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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 out-

lines 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.

However, the National Assembly smoothly continued debate on the Fi-

nance Bill, 2024 for eight days.

The formal debate started on June 20, 2024 that continued till June 27, 2024. The House also discussed recommendations of the Senate.

Minister of Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb termed the budget 2024-25 as growth budget and said it was based on a well-thought-out strategy to boost the economic growth.

He said that the budget for the next fiscal year was aimed at narrowing the fiscal deficit by expanding the government's revenues and cutting unnecessary expenditures.

Muhammad Aurangzeb reiterated the government's commitment to increasing the tax-to-GDP ratio to 13 percent, which currently stands at a low 9.5 percent.

He said that the country had achieved macroeconomic stability. He highlighted that the economic indicators, including the

current account, fiscal deficit, inflation, and foreign exchange reserves, were stable and under control.

He outlined the government's plan to continue this economic stability into the next fiscal year, aiming to lead the country towards sustainable economic growth.

He also called for reconstructing and digitizing the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to ensure high GDP target. He said that the concept of non-filers would be eliminated from the tax system, making it mandatory for everyone to pay taxes.

The minister expressed the government's resolve to curb tax evasion and expand the tax net, particularly targeting retailers and the real estate sector. He said that the current account deficit had decreased, the fiscal deficit was under control, and the country had foreign reserves of \$9 billion, providing an import cover for two months.



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

Elite class to be brought to tax net, vows PM

Questions KP govt's 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 bud-

get. 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.

Expressing satisfaction over the economic situation, the prime minister said the country's economy had now been put on the right path and that Pakistan's journey of prosperity had begun.

PM Shehbaz Sharif further said due to the business friendly policies of the government, the trust of the investors had been restored

on the government.

He said the government was taking steps to bring reforms in the government departments and privatize the loss making State Owned Entities on priority.

APP adds: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday questioned the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government for its failure to establish the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) despite receiving Rs590 billion during the last 14 years.

The prime minister, responding to a point of order raised by Sunni Ittehad Council member and former NA Speaker Asad Qaiser, highlighted that under the NFC, an additional one percent share was allocated for the KP province just to augment its efforts against terrorism. He said the last NFC Award was agreed upon in 2010 by the government of Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani when terrorism was at its peak and the KP province suffered the most, followed by Balochistan and other provinces.



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

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 Sarfraz 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.

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 emphasized 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 elec-

toral processes.

It highlighted the enthusiastic participation of millions of Pakistanis in the general elections held on February 8, 2024, as evidence of the country's vibrant democracy.

The NA also asserted Pakistan's status as an independent and sovereign nation, rejecting any external interference in its internal affairs. It viewed the US House's action as an attempt to undermine the state's autonomy. In a call for a broader perspective, the NA urged the US Congress to focus on more pressing global issues, such as the ongoing acts of genocide in Gaza, human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), and state-sanctioned atrocities against minorities, particularly Muslims, in India.

It called on the international community to take immediate steps to alleviate the suffering of people in Gaza and IIOJK.



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

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 occasion, 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

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

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 including 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.

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 focus on addressing the root cause of conflicts. He said the UN peacekeeping missions face increasing challenges from terrorist



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

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.

Needless to mention here is that a special immunization campaign has already been planned by the Health department in 16 districts of the province.

The special campaign is scheduled to be kicked off from July 1 in the specific districts of the province.

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.



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



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 Sarfraz 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 be-

lieved 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.

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.

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.



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

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

Independent Report
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 and showroom owners 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

speaking to a delegation of showroom owners who called on him under leadership of Muhammad Umar Khilji here on Friday.

The Governor expressed the belief that if the local investors and internationally reputed traders of the province were provided necessary opportunities by the government, then they would establish vehicle manufacturing factories in the province. By doing so, new opportunities of livelihood would be created besides the economic development, he added.

During the meeting, the members of delegation presented their demands included restoration of the cancelled trade licenses, opening of the sealed showrooms, withdrawal of the unnecessary ban imposed on the business and permission of free trade.

They also demanded to withdraw FIRs registered during the protest.

The Governor assured that all the genuine demands would be met while remaining within the law and constitution.

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.

Taraque Foundation is PPAF's partner organisation in district Quetta, Pishin, Zhob, Musakhail, Nushki and Kharan.



HUB: View of site after traffic accident due to over 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 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).

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

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz 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.

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.

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

Independent Report
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 prevails among people living in remote areas of the province," he said while talking to media persons here Friday.

Asadullah Baloch said to bring the disgruntled people in mainstream, there

is a dire need to initiate flagship projects in Balochistan and boost economic activities in the region and ensure employment opportunities to the local people.

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.

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.



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

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 Nazeem 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 Ihsaan Afzal Khan, Chairman FBR, and other senior government officials.

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. "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.

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 Mohammad 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, and Uzbekistan in Pakistan were present.



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 Pak-American 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 exploring partnerships and explore new horizons for establishing the parameters of mutuality of interests.