget

QUETTA: A delegation led by Managing Director Roche Pakistan Hafsa Shamshi meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti

#### **DC** Mastung **Shehbaz lauds Finland's** visits Shaheed support for UNSC non Nawab Ghaus permanent membership **Bakhsh Riasani**

Stubb had congratulated Pakistan, Denmark, Greece, Panama, and Somalia on winning the UN Security Council's non-permanent mem-

bership. The Finnish president also extended best wishes to Pakistan, besides assuring collaboration in strengthening the UN and resolve to work for uphold- the international system.

tighten noose for phase and their



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan, Khazar Farhadov calls on Minister for Defence & Defence Production, Khawaja Muhammad Asif.

#### Govt vows to ease public burden: Ahsan

He said that relying on

"The focus will be on

He reiterated the need

ISLAMABAD (APP): mitment to providing relief Federal Minister for Planto the public within the limning, Development, and its of available resources. Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, said on borrowing relief followed Wednesday that the by more loans was not a country's economic indicasustainable long-term solutors were showing a position, as it only added to the tive trajectory and were excountry's financial burden. pected to improve further. Instead, he advocated for Talking to a private economic reforms aimed at news channel, he acknowlachieving long-term posiedged the public hardships tive results.

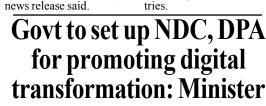
but assured that the situation would gradually get implementing reforms that do not increase the burden better. He noted a decrease in on the poor but rather proinflation and expressed opvide relief," he said. timism about continued positive outcomes in the for a strategic approach of

#### economic reforms to ensure coming days. The minister reiter- sustainable economic ated the government's com- growth and stability. Khawaja Asif says: Pakistan views Azerbaijan important due to strategic

location, immense resources ISLAMABAD (APP): The minister high-

Minister for Defence, Delighted the importance of fence Production and Aviabilateral brotherly relations tion, Khawaja Muhammad between two countries Asif on Wednesday told the which are based on histori-Azerbaijan Ambassador that Pakistan views cal, cultural and religious commonalities. He expressed the desire to en-Azerbaijan as an important hance the relations in relcountry due to its strategic evant fields, including delocation, immense resources, progressive out-look and fast-growing fence, defence industry and aviation which have imeconomy. mense potential to grow to The minister ex-

the benefit of both counpressed these remarks dur- tries. He also impressed ing a meeting with Ambasupon the need of continued sador of Azerbaijan, Khazar interaction between higher Farhadov, who called on military and defence level him here on Wednesday, a leadership of the two coun-



departments, including ICU, CCU, OPD, opera-ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue laboratory, and emergency Muhammad Aurangzeb on Information Technology Wednesday announced al- sector in the budget. ocation of Rs 1 billion in the Federal Budget 2024-25 for establishing the National Digital Commission (NDC) and the Digital Pakistan Authority (DPA). The minister, in his budget speech in the Na-Ĉommissioner Lasbela tional Assembly, said, "The objective of this initiative is to promote digital transformation, innovations and digital solutions in various departments. He said that the government had a full focus on promoting the Information Technology sector as with targeted investment it had the potential to yield significant profits in a short time He projected that with the talented Pakistani youth and the government's IT-friendly policies, Pakistan's IT exports would reach \$3.5 bil-

He said Rs 79 billion Senator had been allocated for the



justice

QUETTA: A delegation of Pakistan Peoples Party Balochistan led by its President Mir Changez Khan Jamali meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

**Provincial Population Task Force to be formed:** CM concerned about maternal & infant mortality rate: assures

# effective measures

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has expressed concern over the increased maternal and infant mortality rate during the delivery procedure. However, he assured to take effective steps for controlling the maternal and infant mortalities in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Pakistan The Chief Minister on the occasion directed to

was speaking to a delegation of UNFPA Pakistan, who called on him under leadership of Advisor for Women Development Department, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi here on Wednesday.

The Country Head of UNFPA, Dr. Luay Shabaneh was also present in the meeting, who informed the Chief Minister about it's organization's activities and programmes in the province. The Chief Minister

Task Force. He mentioned that reforms are being brought in the health sector. We are making planning for provision of quality healthcare

facilities under the Public-Private Partnership, the hief Minister maintained. He vowed to ensure implementation on the sustainable measures for provision of quality healthcare

#### Balochistan. ANF seizes huge quantity **C&W Minister** calls Minister of narcotics from near for Irrigation QUETTA (APP): Balochistan's Minister for

Independent Report QUETTA: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Balochistan recovered huge quantity of narcotics including charas and ice drug from Chor Bandar area near Coastal highway.

According to the capsules. spokesman of ANF, the operation was conducted on an intelligence information in the Chor Bandar area located near Coastal high- smuggle abroad via sea way where more than one route.

**Coastal highway** ton of narcotics along with 51,000 intoxicant capsules Communications and Work (C&W), Mir Saleem Ahmed were hidden at a secret Khosa, met Provincial Irrigation Minister Mir Sadiq The narcotics seized Umrani in his office on include: 850 kilogram cha-Wednesday.

ras and 164 kilogram ice During the meeting, drug besides the intoxicant both leaders agreed that the remodelling of Haridin The spokesman of Drainage would be included ANF said that the consignin the Public Sector Develment of huge quantity of opment Program (PSDP) narcotics was hidden to In addition, the Provincial

#### **FC Balochistan thwarts** smuggling operations worth Rs380 million

place

QUETTA (INP): In a se- Dera Allah Yar, Barkhan ries of successful anti-traf- Pishin, Chaman, Noshki ficking operations, FC Balochistan has seized illegal goods worth over tercepted and confiscated a Rs380 million between substantial amount of May 18 and June 11, 2024. The operations took place cluded 97,000 liters of Irain various regions including nian diesel, 1,313 tires.

Minister Mir Sadiq Umrani assured to provide a camp and Mastung. During these district. operations, authorities in-

for the Irrigation Department with staff and resources in the Suhabatpur Both leaders also

Minister of C&W, Mir

Salim Ahmad Khosa, re-

quested a camp for the Ir-

rigation Department to

deal with the rains and

Provincial Irrigation

flood situation

Suhabatpur district.

agreed that development projects would be initiated smuggled items. These inin Naseerabad, Jafarabad and Suhbatpur.



QUETTA: Member CMIT Abdul Saboor Kakar in a group photo with participants after conclusion of 3-day training workshop organized by National Disaster Management Authority

non-tax filer, proposing a ban on their foreign traveling.

The non-filers will form Provincial Population have to pay 75 percent tax on mobile phone calls as proposed in the budget. The sources said that that there is also a proposal to end the tax exemption on electric vehicles worth more than USD 50.000

The federal government has also suggested levying additional tax on non-filers in order to bring them in the tax net. The facilities to the masses in FBR is aiming to crease tax

revenue through the enforcement It is pertinent to men-Board of Revenue (FBR)

and gas connections might also be disconnected in the second phase. "In case of no reply from them, the non-filers mobile phone SIMs, elec-

tricity and gas will be dis-connected," according to sources. "The process of blocking SIMs of non-filers will continue in the next

financial year," sources The government has devised a plan to enhance tax collection in the next financial year's budget being tabled in the Parliament to-

day appreciated the initiative of The FBR will increase the member of the provintax revenues in the next fiscial assembly, Mir Zareen tion here that the Federal cal year by its enforcement Magsi and the district adplan



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Sardar Sarfaraz Domki, Haji Ali Madad Jattak, Agha Shakeel Durrani and Sajid Dashti meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti

#### Non-availability of platelets machines in Kech: **BHC directs Secretaries of Health** & Finance, DG PDMA to appear in person & explain position

Independent Report Balochistan High Court (BHC) has directed the ad-

ministrative secretaries of Health and Finance departments and Director General of Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) to appear in per-son and explain the position why not they sent the platelets machines timey to the district administration Health Kech. The BHC also di-

rected them to submit a comprehensive report in this regard.

QUETTA:

These directives were issued by the division bench of High Court, comprising Mr. Justice Abdullah Baloch and Mr. Justice Rozi Khan Baraich during hearing of a consti-

The one resident of Tehsil platelets machines was approved by the Chief Min-Turbat namely Wahab s/o ister and it is in process Abdul Rahim Baloch, here with the Finance departon Wednesday. ment, while tender process The court painfully being completed, but due to observed that on the last non-release of required

date of hearing i.e., funds by the Finance de-30.05.2024 despite direcpartment, they are unable tions and undertaking of to purchase the same and Secretary Health and DG onward transmit to the PDMA whereby they un-DHO Kech. dertook to provide platelets that this is a serious issue where the dengue is spread-

ing day by day in the almost Kech district and according to DHO Kech till ceived three CBC machines date 21 causalities have been recorded whereby 21 perbut the platelets machines are still awaited. While confronted the

sons have lost their lives due to dengue and nonabove proposition to the availability of such facilirepresentative of Health deties. Later, the court adjourned the hearing till 11:30 partment, he stated that a summary for purchasing of AM today (Thursday).

He said out of the total IT sector allocation, Rs 7 billion was specified for digitalization and reforms in the Federal Board of Revenue. Modern IT systems would be installed at the FBR to expand the tax net base and remove loopholes in the tax collection system.

He said Rs 11 billion had been earmarked for the Technology Park Development Project in Islamabad.

The minister said an allocation of Rs 2 billion was proposed for the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), which would be used to encourage the IT sector exporters and support the IT firms providing

internships to students. Furthermore, the minister said, Rs 20 billion had been proposed for the Digital Infrastructure Information



Deputy Chairman NAB Sohail Nasir, DG NAB (B) Izhar Ahmed Awan alongwith others conducting Prevention Committee meeting on Gwadar Port Authority

#### Monsoon preparedness stressed to mitigate disaster risks

Independent Report QUETTA: Chairma QUETTA: Chairman CMIT Abdul Saboor Kakar emphasized the crucial need for contingency planning and preparedness to minimize the impact of monsoon rains and natural disasters in the province. He highlighted the importance of effective coordination between civil, military, and administrative authorities to protect human lives and reduce losses.

Kakar made these remarks while addressing the The court observed closing ceremony of a three-day training workshop jointly organized by the National Disaster Management Authority of Pakistan, World Food Program, Balochistan Civil Services Academy, and Rescue 1122. The workshop aimed to enhance disaster management capabilities and promote interagency collaboration

The event brought together officials from various departments, including NDMA, PDMA, BCSA, and Rescue 1122, to share expertise and best practices in disaster preparedness and response.

By prioritizing preparedness and coordination, the province can reduce the risk of natural disasters and ensure the safety of its citizens.On this occasion Deputy Di-Coordination rector NDMA Major Shaista Khan Achakzai, Director BCSA Shabana Sultan, Director General Public Rela-Balochistan tions Muhammad Noor Khetran, Director PDMA Balochistan Amanullah Rind, Program Policy Of-ficer of WFP Naeem Gul, Manager Training NDMA Wasim Ahmed, Deputy Manager NDMA Hamza Razzaq

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machines and CBC machines to the DHO Kech but today, the DHO Kech, who was in attendance stated that he has only re-