aenenaent

dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Hub

Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XIX No. 134, Zil Hajj 22, 1445 AH Saturday June 29, 2024, Pages 04, Price Rs. 15

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

Friday passed the Finance Bill 2024 after a clause-byclause consideration, incorporating specific amend-

Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb moved the motion for consideration of the ment Programme (PSDP) in 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 lion for the promotion of and adopting amendments the Benazir Income Supafter due process of voting. the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), All the amendments,

presented by the opposition members, were re-

The total outlay of the federal budget for the fiscal year 2024-25 is Rs. 18.877 trillion. This budget out-

ISLAMABAD (APP): lines the government's fistle National Assembly on cal policies and budgetary cal policies and budgetary the government has allogary. In the government has allogary call policies and budgetary the government has allogary. The National Assembly on call policies and budgetary the government has allogary. allocations for the upcoma comprehensive plan to address various economic cluding IT, telecom, science

VOICE OF MASSES

The government has allocated Rs. 1,400 billion for the Public Sector Deval 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 bil-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

cated at 10 percent and sectors development in-

tor.

The House also held discussion on the Charged

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

The House approved for the next fiscal year was aimed at narrowing the fislated 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

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

days.
The formal debate ing financial year, reflecting a comprehensive plan to a comprehensive plan to sectors development instant of that continued till June 27, 2024. The House also discussed recommendations of the Senate.

> as growth budget and said it was based on a wellthought-out strategy to boost the economic growth. He said that the budget

cal deficit by expanding the government's revenues and cutting unnecessary expenditures. Muhammad Aurangzaib 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 high-reserves of \$9 billion, pro-

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. lighted that the economic viding an import cover for indicators, including the two months.

ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister (PM)

Shehbaz Sharif on Friday

ing a "pro-people budget"

to steer the country to-

wards economic prosper-

minister, PM Shehbaz ex-

Talking to the finance

In a tit-for-tat move

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

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.

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

It highlighted the enthusiastic participation of mil-lions of Pakistanis in the general elections held on February 8, 2024, as evidence of the country's vi-

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, particu-

It called on the internaimmediate steps to alleviincorrect understanding of Pakistan's political and elec-in Gaza and IIOJK.

hailed the approval of the budget 2024-25 in the National Assembly (NA), vowing to bring elite class and tax defaulters to tax ing the prime minister's meeting with Finance Min-

ISLAMABAD (APP): toral processes.

brant democracy. The NA also asserted budget session. planning, other relevant

ministries and Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) in preparation of the bud-

larly Muslims, in India. tional community to take

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

Kabul, during which he had negotiations with the protesting journalists. Speaking on the occa-

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

the Press Gallery to hold

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

ute to the Parliamentary Re-

porters' Association (PRA) for upholding freedom of "I have taken strict notice of the coordination problems arising in relation

The minister paid trib-

to the budget books, which will be solved immediately. Tarar confirmed that the matter would be resolved immediately by contacting the National Assembly Secretariat.

The doors of the Ministry of Information are open for the journalists round the clock. I stand with the journalists on the front line," he added. He said meetings

would be held with the provincial governments to investigate the cases of murder of journalists. 'A mechanism will be

made in this regard in consultation with the provincial information ministers. A committee will be formed regarding the protection of the rights of journalists, the minister affirmed

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

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif interacts with

Elite class to be brought to

tax net, vows PM

Questions KP govt's failure to establish CTD

despite receiving Rs590 b funds

Chairman PPP, MNA Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in the National Assembly.

The remarks came durhighlighted that a special attention was given in the budget to various impor-Muhammad tant sectors such as health, Aurangzeb as he lauded the education, agriculture and information technology. latter and his team prepar-He said the elite class that prioritises welfare of and the tax defaulters common man and promises

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,

pressed his satisfaction the prime minister said the over the active participation of all the treasury and country's economy had opposition members in the now been put on the right path and that Pakistan's He also appreciated journey of prosperity had the efforts of the officers

ther 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 wned 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 formed 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.



OUETTA: 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

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

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

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

The Chief Justice summoned the high officials of Health Department 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

Mohsin Naqvi savs 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 In-

terior 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



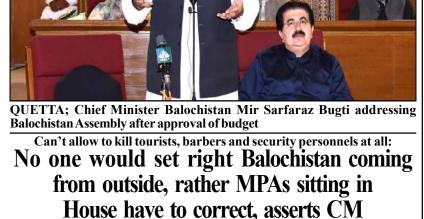
threats to safety.

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

He added that each mission should be provided with adequate human and material resources and advanced capabilities like radars and early warning in-



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



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

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 in-

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

The Speaker Abdul

terest of province.

Khaliq Achakzai was in the

The Chief Minister

those who are taking law in maintained that the release

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 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. Å polio case was reported a couple of days back from Killa Abdullah district. Besides, three polio cases (one each) had

been reported from Quetta,

It may also be men here that Balochistan remained polio free province in 2022 and 2023. Earlier, one polio case was reported in 2021 while record 26 cases

Aggregately, a total of 59 cases of polio have been reported in Balochistan

Needless to mention here is that a special imalready been planned by the Health department in 16 districts of the prov-

had been reported in 2020.

munization campaign has

Chaman and Dera Bugt

The special campaign is scheduled to be kicked

off from July 1 in the spe-

cific districts of the prov-

Afghan soil being used for terrorism in Pakistan: Khawaja Asif

of funds would be started

for development schemes

He said that we would

He mentioned that 79

pend Rs. 229 billion on

development in next finan-

schemes of the province

had been sent to the federal

government for inclusion in

the federal PSDP, however,

our two schemes were ap-

He announced that sev-

eral federal schemes

would be seen while

completing in the next

financial year. He said that

our accountability would be

started from July 1.

om July 1, 2024.

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

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.

Daily Soice of Masse Independent

PM spurned

An attempt by the prime minister, perhaps a tad belated, to mend fences with the PTI has been shot down before it could take flight. The PTI seems to be in no mood for any talks with the government until its incarcerated workers and leaders, including former PM Imran Khan, have been released by the state. In answer to PM Shehbaz Sharif's surprise offer for dialogue, made during the Wednesday session in the National Assembly, PTI lawmakers, one after the other, recounted the indignities they had been made to suffer by the state.

Their anger was justified; still, it was an unfortunate response to an otherwise positive development. It now seems the door has closed on the possibility of a quick political breakthrough. The acrid hostility between the government and opposition has festered for too long, and unless one side softens its position, a messy showdown seems inevi-

In retrospect, the government's biggest folly was believing that the PTI would eventually break under the same repressive tactics used against its own leaders in the past. However, while these tactics were initially able to cut the PTI to size, the party endured.

Further, the Feb 8 election made clear that the Pakistani citizenry was rallying against the tactics employed by the state. This should have been signal enough for a new government battling for legitimacy to immediately launch the reconciliation process and prevent further victimisation of its political opponents. It chose not to.

To make matters worse, over the past few weeks, at least two different PML-N lawmakers signalled that the government was now considering 'extending' Mr Khan's detention, presumably through freshly fabricated cases. This seemed like a deliberately provocative act by a party that still does not realise it is on very thin ice.

The government should realise that intimidation, coercion and fear tactics have only worsened the political disequilibrium and precipitated even stronger feelings of social unrest. They have also weakened its moral position and emboldened the PTI to dictate terms.

If the prime minister is serious about turning a new page, he must ensure the release of all political prisoners forthwith and make sure the PTI is allowed to function just like any other political party. This simple gesture alone will earn him much-needed goodwill and help create an environment more conducive to talks. On the other hand, the PTI must not set rigid conditions that may preclude a meaningful dialogue. This country does not 'belong' to any particular political entity or political leader: people ascribing to all hues of political opinion should be given equal respect.

Talks must be welcomed and given a fair chance simply because no government can endure in Pakistan without first securing some guarantee from its opponents on political stability.

Defying nature

board. Transgender per-

sons understandably

consider this violative of

are claiming that they had

been 'deceived' and that

the 'nation is a victim of a big "fitna". These are

serious charges against

the Supreme Court that

had set the ball rolling for

the transgender commu-

nity at a time when inter-

nationally the trend had

been to reform gender

recognition laws. Accord-

TGEU

ing to TGEU (Transgender Europe), to

'Self-determination is

growing in popularity as

a model. Gender self-de-

termination means that a

person can change gen-

der marker and name on

through an easy admin-

istrative process. The

change is based on the

person's self-determined

gender identity. No third

ment has mercifully ap-

pealed against the FSC

verdict, these conserva-

tive elements are in a fix.

They now want the gov-

ernment to withdraw its

appeal. They even speak

of launching a move-

ment against the law pro-

tecting the rights of the

transgender community.

According to the partici-

pants of the convention,

the Act is a guise to en-

courage homosexuality

times for the transgender

community. A large num-

These are trying

and obscenity.

Since the govern-

party is required.'

documents

official

Now, these elements

their dignity.

ruling.

The aim, it seems, is Zubeida Mustafa

It seems that the guard- to reverse the few gains ians of our morality be- the transgender persons lieve a major threat to had managed to win after Pakistan's existence a hard struggle. We saw its some fundamentalist elefrom transgender citizens. A ments belatedly file a peconsiderable section of religious scholars is un- Shariat Court challenging able to explain how a small community of 10,478 (census 2023) vulnerable souls can pose a turning down the self-dedanger to some 240 mil- termination clause and lion who constitute the requiring a transgender Islamic Republic of Paki-With their lively

imagination, they conjure up all sorts of hypothetical situations that they believe will destroy the moral fibre of the nation. It is strange that those who actually resort to both illegal and immoral actions escape the wrath of our religious scholars. When have they called a conference or uttered a word of condemnation when women are gangraped, little girls sexually abused and murdered, and thousands of young women trafficked in an illegal multimillion-dollar trade with the connivance of the police? Does their silence on such matters indicate a tacit acceptance of these horrific crimes? But when there is talk of the constitutional rights of the transgender community, it throws them into a state of moral panic. Is this not bizarre?

In a convention held recently in Kara-chi, a section of the clergy lost no time in denouncing some provisions of the Trans-gender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2018, that has been in force for the last six years. To put the record straight, it must be mentioned that this Act has been ap--proved by the Council of Islamic Ideology, while the Supreme Court accepted the principle of self-determination in matters of gender identity/expression in 2012 and Nadra has been issuing CNICs in accordance with the court's ber of them have been Courtesy Dawn

since 2021, when the hate campaign against them reached fever pitch. They feel insecure, and this has hampered their progress. After the passage of the 2018 Act, the tition in the Federal rights activists failed to sustain their campaign to the 2018 Act and labelcreate awareness about ling it un-Islamic. In 2023, the transgender commuthe court gave a verdict nity. Social prejudice against them has still to be rooted out. Many religious parties have person's gender to be identified by a medical taken advantage of this

singled out and killed

non-binary people. I feel sad and call up Bindiya Rana, the pioneer of the transgender movement in Pak-istan. She is depressed. "Three tran-s--gender persons have been murdered recently," she tells me. "And do you know who their killers were? They were her own siblings, who have no love for their sister." Bindiya feels that Transgender Persons Act needs to be strengthened and not undermined. It should have a provision for punishing parents who abandon a transgender child before s/he reaches adulthood. But here are some conservative elements trying to make life more difficult for them.

I agree and point out that the real danger comes from bigotry and obscurantism. Those born with birth defects cannot hurt this country. Bindiya remains calm and has no harsh words for her tormentors, who reject her humanity. After all, she is God's creation, and what she has been denied is compensated by her generosity of spirit and sagacity. Bindiya reminds me of the words of the transgender protagonist of Arundhati Roy's book, Ministry of Utmost Happiness: "The word Hijra meant a Body in which a Holy Soul lives.'

Death-worth rule

Shahzad Sharjeel

Ask anyone what a human life is worth, and answers would range between 'priceless', 'incalculable, and more than all the gold in the world'. Incurable nihilists would say 'worthless', and the philosophical-minded would lead you astray with gems like 'every breath is a transaction, decide the price and pay the cost'

Philosophy and romanticism aside, this is a situation and are whipping up hatred against practical question that governments and organisations grapple with daily.

That one's life is not considered equal in worth to someone else's an realisation and sounds unfair. But then, such is the nature of our existence. It was reported in the media recently that families of five foreign workers killed in a terrorist attack in Kohistan cident in Kohistan, a 30some months back would each receive a lion US dollars in compensation from the government. Going by the exchange rate, this would roughly equal a little less than Rs14 crore per family. Meanwhile, the family of the Pakistani driver who was also killed in the attack would get Rs2.5 m. The huge gap between the and that the engineer two amounts notwithstanding, both are insufficient because the victims and relations and emotions associated with them are irreplaceother perspective, the driver and his family were shortchanged. Unfortunately, life is more complex than emotions; all else being 'unequal' applies more to it than the ceteris paribus so often referred to by econo-

It can take the authorities several years to process claims and determine compensation. bers, whose lives are Why? Because the con- considered far dearer

mining the 'worth' of each life lost. Economic tion is a specialised non-economic losses are considered. economies, its calcula-The former consists of tion is entrusted to VC losses in expected in- attorneys, and indicome in case of death or vidual determinations decreases resulting from disability. The non-economic losses include pain, trauma, and short- aftermath of losses to long-term psychological impacts. To assess

economic losses, factors like the victim's age, academic qualification, means of livelihood, income at the time of death/disability, health condition, and life expectancy are all factored in to extrapolate their trauma that cou---ld be earnings from what is de- covered under the fund unsettling termined to be their ex-

pected working life.

Depending upon local laws and other factors, more or different equation. Back to the inyear-old driver earning, let us assume, Rs35,000 more than a 50-year-old engineer earning Rs5m a month possibly for the tion next 10 years, assuming 60 to be the age of superannuation for both. Of course, these formudriver would remain that and will not branch out into entrepreneurship would retain his ability to construct hydropower years. Hopefully, a clearer picture is beginning to emerge by now when it comes down to hard-core, economic number crunching.

this or that socioeconomic framework, let us bear in mind that even in the old tribal codes, still practised today, a chief's blood money is many times higher than that of his family mem-

cerned bodies have the than those of a tribe unenviable task of deter-

Victim compensafield; in developed are made by courts or boards of funds set up by governments in the from calamities, disasters, wars, or acts of terrorism. One such VC fund was formed

in 2001 in the aftermath of the twin-tower att-a--cks in New York. Its initial ambit lasted till 2004. As more types of dama-ges, losses, and came to the fore with time, new pieces of legislation were enacted to provide legal cover for the ongoing nature of factors may be thrown in claim filing and settleor removed from the ments. Currently, the fund's tenure extends to 2090.

In our local context, while laws, procedures, little more than half a mil- a month will not earn and protocols to deal with almost any eventuality exist, implementadepends officialdom's whims and political expedience. Every fire or rain deluge results in business and lae assume that the trade bodies exhorting the government to compensate for their losses. Why, one must ask, should the government pick up the tab for their decision to forego insurprojects for another 10 ance? When moveable assets like vehicles are lost or damaged, do we ask the government to able. However, from an- as to how your life may compensate for them? be worth more than mine Either they are insured or they are not. Why should it be any different for other types of Before condemning assets? Governments should incentivise the insurance sector and encourage employers to enlist their workforce. Faiz Ahmad Faiz rued the voiceless multitudes: "No plaintiff, no witnesses; the blood of the down-to-earth, sustains it." -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Economy poised for growth in FY2024-25: Finance Ministry

The growth prospects for Pakistan are expected to remain encouraging during the upcoming fiscal year government's focus on key

sectors is expected to propel the country onto a trajectory of sustained growth, according to a recent report released by the Finance Ministry on here Friday. "Pakistan's growth prospects are expected to

remain encouraging. Budget FY2025 is gearing towards a shift to an era of sustainable and inclusive growth," said the Monthly Economic Update and Outlook for June released by the ministry. Aiming to this, the government is focusing on highpotential sectors like Infor-

mation Technology (IT), proved macroeconomic in-Small and Medium Entrepreneurs (SMEs), mines and minerals, tourism, exports and agriculture, it

"These sectors can balance of payments position. Complementing this, fiscal discipline, effective implementation of homegrown growth program along with bilateral and multilateral cooperation will necessitate the sustainable potential growth path in coming years," the report

The monthly update 24 was going to end with an economic stabilisation

"The subsiding infla-

tionary pressures, stability in external accounts and exchange rate, fiscal consolidation and gradual recovpay rich dividends and lend ery in industrial activities support to the country's are restoring the confidence of economic agents thus facilitating economic growth," it said. Highlighting the performance of various economic indicators, the report said, the inflation outlook for June 2024 has slightly increased compared to the previous month but remains well below the levels of the same month last year. This rise is primarily due to higher prices of perishable items driven by Eid ul

says that fiscal year 2023path accompanied by im-



ISLAMABAD: The Second meeting of the Committee to assess and facilitate the reconstitution of Board of Korangi Fisheries Harbour Authority (KoFHA) was held under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Federal Minister for Industries & Production Rana Tanveer Hussainwas also present as members of the committee.

Minister chairs meeting to

reconstitute BoD for KoFHA

formed to ensure that the

reconstitution of KoFHA's

Board of Directors com-

plies with applicable laws;

as the core focus of the com-

mittee lies in meticulously

scrutinizing the Federal

Government's selection of

ing, held on June 11, the

committee meticulously re-

viewed the criteria and

guidelines for the selection

process. The discussions

focused on ensuring that the

nominated members would

bring a diverse range of

skills, experience, and ex-

During the first meet-

five Board members

The committee was

press release.

ISLAMABAD (APP): **PSX loses** The second meeting of the committee tasked with as-

83 points ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Friday shed 83.29 points, a slight negative change of 0.11 percent, closing at 78,444.96 points against 78,528.25 points

on the last working day. A total of 347,671,672 shares were traded during the day as compared to 283,542,503 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 11.899 billion against Rs 11.067 billion on the last trading day.

Shipping activity at **Port Qasim**

KARACHI (APP): Seven ships, Wan Hai-316, Maersk Cairo, Express Athens, Alora, Southern Anoa, Gaschem Fuji and Clipper Barolo scheduled to load/offload Container, Rice, Chemicals and Coal. berthed at Container Terminal. Multi-Purpose Terminals and Bulk Terminal re-

spectively on Thursday. Meanwhile two more ships, Afra Rossie and Samaisma scheduled to load/offload Furnace oil and LNG also arrived at outeranchorage of the Port Qasim on during last 24

FCCI to sign MoUs to facilitate its members

committee members, said a pertise to the board, align-

FAISALABAD (APP): Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) will sign a series of Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) with different organizations to project this august trade body in addition to ensuring maximum concessions and facilitation for its ten thousand members.

sessing and facilitating the

reconstitution of the Board

of Directors (BoD) for the

Korangi Fisheries Harbour

Authority (KoFHA) was

chaired by the Federal Min-

ister for Maritime Affairs,

Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh,

while Federal Minister for

Industries and Production,

Rana Tanveer Hussain, Sec-

retary Maritime Affairs

Syed Zafar Ali Shah and

other senior officers of the

Ministry of Maritime Af-

fairs were in attendance as

The meeting was

held here Friday.

Senior Vice President FCCI Dr Sajjad Arshad along with Vice President Haji Muhammad Aslam Bhalli inked two separate MOUs with Sahil Hospital and Pure Gold Jewelers respectively.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Sajjad Arshad said that Sahil Hospital would provide 15-20 % discount to FCCI members on laboratory tests,

other services. "However, FCCI employees would be entitled for a discount of 20-35 % on these tests and services", he added.

X-rays, ultrasound and

He also signed an MOU with Pure Gold Jewelers and said that this organization would offer 100 % discount in labor charges on making of gold ornaments

Rupee gains 03 paisa against Dollar

ing with the objectives out-

lined in the KoFHA Ordi-

nance and the SOE Act,

2023. In its second meeting

today, the list was reviewed

followed by threadbare dis-

cussion and would finalize

the names after necessary

consultation with stake-

holders. Federal Minister

Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh em phasized the importance of

meritocracy in the nomina-

tion process. He added that

we focus to reconstitute a

Board of Directors that

upholds the highest stan-

dards of governance and is

equipped to drive KoFHA

towards greater efficiency

transparency

and success.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Rupee on Friday gained 03 paisa against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.34 against the previous day's closing at Rs 278.37.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market, however, were Rs 277.7 and Rs 280.6 respectively. The price of the Euro increased by 13 paisa to close at Rs 297.68 against the last day's closing of Rs 297.55, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

Weekly inflation falls by 0.73 pc ISLAMABAD (APP):

The weekly inflation measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed a decrease of 0.73 percent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on June 27. the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the abovementioned group was recorded at 314.57 points as compared to 316.88 points during the past week.

As compared to the corresponding week of last vear, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 22.88 per cent.

The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16=100covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

The SPI for the low-

est consumption group of up to Rs 17,732, decreased by 0.80 per cent and went down to 306.62 points from last week's 309.10 points.

The SPI for consumption groups of Rs 17,732-22,888, Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175, decreased by 0.85 percent, 0.77 percent, 0.79 and 0.67 percent respectively.

During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 18 (35.29%) items increased 8 (15.69%) items decreased and 25 (49.02%) items remained stable.



Aurangzeb calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

At MWC 2024 Huawei redefines connectivity with 5.5G advancements

(APP): Li Peng, Huawei's ered a keynote focusing on maximizing the value of 5.5G for carriers.

He highlighted the industry's readiness for large-scale commercial use of 5.5G through years of concerted effort in network, service, and business ecosystem prepara-

According to Li, busithe mobile AI era, urging mands and accelerate incarriers to integrate net- dustry growth.

SHANGHAI (China) work, cloud, and AI capabilities to offer differenti-Corporate Senior Vice ated connected experi-President and President of ences. This shift, Li ar-ICT Sales & Service, deliv- gued, moves beyond traditional traffic monetization to monetizing the user experience itself, thereby driving industry develop-

Drawing a parallel with the aviation industry's evolution, Li underscored the importance of high-quality supply in stimulating new demand. He highlighted ness model innovation and the need for the mobile capability integration are communications industry critical for carriers to to integrate advanced techachieve optimal return on nologies as it transitions investment in 5.5G. He to 5.5G, aiming to meet emphasized the arrival of new and latent user de-

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's largest telecommunication and ICT services provider, PTCL Group (PTCL & Ufone 4G) has collaborated with STech.ai to integrate an innovative AI-based platform that leverages advanced technologies, including Urdu-based Large Language Models (LLMs), Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR), Natural Language Processing (NLP), and Machine Learning (ML) to enhance its customer services system. The platform aims to enhance quality management systems by providing enriched customer sen-

able insights, driving

PTCL's overall customer experience strategy, said a

FAISALABAD: Farmers using modern agricul-

ture machine for seedling of rice crop in their field.

PTCL Group integrates

advanced AI to achieve

customer service excellence

news release. The strategic initiative underscores Group's commitment to excellence in customer experience. Customer centricity is paramount at PTCL Group, which inspires the Group's commitment to excellence in both customer experience and services delivery. The company continuously invests, innovates, and refines its business processes. It leverages innovative technologies and customer feedback to enhance every interaction and ensures that each service timent analysis and valu- touch point is seamless, re-

Punjab Governor says:

Political parties should play positive role for development and prosperity of the country

LAHORE: A delegation of ther said that good gover-reconciliation for stability members of the Punjab Assembly, headed by the Parliamentary Leader of the Pakistan People's Party, Punjab Assembly, Syed Ali Haider Gillani, met Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at the Governor's House, Lahore. During the meeting, the members of the delegation congratulated Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider on assuming the office of Governor.

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

Muhammad Ismail.

Independent Report

LARKANA: In a success-

ful operation, the Larkana

Range Police, led by DIGP

Nasser Aftab, in collabora-

tion with the Shikarpur

Police and Sindh Rangers,

rescued two kidnapped in-

dividuals, Gulzar Phulpoto

and Asif Sethar, from the

Gharhi Tegho area. The op-

eration was conducted based

on intelligence reports of the

presence of criminals and

area. The police teams citizens.

GILGIT: Fateh Ullah, Chairman Board of Invest-

ment Gilgit-Baltistan addressing a post budget

press conference along with Finance Minister Engr.

Larkana police crack down on

kidnappers, rescue two victims

in joint operation

kidnapped individuals in the safety and security of the

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

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

try. Governor Punjab fur- believed in the politics of in the country. The delegation comprised Sardar Raees Nabeel, Malik Wasif Mazhar Ran, Kamran Abdullah Mudal, Qazi Ahmed Saeed, Aamir Ali Shah, Inam Bari, Sardar Habibur Rehman Gopang, Shazia Abid, Neelam Jabbar and Nargis Faiz Malik.

Saturday June 29, 2024

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

Earlier, Secretary

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

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

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

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

districts of Swabi, Swat, The provincial gov-Tank, North Waziristan, ernment would not allow South Waziristan Lower, anyone to spread violence and fan anarchy, she added.



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

KP to start Water Resource Accountability for Pak Prog.

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

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

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

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief

Minister Sardar Ali Amin

Khan Gandapur here on Fri-

day officially launched the

campaign by administering

polio drops to children to

be started from July 1, 2024.

The five-day anti-polio

campaign will continue from

July 1 to July 5 with the

Anti-polio campaign in

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa being

Under the campaign, anti-polio drops will be ad-

ministered in six complete

launched in July 2024.

PESHAWAR

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

Under the program,

Agricultural Sector Re-

forms Agenda will be en-

per. Similarly, this campaign

will also be conducted in spe-

cific union councils of five

districts, including 22 union

councils of Dera Ismail

Khan, three of Peshawar and

one each of Karam, Bannu

and Lakki Marwat. Under

the campaign, a total of

1299000 children have been

set as the target of anti-polio

vaccination, said the Chief Minister of Khyber

The Chief Minister said that 9,921 teams have

been formed for this pur-

pose and about 15,000 se-

curity personnel will be

deployed to protect the

Pakhtunkhwa.

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

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

Health Dept. KP lifts ban on MTI

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

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

Minister for minority affairs meets journalists, Sikh pilgrims

LAHORE (APP): Provin- Saeed etc. welcomed the cial Minister for Minority Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora visited the Lahore Press

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

President of Lahore Press Club Arshad Ansari, Member Governing Body Imran Sheikh, Rana living a prosperous and Shahzad and Syed Badr peaceful life in Pakistan.

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



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

NADRA Chairman visits Central Police Office

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

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

IĜ Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar and senior police officers welcomed the NADRA Chairman. A smart police contingent presented a salute to the NADRA Chairman on arrival The NADRA Chairman visited the Police Martyrs' Memorial and offered prayers for the souls of the cess of eradication of crimes NADRA.

paid rich tributes to the sacrifices of the Punjab Police martyrs.

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

highly commendable. Chairman NADRA Lt Gen Muhammad Munir Afsar indicated to further expand cooperation with Punjab Police in the pro-Chairman and identification of mis-Gen creants and criminals

and South Waziristan Up- polio teams. International News

Anti-polio campaign

officially launched in KP

(APP):

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

worked tirelessly to ensure

the safe recovery of the vic-

tims. DIGP Larkana Nasser

Aftab has commended the

Shikarpur Police for their

role in the operation and is-

sued commendation certifi-

nificant blow to the kidnap-

ping syndicates operating in

the region, and the Larkana

Police have proven their

commitment to ensuring the

This operation is a sig-

cates to the team.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Friday's Russian statement follows a Ukraiover the weekend with U.S.-made ATACMS missiles, which killed four and injured about 150, accord-

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

neighbourhood, in the east of Gaza City.

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

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

The Biden campaign had hoped that a strong debate would quell concerns among voters that the 81year-old Democratic incumbent is too old to serve a second four-year term. Instead, a hoarse Biden and lost his train of thought at times, especially early in the debate.

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

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

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: A defunct Russian satellite has broken up into more than

Russian satellite

breaks up in

space, forces

ISS astronauts

to shelter

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

US soldier charged in Japan over minor's rape

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

reporters on Tuesday.

Monitoring Desk

nounced.

Palestinians flee as Israeli forces return to Gaza's north

Monitoring Desk GAZA STRIP: Palestinians

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Monitoring Desk ANKARA: Turkey on

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

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

Turkish Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek wrote on the social media platform X, as the decision was being an-

Vice-President Cevdet Yilmaz said: With this development, international investors' confidence in our country's financial system has become even anti-money laundering stronger. The decision regime, addressing all the will have extremely posi-

tive consequences for the financial sector and the economy.'

Being watchdog's gray list can scare away investors and creditors, hurting exports, output and consumption. It also can make

global banks wary of doing business with a country

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

Christophe Deloire, the head of media freedom group Reporters Without Borders, has

He was 53Kumar said a FATF team visited Turkey in May and confirmed that the country had taken "substantive steps" to improve its items in its action plan.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

higher amid crisis in Middle East

Oil edges

Monitoring Desk NEW YORK: Oil prices

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

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

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

stumbled over his words step down. **Bolivian President Luis** Arce denies conspiracy after failed coup

Monitoring Desk LA PAZ: Bolivian Presi-

dent Luis Arce on Thursday denied conspiring with his former army chief, who was arrested after deploying troops and tanks to the heart of the capital La Paz, where they tried to break down a door of the presidential palace. Fourteen civilians

who opposed the coup

were wounded by gunfire,

according to the authorities.

Some had to be hospitalized

and operated on, Luis Arce told the press.
Authorities paraded

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

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



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 Indus-trial 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

The Chief Minister was chairing an important Speaking on the occa-

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, Com-Hamza Muhammad

Shafqaat and other high ups participated in the meeting.

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

lic-Private Partnership. He on the occasion also directed to take steps for making the Special Economic Zone functional in

the projects under the Pub-

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 re solved 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 assis-

tant, Rauf Sohail's employ-



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

speaking to a delegation of

showroom owners who

called on him under leader-

ship of Muhammad Umar

pressed the belief that if the

local investors and interna-

tionally reputed traders of

The Governor ex

Khilji here on Friday.

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 He said that the ve-

hicle manufacturing companies from all over the world already have interest in making investment in the

The Governor was stitution.

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 devel-

opment, 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 con-



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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister rime Shehbaz Muhammad 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

OUETTA (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

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

and Livestock value chains

Independent Report C H A M A N / other Asian countries and ISLAMABAD: The stressed that there is a need 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 im-

to promote mutual trade with all the countries.

CPEC success story of resolve for

in diverse sectors, says Gillani

the International Depart-

ment of Communist Party

of China (IDCPC)" Chair-

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 ini-

tiation of CPEC and eco-

nomic 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 Shaheed Zulfikar

Ali Bhutto and Chinese

leader Chairman Mao were

the architects of strong

brotherly relations between

China Chamber of Commerce in Pakistan

Sustainable Development Report

Launch Event

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, Minister for

Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal at-

tending launching ceremony of Annual Sustainability Report 2023, jointly

organized by the SDPI and CCCPK held at Pakistan Institute of Parliamen

The Chief Minister

highly appreciated the brav-

ery and human friendliness

of the teacher and said that

he (Aamir Ghouri). Has

Balochistan with pride. He

announced that the treat-

ment of brave son of the

province would be done

from the Agha Khan Hos-

nounced that the expen-

would also be borne by

Besides, he also an-

raised the head

Assures treatment in Agha Khan Hospital:

Bugti visits Trauma

Center; meets injured "hero"

teacher Ghouri, family

It may be mentioned ditures of education of

here that the teacher Aamir children of Aamir Ghouri

an arm during the course of the provincial govern-

All Pak Chambers Conference in Islamabad:

Ulas Yar Khan highlights

importance of trade with

neighboring countries

The PPP's founder

the two peoples. Shaheem sectors.

Chairman Senate said.

Syed Yousaf Raza

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

emerged a story of resil-

ience. He observed that Pa

kistan is fully committed to

ensuring foolproof security

for Chinese citizens and

workers undertaking tasks

Special Investment Facili-

tation 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 ex-

NA approves

pay hike for

members amid

opposition

protest

ISLAMABAD (INP): The

National Assembly has ap-

proved an amendment proposed by the Pakistan

Peoples Party (PPP) re-

garding the salaries and ben-

efits of its members, pass-

Patel introduced the

amendment in the House,

aiming to increase the privi-

leges of Members of Par-

liament. This amendment

to the Salaries and Allow-

ances Act was incorporated

NAB challenges

PTI founder's

bail in 190m

pounds scam case

ISLAMABAD (APP)

The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Fri-

day challenged the post-ar-rest bail of Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf founder

before the Supreme Court

in 190 million pounds scam

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 re-

quested the court to suspend the IHC's judgment

till the final decision into the

that the IHC had used the

NAB took the plea

appeal.

into the Finance Bill.

PPP's Abdul Qadir

ing it by a majority vote.

tended its roots to variou

He highlighted that the

on CPEC projects.

man Senate remarked.

Chairman Senate, Syed

Yousaf Raza Gilani on Fri-

day 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 ex-

pressed these views while

addressing the launch of the

Annual Sustainability Re-

port 2023 in Islamabad.

The event was jointly or-

ganized by the Sustainable

Development Policy Insti-

tute (SDPI) and China

Chamber of Commerce Pa-

kistan at Pakistan Institute

for Parliamentary Services

(PIPS), a news release said.

tisan agenda in Pakistan as

all political parties stood

with the government while

having a detailed session

with Liu Jian Chao, Minis-

tary Services (PIPs).

Independent Report

UETTA: The Chief Min-

ister Balochistan, Mir

Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti vis-

ited the Trauma Čenter,

Sandeman Provincial Head-

quarter Hospital here on

Minister inquired about

health of the teacher, Aamir

Ghouri, injured while sav-

ing a child from the Chaman

Passenger train earlier this

Ghouri had lost one leg and

saving the child from the hit ment.

During the visit, Chief

Friday morning.

CPEC is a non-par-

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 Presi-



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

Asadullah Baloch stresses equal allocation for all districts

QUETTA (APP): Leader of is a dire need to initiate flag- Asad Baloch said that 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 (PSDP) 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 Fri-

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

ship 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 ar-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.

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 Rs 100,000 for doctors. Baloch stressed that

the government should initiate projects for the welfare of formers 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 Sarfaraz 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 Chairman FBR, and other also directed to formulate a senior government officials.

strategy for giving awards to meritorious officers of the FBR.

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

A transparent written examination will be conducted for appointing

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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Middle East, suggesting Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Igbal 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 highlevel policy dialogue orga-second phase aims to attract nized by the Belt and Road investment built upon this Investment Forum, the minister said the world is undergoing significant change, noting that Asia's share of global GDP was 13 per cent in 2000 and reached 35 per

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

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

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 foundational infrastructure.

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

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



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

Masood for stronger US-Pakistan security, economic partnerships

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

gional 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 Rela-

tionship" 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 thinktank community and Pak-American community lead- mutuality of interests.

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 interwoven, and it is the aspiration of our two peoples that strengthen our ties. Masood Khan said

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