Inachentent

dailyindisb@gmail.com Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Islamabad

Vol. XIV No. 139 Reg. mails-B / ID-445 Friday June 14, 2024, Zil Hajj 07, 1445 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12

Single-digit taxation not sustainable:

Aiming to take tax-to-GDP ratio to 13pc in next 3 years: FM Aurangzeb

Govt negotiating with 'Banking Sector 'to resolve liquidity issue of top export sectors; Govt protects low income groups in Budget 2024-25

ISLAMABAD (APP): Reiterating the pressing need for digitization and broadening of tax base, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb asserted here on Thursday that below 10 percent tax to GDP ratio was not sustainable for managing country's economy.

'We have to take it up to 13 percent in next three years gradually," the minister said while addressing the post-budget press conference, adding as per the international bench marks, no country could sustain at 9.5 tax to GDP ratio base without external assistance. Hence, there is a dire need to enhance tax to GDP ra-

Fazlur Rehman.

Federal Minister for Infor-

mation, Broadcasting, Na-

tional Heritage and Culture

Attaullah Tarar said on

Thursday that education

was backbone of the soci-

ety and economy and em-

powerment of youth

through skill based educa-

tion was vital for the

persons at an education ex-

position organised by a

leading media group here,

he said that such educa-

tion expositions were a

praise worthy step to

provide opportunity to the

students to get information

about best universities of the

world and make a good ca-

reer choice. He said about

68 percent of the popula-

tion of Pakistan comprised

youth and such expositions

would help them greatly in

career counseling.

Talking to the media

progress of the country.



tio, the minister said. The minister was flanked by State Minister for Finance, Ali Pervaiz Malik, Secretary Finance, Imdad Ullah Bosal and Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Amjad Zubair Tiwana.

Aurangzeb underdoing away with undocument to the extent it should

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets Maulana

in demand all over the

world and the government

was focusing on equipping

He said in Pakistan,

youth with the latest skills.

economic indicators were

moving towards a positive

direction following the ini-

tiatives of the present gov-

tion which was 37 percent

in June last year had fallen

to 11 percent now and for-

eign exchange reserves had

mand of the world, the Pa-

kistani youth must be

equipped with technical

education on modern lines,

youth could play an active

role in the global economy

and boost the national

He said that skilled

"The attention of the

According to the de-

been boosted

he added,

The minster said infla-

Attaullah Tarar says

Empowerment of vouth

through skill based education

key to country's progress

ISLAMABAD (APP): said that skilled people were

mented economy with endto-end digitization to reduce human intervention as much as possible and make the tax mechanism transparent and mitigate chances of corruption.

The minister admitted that the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) could not scored the importance of do compliance and enforce-

Naqvi attends

funeral prayer

of ANF martyrs

Federal Minister for Inte-

rior and Anti-Norcotics

Mohsin Naqvi on Thurs-

day attended the funeral

prayer of the Anti-Narcot-

ics Force (ANF) personnel,

Mazhar Iqbal and Zeeshan,

who were martyred in a fir-

ing incident by drug traf-fickers at Tarkai Toll Plaza

The Interior Minister

met with the families of the

martyrs and offered

heartfelt condolences.

He prayed for the eleva-

tion of the martyrs' ranks

and for the patience of their

that the martyrs who have

laid down their lives in the

line of duty were our true

Price of petrol

likely to be

reduced

ISLAMABAD (Online):

The price of petroleum

Fall in the prices of pe-

Government is deter-

Final approval in reduc-

tion of price of petroleum

products will be accorded

y Prime Miniser Shehbaz

Mohsin Naqvi stated

Muhammad

Jhelum.

oved ones

He said, the government had introduced progressive taxes in the federal budget for upcoming fiscal year 2024-25 to impose more tax on high income

He said, the country needed to move on the direction of broadening tax base to make economy sustainable. Therefore, it was imperative to bring into tax net the retailers and wholesalers to share the burden.

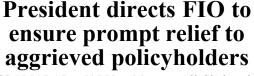
He said, the government had launched tax scheme for retailers and wholesalers and they were offered to registration on volunteer basis, however it

minister added, FBR workforce mobilized itself, which resulted in registra-tion of around 31,000 retailers with the scheme till He said, the registration

for the scheme would continue while tax would also be imposed from July 2024. We have no other option but to get this sector into tax net," he remarked.

The minister said that Point of Sale (PoS) prize scheme would be re-launched to do away with cash transac-To a question about

Petroleum Development Levy (PDL), the minister said it would be increased was termed unsuccessful. gradually and in accordance Later, in May 2024, the with international oil prices.



President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday directed the Federal Insurance Ombudsman (FIO) to provide speedy and free of charge justice to the aggrieved in-surance policyholders against the maladministra-

tion of insurance companies. He said that FIO needed to enhance its outreach and ensure quick disposal of complaints so that a maximum number of citizens could be provided monetary relief.

The president ex-

Mumtaz Ali Shah, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-

During the meeting, President Zardari highlighted the need to create awareness about the role of FIO in providing justice to aggrieved policyholders in the settlement of insurance claims. He also advised the FIO to use modern technology and ICT tools to increase the disposal of complaints.

Earlier, the president administered the oath of office to Mumtaz Ali Shah pressed these views while as the Federal Insurance talking to the newly-appointed Federal Insurance Ombudsman (FIO) Ombudsman, at an oathtaking ceremony, held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

PML-N has proven track record of pulling economy out of crisis: Ishaq Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday said the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif had a proven track record of pulling the country's economy out of crisis. Keeping in view the past performance, the deputy PM hoped to replicate the previous successes in the current tenure as



Addressing an event organized by the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ishaq Dar said when the PML-N government was formed in 2013, all the international rating agencies and financial institutions were indicating that Pakistan's economy was on the brink of default and that it would take 10 to 12 years to stabilize.

However, he said that the PML-N government managed to stabilize the economy within three years due to its prudent policies.

He regretted that whenever the country's economy started taking off, some hidden hands created hurdles and made the economy unstable again.

Imran, Sheikh, Qureshi acquitted in Azadi March case

ISLAMABAD (Online): District and Sessions court Islamabad has acquitted PTI founder **Imran Khan, Sheikh** Rashid, Shah Mehmood Qureshi and others in

Judicial magistrate Malik Muhammad Imran announced reserved judg- Ali Nawaz Awan.

Azadi March case.

Case was registered against PTI founder, Sheikh Rashid and others in 2022 on violation of section 144 and rioting clauses in police station

The court also acquitted Sadaqat Abbasi and



rooftop of Clock Tower as a large number of pilgrims performing circumam-

Meets Maulana Fazlur Rehman

PM Shehbaz proposes committee to resolve political issues

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has always promoted proposed to JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur safeguarding demo-Rehman to constitute committee to address political issues with mutual cooperation.

Shehbaz Sharif reached residence of Maulana Rehman with refer-Fazlur Rehman on ence to budget-2024 Thursday to appease

Maulana Fazlur Rehman welcomed informed PM about PM. PM lauded the his reservations rereligious services of garding results of Feb-Maulana

Nikah case conviction: IHC orders court to announce verdict within 10 days

ISLAMABAD (INP): Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday ordered the session court to announce the verdict on Bushra Bibi's plea seeking suspension of conviction in Nikah case within 10 days.

Bushra Bibi, wife of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan. moved Islamabad High Court (IHC) against the conviction in Nikah case where they were sentenced to seven years in jail and Rs500,000 fines each on the couple. The Islamabad High Court directed the session court judge Afzal Majoka to decide on both pleas in Nikah case within the specific time.

On June 3, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) transferred PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi Nikah Case to another court. The case was transferred to the court of Additional District and Sessions Judge Muhammad Majoka.

Session Shahrukh Arjumand had written a letter to the Chief Justice of the Islamabad High Court requesting the transfer of the case after Khawar Manika had objected to Session Judge Shahrukh Arjumand.

After the approval of the transfer plea, Additional District and Sessions Judge Muhammad Afzal Majoka will now hear the appeals against the sentence in the Nikah case.

Rehman. PM said Maulana

cratic norms. We hold it in high esteem Sources said PM sought support from Maulana

peaceful struggle for

Fazlur in the meeting.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman once again Fazlur ruary election saying

we are struggling for democracy, transparent election and supremacy of constitu-

We wanted all democratic forces should play their role together for strengthening democracy.

PM said we are convinced of your services for democracy

Sources Maulana Atta ur Reman, Maulana Abdul Wasay and other leaders were also present in the



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari administering the oath of office to Mumtaz Ali Shah as the Federal Insurance Ombudsman during an oathtaking ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Time has come to hold Israel accountable for its grave crimes: FO

Pakistan says time has come to hold Israel accountable for its grave crimes, urging the global conscience to force Israel towards immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza. At her weekly media briefing in Islamabad Thursday, Foreign Office Spokesperson, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said it is also critical to bring an end to the war on people of Palestine.

She said Pakistan also welcomes the report of the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Occupied Palestinian territory including East Jerusalem and Is-

The Spokesperson said the findings of the Commission of Inquiry have confirmed reports of the Israeli war crimes of starvation as a method of warfare, murder or willful killing, intentionally directing attacks against civilians, forcible transfer, torture and inhuman and cruel punishment. Turning to situation in

ISLAMABAD (Online): Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said Pakistan remembers the victims of the massacre at Chota Bazaar Srinagar in She said the 33rd anni-

versary of the massacre was

observed on Tuesday last in

which India's Central Reserve Force personnel opened fire at civilians, resulted in killing of thirty-two civilians and injuring twenty-two others. The Spokesperson reit-

erated that Pakistan will continue to extend political, diplomatic, and moral support to our Kashmiri brothers and sisters for the just and peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

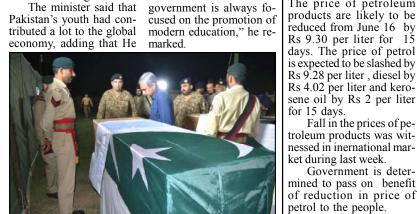
Replying to a question, she said Pakistan and Afghanistan have been engaged to discuss all aspects of trade mechanism. She said the two have agreed to implement these arrangements to facilitate trade vehicles, drivers and helpers from both sides.

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif signing the Budget 2024-25 documents.

programmes for minorities.

In his budget speech on sembly here on Thursday, cial year.

ing women, special per- Provincial Finance Minissons, and transgender com- ter Mian Mujtaba Shujamunity, as well as welfare ur-Rehman said that Punjab Chief Minister is going to launch various welfare iniprogrammes for the the floor of the Punjab As- tiative during the next finan-



JHELUM: Federal Minister for Interior and Anti-Narcotics Mohsin Naqvi paying homage to ANF

20-25pc salary raise announced

Punjab govt presents Rs5.4 trillion 'tax-free' budget Budget features CM's programmes for children, working women, special persons

LAHORE (APP): Punjab development programme, budget in his speech at the total revenue collection was the National Finance Com- lion (25 percent high than which is 28 per cent higher Punjab Assembly, the fi- estimated at Rs 4643.40

Finance Minister Mian Muitaba Shuia-ur-Rehman presented the Punjab bud-2024-25 with a total outdevelopment programmes, in the Punjab Assembly session, held here on Thurs-

The minister said the government had allocated a total of Rs 842 billion for

than the outgoing FY 2023-24's budgetary allocation of get for financial year (FY) Rs 655 billion. Out of the development budget, he lay of Rs 5,446 billion in- elaborated, 33 per cent cluding Rs. 842 billion for would be spent on social sector, 29pc on infrastructure, 13pc on production sector, and 5pc on services sector, while 20pc would go to special programmes/ini-

Giving break-up of the



provincial receipts (own resource revenue) are estimated at Rs 960.30 billion current fiscal year) for financial year 2024-25. He mentioned that Punjab Revenue Authority (PRA)

mission (NFC) Award, FY2023-24), Board of Rev-Punjab will receive Rs enue Rs 105 billion (six per 3,683.10 billion from the cent higher), and Excise federal divisible pool, while Department Rs 57 billion (25pc higher), while under the head of non-tax revenue, Rs 488.40 billion col-(54 per cent higher than the lection is estimated which is 111pc higher than the FY 2023-24.

Punjab budget featured Chief Minister's has been given revenue collection target of Rs 300 bilwellbeing of children, work-

Daily doice of Masse Independent

Budget for stabilisation

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's new budget for the next fiscal year has laid out some ambitious targets — in line with the demands of the IMF to help Pakistan strengthen its case for a larger and longer bailout so that it can anchor its newfound economic stability of the last one year. Overall, the budget seeks to boost the government's tax revenues by over 40pc to Rs12.97tr from a projected collection of Rs9.25tr during the outgoing year through significant tax measures. The average annual increase in tax collection during the last five years has averaged around 20pc and is estimated to be 30pc this year. The additional tax measures of Rs2.2tr, equal to 1.8pc of GDP, seek to broaden the scope of consumption tax, significantly increase the existing personal tax burden on salaried and non-salaried individuals, do away with tax exemptions for various sectors of the economy, bring some untaxed incomes into the net, tighten the noose around non-filers and boost the petroleum levy by Rs20 per litre to Rs80. The remaining increase of Rs1.5tr in tax revenues is expected to come from a nominal expansion in the economy due to a targeted inflation rate of 12pc and 3.6pc GDP

The additional tax measures and the proposed increase in the petroleum levy will help raise the tax-to-GDP ratio for next year to an estimated 11.5pc of the size of the economy from this year's estimated 9.6pc. Another major goal of the budget is to produce a primary surplus of 1pc of the size of the economy to hold down its fiscal deficit to 6.8pc for debt sustainability. The deficit would be further slashed to 5.9pc provided the provinces also throw up a surplus of Rs1.2tr as envisaged in the budget. While the measures announced by Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb are a step in the right direction, and seek to tax 'sacred cows' such as real estate investors, stock investors, exporters, the retail supply chain, and the like, these lack any "disruptive policy changes", and represent incremental measures towards documentation of the economy. Perhaps, political conditions in the country are not conducive for the government to implement the radical measures needed for taking a major leap towards boosting the economy. However, while the tax and deficit targets are ambitious, it is not impossible to pull those off. Yet doubts remain about the authorities' ability to enforce the new measures fully and ensure greater compliance. While the government has raised the tax collection target to narrow the fiscal gap, the budget makes little effort to cut expenditure. Though, in his budget speech, the finance minister talked about 'right-sizing' the government, he did not announce any tangible policy measure in this direction. Rather the total current expenditure is estimated to surge by 21pc to Rs17.2tr, with power and other subsidies jumping to Rs1.4tr and defence expenditure by 14pc to Rs2.1tr. Likewise, the consolidated development expenditure of the centre and provinces has been spiked by over 58pc to nearly Rs3.8tr as the government hopes to kick-start moderate economic growth through its spending on large infrastructure projects, in the absence of any appetite for new investment in the private sector. Apart from accessing the IMF funds, the other major objective of the new budget is to shore up the stability it managed in the last one year. While fiscal consolidation aimed for in the budget will likely deepen stability, sustainable economic recovery remains dependent upon foreign flows from multilateral and bilateral partners.

Lionised in London

F.S. Aijazuddin

Whoever designed Istanbul airport must have been inspired by the phrase: 'Walk that extra mile'. Passengers have to walk over endless travelators until they reach the immigration counters. Turkey admits only the fittest.

would have been less exacting, had one not spent 10 days treading the unyielding pavements of the food there, the weather has changed. Gone the sooty smog of childhood, the Spartan meals, the lockdown on Sundays, the after-effects even into the mid-1950s of

wartime rationing. Today's London is a vast epicurean table, with cuisine from every kitchen: Greek, Ethiopian, Indonesian, even Mexicolonialism has conquered Britain. The Vikings brought power; the Romans civics and law; the colonies brought cur-

Khushwant Singh would have been delighted to learn that the final day of his KSLF 2024 ended in Cambridge. He loved Britain as only a for- the currently popular mueigner can — with a recurring, unrequited, onesided passion.

A speaker in Cambridge (a Brit-Pak professor of English at Bristol University) introduced her unforgiving diatribe against her father. It was patricide in print. Her father had been a professor of medicine at Lahore's premier medical college. He was insensitive to a fault.

Candid in another way was Lord Simon of Salford, Master of Christ's College. He had retired af- colour). Judging from the ter over 40 years of distinguished service in the Foreign & Commonwealth Relations Office. He spoke openly about Brexit and sub-continen-

tal politics

tendees at KSLF Cam- exhibition on Ranjit Singh: bridge was the indefatigable nonagenarian Sir Nicholas Barrington, the former ambassador/ high commissioner to Pakistan (1987-1994). Still active, he distributed freely his latest analysis on Afghani-

Cambridge University, like almost all British The extra exercise educational institutions now, is an academic campus of Chinatown. Once, seeing a foreign face in the UK was a rarity. Now, a London. Fortunately, like British profile is hard to come by.

Interestingly, the Chinese tourists in Cambridge and in London were not geriatrics fulfilling the dream of a lifetime but young Sino-yuppies, tramping confidently over their British domain like the Roman legions did after their conquest of Britain in 55 BCE. Chinese restaurants in London are can chipotles. Reverse cheap, cheerful, and a chopstick's length away from every home.

Ethnicity is no longer a novelty, as the In--d--ian craft shops reeking of incense once were. It is part of British multicultural identity.

Certainly the most startling evidence of this fusion could be seen in sical The Book of Mormon. However much one had heard of its shocking profanity, nothing prepared one for the actual performance. The theme seemed innocuous enough — the plight of white Mormon missionaries sent to convert black natives in Uganda.

The loud lyrics and the uninhibited choreography though oscillated between heresy (for Mormons), blasphemy (for monotheists), and rancid racism (for those of any cheers that greeted every solo, some in the audience had seen the show before. Obviously they craved more profanity.

The antidote to this unnerving cultural on-One of the oldest at- slaught lay in the calming Courtesy Dawn

Sikh, Warrior, King, on display until October at the Wallace Collection in Manchester Square. The Wallace collection is a private benefaction by the Hertford family, comprising "fine and decorative arts from the 15th to the 19th centuries with important holdings of French 18thcentury paintings, furniture, arms and armour, and

Old Master paintings".

Appropriately, the Sikh exhibition is deri-ved from the private collection of a modern Sikh benefactor Davin-der Toor. He has appl-i--ed his wealth to amassing an enviable tosha-khana of rare relics and precious objects associated with the Sikh Raj 19th-century during Punjab. The exhibition is a tour de force of scholarship, design and imaginative display. For those who yearned for choices, there was on offer English tea and sandwiches on one floor and lassi and nimbupani a floor below.

Many of the exhibits on display had been filched by the East India Company following the annexation of the Punjab in 1849. These include Ranjit Singh's golden throne. In a moment of imperial hubris, Lord Dalhousie commissioned a copy in wood for himself to sit in, enthroned in solitary splendour in his English manor. Also on show are a rarely seen ornate belt studded with large emeralds from Maharaja Ranjit Singh's fabled treasury. The East India Company surrendered them to Queen Victoria after she remarked how much better they would look in her collection. An associated lecture on 19th-century paintings by the Hungarian artist August Schoefft in the Princess Bamba collection in Lahore Fort brought Lahore and London together. The Lion of the Punjab is at last being lionised in London.

Slog sloganeers

Shahzad Sharjeel

As was expected, the

BJP, or should one say, Narendra Modi, has won the general election in India. What has proven wrong are assertions like the uniform is cited to ex-'abki baar, char sau paar', which alluded to ceivable situation, exthe BJP's aspiration to cept perhaps for 'andey win more than 400 seats in the 543-strong Lok Sabha. Even another interpretation that it meant as the proverbial egg is the BJP would cross that mark with the respective victories of its allied parties proved incorrect. Shashi Tharoor's response to the BJP slogan, 'abki bar Tihar', an allusion to inf-amously tough prison in India, an vitiate the atmosphere wasail par haq' (right equivalent of Mach jail on this side of the border, was more a case of wishful thinking than a rallying call and would The BJP's oppo-

nents in south India criticise it for being a Hindi-belt party only. The election results have defied this label somewhat, as the BJP has expanded the spread of its constituencies in the south, if not the total number of seats, from 2019. However, Indian national politry. Branding of similar most focused, and spottics is generally conducted in Hindi/ Sanskrit idiom, ie, 'Bharat jodo' and 'Nyay yatras' of Rahul Gandhi and 'Hindu rashtra' to 'Ram raj' of the Sangh Parivar.

That our politics is stagnant is axiomatic, but the staleness of political slogans, particularly during the rough and tumble of electionof creativity and acumen. Mainstream political parties in Pakistan are not the only culprits; pressure groups and nonelectoral entities are equally unimaginative when it comes to capturing and galvanising public aspirations.

Slogans that gained currency across the po- the sky, albeit accompalitical divide soon be- nied by the carefully Courtesy Dawn

the narrative. These inerence to the military's influence in every sphere of life, in which plain away every con- cert fees' mein jo zardi hai...'
'Zardi' means yolk. Thank goodness for this,

on all our faces. Slurs like 'chor', 'ghadar', 'Dirty Harry', 'diesel', 'youtheay',' insinuating corruption, treason, conspiracy, smuggling, and affiliathe tion with the youthdriven PTI, respectively, aplenty but do not reflect over land and maritime any aspiration or even a call to action by their proponents. 'Software update' and 'half-fry', 'fullfry' euphemisms for security agencies' extrajudicial measures can only be shuddered at. Unlike the Shubh

Laxmi and Ladli Behna

welfare schemes across the border, the title of our struggle for constitusafety net flagship, Benazir Income Support Programme, does little subsidy,' is uninspiring more than commemorate and lacking in ambition. her services to the counsocial safety schemes introduced subsequently also fails (sociopolitical living to inspire a sense of inclusion. Like the 1990s, which saw a rise in party songs as an important part of branding, the toral frenzy in India has building up of the PTI and dharna culture, especially from 2013 onwards, saw the rise of DJs, drone coverage, and strain in the BJP-RSS eering, points to a lack all-night jamming sessions at political rallies. Shipping containers' reputation as roadblocks was salvaged as they began to be used as a home away from home seen what becomes of for the dharna leader- the 'lath lahrao Modi ship, vanity vans of sorts for the vain. Meanwhile, brigade now that the the multitudes had to face the elements under ing a separation, if not

came jaded with overuse curated beats and songs and failure to build upon of Esakhelwi who lent his creative genius to clude a not-so-veiled ref- PTI campaigns but eventually got as disillusioned as the DJ who reportedly got short changed over the 'con-

Sindh continues to live under the Elvis fan club delusion. The only innovation since 'zinda hai Bhutto' has been a proclivity to add shaheed' as a prefix or suffix to every party leader's name. Such is the fervour in this regard that leaders with healthy vital signs are sometimes called martyrs.

Balochistan continues to aspire to 'sahil, resources), KP yearns for 'akhpal khawri, akhpal ikhtiar' (our soil, our choice). Punjab has the dubious honour of inventing damp squibs like 'vote ko izzat do' and parochial wake-up calls like 'jaag Punjabi jaag.

While our countrymen Gilgit-Baltistan tional rights, their current rallying call, 'wheat The Seraiki belt is the net on, with its singular cry space). The slogan compre-hensively relays

the region's aspirations. Now that the elecpeaked, does one expect the political and communal temperature to go down? Will the marriage result in less froth and fire aimed both at home and abroad, or should one brace for double trouble? It remains to be (wave the staff, Modi) spouses are consideran outright divorce. --

Commerce News

PM vows to launch crackdown

POS scheme soon:

Chairman FBR

Quarters

Islamabad.

MNA hails budget as comprehensive, public friendly

ISLAMABAD (APP): she said, adding, that the Member National funds approved in the Assembly (MNA) Dr Shaista Khan Thursday termed the budget 2024-25 a balanced budget which reflects Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's concern for downtrodden people of the country where salaried class' rights were being

protected Talking to a PTV news channel, she said the working class as well as pensioners had been given a reasonable raise in their wages, which was an

appreciable measure. Unlike the previous budgets this government's budget will reduce the gap between the rich and the poor segments of society,

budget for development projects will open a new era of progress and prosperity. The federal government has presented a budget aligned with public expectations, with significant allocations for welfare projects, particularly addressing the welfare needs of the working class government employees, she mentioned.

She also appreciated the increased allocation of the Benazir Bhutto Income Support Programme and congratulated Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and his cabinet for announcing a historical budget.



RAWALPINDI: A worker busy in preparing new grills to be used for Barbecue ahead of Eid ul Ahza at his workplace, Pirwadhai.

Huawei Tech Connect 2024, a commercial market event to target SMEs for Pakistan

Huawei Technologies Pakistan has successfully executed Huawei Tech connect 2024, on Thursday. This event was focused on bringing Digital Transformation to the SME sector of Pakistan, revolutionizing the way organizations operate with a steadfast approach towards improving the ICT landscape of Pakistan, said a press release. The cross-Industry event focused on spectrum of industries. tackling IT infrastructure challenges of various Education, Pharma, Energy,

HealthCare and Retail.

The event has given industry related experts to share their insights, interact and network with one another to discuss modern world technology challenges and how Huawei's cutting edge solutions can make organizations stay one step ahead of them. Over 100+ customers participated, Also High-profile attendees, including C-level customers including from key organizations were present.

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

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday vowed to launch a crackdown against the tax evaders and

their facilitators saying that he would leave no stone unturned to eliminate them. He was chairing a high evel meeting at the PM House to discuss tax reforms, digitization of the economy and measures to

boost revenues. Emphasizing the importance of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), the prime minister said the Board played an important economic wheel and

Murtaza bids

farewell to

PAAPAM, joins

ICCI as SG

Ghulam Murtaza, a

distinguished veteran in

trade organizations

transitioned from his role

at PAAPAM to become

the Secretary-General of

the Islamabad Chamber

of Commerce and

Pakistan's engineering

manufacturing and auto

parts industry were

celebrated during a grand

dinner in Lahore, where

PAAPAM recognized

its exceptional service

to the engineering

GM's significant

far-reaching

Industry (ICCI).

contributions

community.

(INP):

LAHORE

against tax evaders, facilitators human development

digitization. He said during the budget preparations, he had issued clear directives to bring more people in the tax net and that the elites should be made to pay their due taxes.

He said minimum taxes were imposed on the middle and lower classes in the recent budget.

He said decreasing the tax rate and expanding the briefed the prime minister tax net was the role in running n the government's top priority, progress with respect to which was already working FBR to relaunch

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Chairman Federal Board of

Revenue (FBR), Malik

Amjed Zubair Tiwana

informed on Thursday that

the board would soon

relaunch the Point of Sale

budget press conference, he

said that the scheme was

previously closed due to

some deceiving activities.

The chairman added that

currently, over Rs. 1 billion

is available in the POS

the

computerized draw of the

POS Prize Scheme was

held on Saturday, 15th

It is worth mentioning

account.

Speaking at the post-

(POS) prize scheme.

ISLAMABAD (APP): pledged to provide all to ensure complete digitization of the FBR. necessary resources for its digitization of the tax resource system and enhance the capacity building of the workforce.

The prime minister also stressed the need of documenting the economy and increasing the tax collection through digital means. He directed the authorities to take a swift action to bring more people in the tax net.

The representatives of international firm McKinsey and Karandaaz about the past four weeks' increasing the revenues and

January 2022 at FBR Head

ballot was conducted

transparently and FBR

announced prizes worth

Rs. 53 million including the

top prize of Rs. 1 million,

two prizes worth Rs. 0.5

million, four prizes of Rs.

0.25 million and 1,000

prizes of Rs. 50,000 each,

in the first computerized

verified receipts of one

month for the period

commencing from 1s
December till 31s

December till 31st December 2021 were

For this event, the

The computerized

Besides, short and medium term plans were also presented in the meeting regarding

increasing the tax revenues.

The meeting was further informed that increasing the country's income by billions of rupees in terms of taxes was possible only after the full implementation of the current policies in the country.

It was told that the digitization and automation of the value chain of economy would help increase the revenues, besides its documentation.

Pak total liquid foreign reserves recorded as **\$14.38** billion

KARACHI (APP): The stood \$ 9,103.3 million.

total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan 14,383.8million as of June 07, 2024 while the reserves held by the central bank recorded as The foreign reserves

held by the central bank decreased by \$ 6 million to \$ 9,103.3 million during the week ended on June 07, 2024, a statement issued here on Thursday by SBP informed adding that net foreign reserves held by commercial banks were recorded as 5,280.5 million.

Reform plan chalked out to remove the deficiencies in the power sector: Awais

US Treasury Dept delegation meets Minister for Power

ISLAMABAD (APP): A is to improve the energy delegation of the US mix of Pakistan and Department of Treasury eliminate other deficiencies led by Assistant Secretary Brent Neiman met Federal

Leghari here Thursday. The meeting aimed at exploring potential collaborations in the energy exploring sector, said a press release.

Sardar Awais Leghari said that the reform plan purpose of these reforms he said.

of the power sector, it further said.

Minister for Power The minister Division Sardar Awais informed the Secretary that reforms are being implemented to increase private participation distribution transmission of electricity in Pakistan. These reforms has been chalked out to aim to improve the quality remove the deficiencies in of service being delivered the power sector. The to the people of Pakistan,



QUETTA: Member Board of Investment Muhammad Asif Bazai meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti.

Stocks diverge after **US Fed rate cut plans** LONDON (AFP/APP): snap elections he called

Stock markets diverged on Thursday as traders reacted to the US Federal Reserve's plan to only cut interest rates once this year. Europe was trading

firmly in the red, with Paris and Frankfurt shedding more than one percent each as investors continued to track fallout from far-right gains in last weekend's EU elections.

mixed opening as the techheavy Nasdaq and the S&P 500 climbed while the Dow slipped back.

The euro recovered from sharp losses against the dollar in recent sessions, after French President Emmanuel Macron said he would not resign should his party lose

after its drubbing by the far right in EU-wide polls. In the United States,

the Federal Reserve left its key lending rate unchanged on Wednesday and pencilled in just one rate cut this year, down from the three expected in March. Despite US annual inflation dipping to 3.3 percent last month, the fall was Wall Street had a expectations, while the consumer price index remains comfortably above the Fed's twopercent target. "Fed chair Jerome Powell didn't give a huge amount away, although it felt telling that he was fairly cautious about the cooler-thanexpected inflation figures from earlier in the day.'

Kundi offers minorities to hold festivals in **Governor House**

PESHAWAR Governor Khybér Pakhtunkhwa. Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday said the minorities have played a pivotal role in enhancing the country's prestige and image at national and international level and the nation is proud of the role of those was the increase in Senate deployed at higher posts from this segment.

Talking to minority groups of different including religions Christians, Hindus, Parsi, Sikh and others here, the Governor said the religious festivals of the minorities will be held at Governor's House.

On the occasion, Secretary Finance and Coordination PPP. Farzand Ali Wazir, heads of the delegations including Bishop Humphry Sarfaraz Peter, Church of Pakistan Pushup Ernest Jacob, Haunch Hashmat Chairman Assembly of God Church Masih Pastor. said that he was thankful

WAH CANTT (APP):

HITEC (Heavy Industries

Taxila Education City)

University held its 10th

Open House on Thursday,

showcasing the impressive

final-year projects of

students from various

by the presence of the Chief

Guest, Professor Dr. Zia

Ul-Qayyum, the Executive

Director of the Higher

Education Commission.

The Open House and Job

Fair featured a total of 150

Final Year Design Projects

(FYDPs) across different

Mechanical Engineering

department, covering areas

from the

defense

engineering fields.

The event was graced

engineering disciplines.

HITEC University

showcases innovative

student projects

technology.

energy

Science

systems.

into

(APP): PPP president Naseeb to the Party for honoring Chan, Dr Sawera Parkash, him with governorship of General Secretary Yaisr the province and headship Bahatti and others were of Benazir Income Support present.

The Governor said he said the minority that Pakistan Peoples delegations which came to Party accorded prime the Governor House priority to the welfare of consisted of all the the minorities whether it was the increase in Senate only from PPP. seats or protection of rights of the minorities at maintained that half of the assembly floor.

He said that he was thankful to his party for imposing confidence in his sadly our historical cricket services adding that he would try his best to come Stadium was yet to be up to the expectations of completed despite passage his party leadership. "I am not the Governor from First-Class Cricket in the PPP but from all the province for a long time, he parties of the province", he added.

"I am well aware of the delegations that he the problems faced by the would not let down the minority segments of the minorities and a special society in the past but will try my best to compensate created in educational for those shortcomings" The Governor further

institutions adding that all other missing privileges would be provided to them. 4 MC employees die of electric shock at Dijkot

disposal station

quota for them would be

Programme (BISP). Todav.

national cricket team

comprised of players from

Kundi further assured

Governor

The

FAISALABAD (APP) Four officials of Municipal Committee Dijkot were killed and two others Engineering department including a rescue official sustained injuries when presented 18 projects focused on the efficient they suffered fatal electric shock while repairing a integration of renewable water pump in a well of disposal station on Software Thursday. According to

Engineering and Computer Rescue-1122, five officials Municipal departments the exhibited 64 projects Committee Dijkot were repairing an electric water emphasizing robotics, machine learning, artificial pump at a disposal station intelligence, surveillance near the graveyard of Chak systems and human aid No 263-RB when they The Civil received an electric shock.

Engineering department As a result, four officials were killed onshowcased 14 projects This included 44 related to construction the-spot. They included technologies and the Shafique (35), Asgar (40), Computer Engineering an electrician; Haji Burhan department presented 10 (40) and Arsalan (36). Another official Hamid and as robotics, projects centered on artificial intelligence and the a rescue official Nasir also systems, human aid Internet of Things (IoT).



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi in a group photo with representative delegation of minorities who called on him

AJK govt committed to take climate change mitigation measures: Forest minister

(APP): Minister for Forest Muhammad Akmal Sargala on Thursday said Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) government intends to initiate number of reforestation measures including green Pakistan program (GPP) and protection of forests to mitigate climate change

Talking to a group of ournalists, Sargala said that billion tree projects was successfully

Independent Report

PESHAWAR: Provincial

Minister for Works and

Communication (C&W),

Shakil Ahmad and Health

Minister, Sayyed Qasim Ali

Shah have said that steps on

urgent basis were needed to

provide modern healthcare

facilities to the people of

Malakand. The prime focus

of the incumbent KP

government was to ensure

provision of best possible

medical cover to the people

at their doorstep. The

planting millions of tree at different forest enclosures throughout the three division of the region and the results will be witnessed within few years with the growth of

newly planted trees. "GPP will be 100 percent funded by the federal government while in other provinces, 50 percent funds would be provided by the provincial governments," he disclosed adding that

meeting held to review

health facilities in Malakand

district on Thursday. The

meeting was also attended by the MPA Gul Ibrahim,

Department Mehmood

Aslam, DG Health, DHO

Malakand, MS Hospital

there was a need to upgrade

rural health centers (RHCs),

basic health units (BHUs)

and address the issue of staff

shortage at hospitals besides

Minister C&W said

and relevant officials.

Health

Secretary

implemented in the region the initiative would be started during the new fiscal year. Йe

government was taking strict measures for the protection conservation of forests besides growing new forests including forests enforcement of ban on cutting of trees in letter and spirit while measures have been taken to overcome the damages being caused by wild fire and other activities.

DC visits Nullah Lai to inspect dredging work RAWALPINDI (APP):

Deputy Commissioner (DĈ) Řawalpindi, Hassan Waqar Cheema here on Thursday visited Nullah Lai and inspected the ongoing dredging and desilting work. The DC also visited other city areas and reviewed the cleanliness work of different major nullahs of the city. The ongoing dredging and desilting work of Nullah Lai should be completed before the start of monsoon rains, the DC said adding that special attention should be given to cleaning all main nullahs particularly vulnerable points near

low-lying areas.

Punjab govt presents public friendly budget: Minister

Provincial Minister for Communication and Works (C&W) and Law Sohaib Ahmed Bharth has said that the Punjab government has given public friendly budget with an inimitable relief to low-income citizens of the province in all sectors.

In a statement, he termed this budget as people centric which is the aim of the Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif. The minimum wage of the worker has been increased from thirty-two thousand to thirty-seven thousand which will give a the government has taken

(APP): decisions only to uplift the economy of the country.

Sohaib Ahmad Bharth further said that it has been the top priority of the Chief Minister Punjab to provide maximum relief to the citizens and it is reflected in the provincial budget. The Punjab province is now on the track of unshakable progress and

there will be less inflation in days to come, he remarked. The country is coming out of economic crisis which is a good omen, he added. He disclosed that a sufficient budget has been earmarked for road sectors and for the upgradation of relief to workers. He added existing infrastructure of



FAISALABAD: Prof. Dr. Zill-i-Huma Nazli, Vice Chancellor (VC) Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF) viewing displayed paintings and art work displayed during the Art and Design exhibition (Degree Show 2024) at Government College Women University Faisalabad.

Efforts to dealt with adverse effects of climate change: CM's aide

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Advisor to

KP CM on Sports and Youth Affairs, Syed Fakhar Jehan has said that the adverse effects of climate change are a big threat to the society and the provincial government is making all possible effort to deal with these challenges. He expressed these views while addressing a climate change related seminar titled 'Faith Communities Together for Climate Justice' here at the University of Peshawar on Thursday.

The seminar was organized under the auspices of the Department of Criminology in collaboration with Outreach Assistance to Humanity wherein the Advisor to KP CM on Information and Public Relations, Barrister Mohammad Ali Saif was chief guest. The advisor to KF CM said that the previous PTI government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had initiated Billion Tree Tsunami Plantation Project while its central government had launched 10 Billion Tree.

International News

ministers said this during a equipping the health.

Minister says:

Malakand people to

soon have modern

healthcare facilities

US, Europe clear way to \$50B Ukraine loan in deal to tie up Russian assets until Moscow pays for war

Monitoring Desk BORGO EGNAZIA: The United States and European countries have agreed to lock up sanctioned Russian assets until Moscow pays reparations for its invasion of Ukraine, a senior U.S. official said Thursday. The move clears the way for leaders to announce a \$50 billion loan package for Kyiv at the Group of Seven summit, where President Joe Biden is set to sign a security agreement with Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy. The highly anticipated agreement will leverage interest and income from the more than \$260 billion in frozen Russian assets, largely held in Europe, to secure a \$50 billion loan from the U.S. and additional loans from other partners. The first disbursements will be made this year, but it will take time for Ukraine to use all the money, the official said. The official spoke

Monitoring Desk

ABUJA: Nigeria's Presi-

dent Bola Tinubu said on

Wednesday economic re-

forms would continue de-

spite increasing hardships

that have fuelled public an-

ger, and promised to send

an executive bill to parlia-

ment soon to set a new

power a year ago, removed

a decades-old petrol sub-

this would create a stron-

Tinubu, who came to

minimum wage.

on the condition of anonym- to use the frozen Russian ity to preview the agreement, which will be included in the G7 leaders' communique on Friday.

Ukraine will be able to

spend the money in several areas, including for military, economic and humanitarian needs and reconstruction, the official said. The leaders' statement will also leave the door open to confiscating the Russian assets entirely, for which the allies have yet to secure the political will, largely citing legal and financial stability

concerns. Biden will meet Thursday with Zelenskyy to discuss a bilateral security agreement between the U.S. and Ukraine, as the international group of wealthy democracies has been looking for new ways to bolster Ukraine's defenses against Russia. They planned a joint news conference afterward.

The agreement on how Nigeria's president says

economic reforms will

continue despite hardships

assets to benefit Ukraine comes several months after the White House broke through a logiam in Congress that stalled approval of some \$60 billion in U.S. aid for Ukraine. The delay gave Russia time to make up ground on the battlefield. Earlier Thursday, Biden's national security adviser. Jake Sullivan, described the security pact as a "real marker" of the U.S. commitment to Ukraine, "not just for this month and this year, Egnazia resort, in Savelletri, Italy but for the many years ahead." Zelenskyy, on social media, said the document is wants to 'close' truce deal "unprecedented, as it should be for leaders who support Ukraine." Sullivan said the **Monitoring Desk** agreement would not commit DOHA: Top US diplomat "close the deal" S. troops directly to

UN expert voices for American held in Afghanistan

Ukraine's defense against

Russia's invasion. That is a

red line drawn by Biden, who

does not want to have the U.S.

pulled into a direct conflict

with nuclear-armed Moscow.

ger foundation for future "Our economy has been in desperate need of reform for decades. It has been unbalanced because it was built on the flawed foundation of over-reliance on revenues from the exploitation of oil," Tinubu Thursday. said. "As we continue to reform the economy, I shall always listen to the people

sidy that kept prices artifi-cially low and devalued the Nigeria is grappling with the worst cost-of-livcurrency, sending inflation soaring to 33.69% in April, ing crisis in decades and its highest level in nearly labour unions last week susthree decades and eroding pended a strike called to pressure the government to In a television broadagree a new monthly minicast to mark Democracy mum wage. The government Day, Tinubu acknowledged has offered to double the minimum wage to 62,000 hardships caused by the reforms, which also include naira (\$41.89) a month against labour demands of higher interest rates and the partial removal of electric-250,000 naira, and Tinubu said his government had neity subsidies, but he said

gotiated in good faith.

and will never turn my back

Monitoring Desk GENEVA: The Taliban

must provide Ryan Corbett. an American held in Afghanistan for nearly two years, with immediate medical care to prevent irreparable harm to his health or even his death, a United Nations expert said on "The Taliban must

provide Ryan Corbett with medical treatment in a civilian hospital without delay," said Alice Jill Edwards, the U.N. Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Corbett, an aid worker, has been held without charge in conditions "utterly inadequate and substantially below international standards," she said. "This is having a significant impact on his physical and mental health, which is declining rapidly,' added Edwards



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida attend a session on Africa, climate change and development on the first day of the G7 summit at the Borgo

Gaza war rages as US

Antony Blinken said Wednesday (Jun 12) that an elusive truce and hostage release deal to end the Gaza war was still possible, wrapping up a Middle East tour as deadly fighting rocked the Palestinian ter-

Lebanon's Iranbacked militant group Hezbollah, a Hamas ally, rained rockets on northern Israel, a day after an Israeli strike killed one of its senior commanders. Secretary of State

Blinken, in Doha for the last stop of a tour to promote President Joe Biden's Gaza ceasefire roadmap, said the United States would work

Hamas late Tuesday submitted its response to mediators Qatar and Egypt, and Blinken said some of the proposed amendments "are workable and some are

A senior Hamas official, Osama Hamdan, said it sought "a permanent ceasefire and complete withdrawal" of Israeli troops from Gaza, demands rejected by Israel.

The three-stage plan - endorsed by the UN Security Council and Arab powers - includes a six-week ceasefire, a hostage-prisoner exchange and Gaza's internationally-backed re-

Fistfight erupts in Italian Parliament as tensions rise over expanding regional autonomy

Monitoring Desk ROME: Tensions in Italy's lower house erupted into a fistfight, sending an opposition lawmaker to hospital, over a controversial government proposal that opponents say will further

impoverish the poor south. Video of the fight Wednesday shows lawmakers converging on 5-Star Movement lawmaker Leonardo Donno, who opposes the changes, after he

tried to hand an Italian flag to regional affairs minister Roberto Calderoli. Calderoli, a firebrand lawmaker from the Lega party with northern roots, drafted the contested expansion of regional autonomy that would mostly benefit regions like Lega strongholds of Veneto and Lombardy. Italian media reported that Donno was taken to the hospital for evaluation after being hit in the head and the chest.

Zelensky lands in Saudi Arabia on unannounced visit

Monitoring Desk

RIYADH: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky travelled to Saudi Arabia on Wednesday, Saudi state media reported, his latest visit to the Gulf kingdom which has sought to stay neutral in Ukraine's war with Russia.

Zelensky landed in the Red Sea coastal city of Jeddah for the unannounced trip and was greeted by Saudi officials including the national security adviser and ambassador to Kyiv, the official Saudi Press Agency said. No details on his itinerary were immediately available.

Heavy rocket fire from Lebanon at northern Israel **Monitoring Desk**

JERUSALEM: Air raid sirens sounded across cities in northern Israel on Thursday and about 40 rockets had been fired from Lebanon in the afternoon, Israel's military

State broadcaster Kan aired footage of numerous mid-air interceptions of rockets above Israeli towns, including in Safed, some 12 km (7.5 miles) from the

WHO says many people in Gaza facing 'famine-like conditions'

Monitoring Desk GENEVA: The head of the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Wednesday (Jun 12) that many people in Gaza were facing "catastrophic hunger and faminelike conditions" 'A significant propor-

tion of Gaza's population is now facing catastrophic hunger and famine-like conditions," said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

"Despite reports of increased delivery of food, there is currently no evidence that those who need it most are receiving sufficient quantity and quality of food."

Tedros said there were more than 8,000 children under five years old who had been diagnosed and

tion, including 1,600 children with severe acute mal-

"However, due to insecurity and lack of access, only two stabilisation centres for severely malnourished patients can operate," he added.

"Our inability to provide health services safely, combined with the lack of clean water and sanitation, significantly increases the risk of malnourished chil-

The war in Gaza began on Oct. 7 when militants led by Hamas killed 1,200 Israelis and took more than 250 hostage, ac-

cording to Israeli tallies. Israel's response has caused the deaths of more than 37,000 Palestinians, according to the Gazan treated for acute malnutri- health ministry.

Blinken says US will try to bridge Israel-Hamas gaps on deal

Monitoring Desk DOHA: US Secretary of

State Antony Blinken vowed Wednesday to work to seal a Gaza ceasefire agreement, saying not all Hamas demands were acceptable but voicing hope gaps could be closed. Consulting with key

mediator Qatar on the Hamas response to the plan outlined by US President Joe Biden, Blinken said the Palestinian group could have given a "clear and simple yes" but voiced guarded hope for moving forward

'We believe that some of the requested changes are workable and some are not," Blinken told reporters in

Doha.

"And so we have to see on an urgent basis over the course of the coming days whether those gaps are bridgeable.'

But he said the onus was on Hamas, describing the rest of the world as united in seeking an end to the eight-month war. "We're determined to

try to bridge the gaps. And I believe those gaps are bridgeable," Blinken said. That doesn't mean

they will be bridged because, ultimately, Hamas has to decide," he said. "The longer this goes on, the more people will

suffer, and it's time for the haggling to stop."
He added: "I believe

it's absolutely necessary to try our hardest to do it. But there's no guarantee." Hamas proposed

amendments late Tuesday including a ceasefire timeline and the complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza, according to a source familiar with the

The plan Biden laid out on May 31 calls for an Israeli withdrawal from "major population centres" and a ceasefire for six weeks, which could then be extended if negotiators need more time to seek a perma-

nent deal. Blinken declined to elaborate on the Hamas demands

PM gives green light for **Asaan Karobar Act enactment**

Directs federal ministries, deptt heads to utilize Task Management System

ISLAMABAD (APP): Shop. Ministér Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday approved the initiation of legislation for Asaan Karobar Act saying that promotion of the business and investment friendly environment was the government's top

Chairing a meeting on ease of doing business, the prime minister directed the relevant authorities to establish a one-window operation to simplify documentary procedures for the businesses and traders.

He also directed to seek assistance from the Chinese experts to establish an experimental facility service center modeled after the Shenzhen One-Stop

As regards ease of doing business and other various initiatives, it was informed that an electronic registry would be establish for business registration, licenses, certificates and

other documents.

an online one-window Pakistan Business Portal system would be introduced through which services of all the the relevant departments could be accessed.

It was apprised that a strategy was being evolved for the establishment of Islamabad Business Facilitation Center.

Minister Muhammad daily review for imple-Shehbaz Sharif Thursday menting the task manageinstructed federal secretar-

ies and heads of departments to personally utilize the Task Management Sys-

He issued these instructions while chairing a meeting to assess the implementation progress of directives requiring federal It was further told that ministries and departments to use the Task Management System.

The Task Manage ment System is a modern software of international standards used to monitor instructions issued by the prime minister to federal ministries, and progress in this regard.

The prime minister Meanwhile Prime also decided to conduct daily review for implement system.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan in a meeting with Eunji Tei Programme officer at **United Nations Tourism.**

Irfan urges opposition to give constructive suggestions for federal budget

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- cal statements will not benkistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Parliamentary Leader Senator Irfan Siddigui on Thursday urged opposition parties to refrain from criticism and instead suggests constructive recommendations for the federal budget 2024-25.

Participating in the budget debate in the Senate, Siddiqui said, "The opposition should give positive suggestions and

efit the people of the country." He recalled that when PML-N left the government in 2018, inflation was at 3 percent and GDP growth exceeded 6 percent. In contrast, he said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government left the country with 39 percent infla-

He highlighted that overseas Pakistanis have sent \$34 billion in remitrecommendations for the budget 2024-25, as politi-in the current government.

He accused the PTI government of accumulating loans in four years equal to the amount borrowed over the previous 75 years

cies, stating that the party, led by Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, had said goodbye to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

again and signed a tough agreement with it.

Islamabad Police effective strategies keep crime at bay; says IGP Nasir Rizvi Independent Report trust, and we will show

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi issued a video message about the performance of the Islamabad Police over the last 50 days. In his video message, he mentioned that the Islamabad Police have reorganized many systems through hard work around the clock over

the past 50 days.

With the help of Islamabad citizens, crimes have been controlled. Utilizing the information and calls from Pucar-15, crimes were significantly controlled, and criminal elements were arrested and

you the eradication of

He further mentioned that motorcycle and vehicle patrolling by the police has been greatly enhanced. The Dolphin Force was reorganized, crime hotspots were identified, new crime prediction software was introduced, the scope and utility of Safe City Islamabad were enhanced and a new innovation named "Cyber Security Digital Sophistication'

was initiated This involved the vertical and horizontal sophistication of Safe City Islamabad, with the arrest of criminal elements using

This effort and courage are due to the public's cameras, digital surveil lance, and AI features.

Iranian Ambassador, Islamia College VC discuss of Pakistan, increase in exports and shrinkage in imstrengthening academic



By M.Ilyas PESHAWAR - The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. Raza Amiri, and the Vice Chancellor of IslamiaCollege Peshawar, Professor Dr. Ali Muhammad Yousafzai, met to explore avenues for enhancing literary and academic cooperation between Iran and Pakistan. During the meeting, Ambassador Amiri, who has extensive experience in scientific, educational, and technical fields, expressed Iran's readiness to elevate collaboration between the educational institutions of both countries. He emphasized Iran's commitment to sharing its advancements in these fields

with Pakistani universities. Vice Chancellor Dr. Yousafzai stressed the importance of expanding cooperation in the education sector, highlighting the po-

tential of leveraging the deep-rooted cultural, religious, and social ties between Iran and Pakistan to foster stronger academic relations. Discussions included a range of mutual interests, such as teacher and student exchange programs, joint cultural and sports initiatives, and the establishment of an "Iranian Corner" at Islamia College to promote the Persian language.

In a gesture symbolizing the growing friendship, Ambassador Amiri planted a sapling on the college grounds, expressing his delight at the lush greenery of the campus. This meeting marks a significant step towards strengthening academic and cultural ties between Iran and Pakistan, with both nations committed to future collaboration and mutual development in the education sector.

He also defended PML-N's economic poli-

He said that the PTI leadership, during their ten-ure, approached the IMF

Mashood says: Govt succeeds in bringing down inflation rate to 11pc

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Prime Minister Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan on Thursday said that the Pakistan Muslim League (N) led coalition government had presented a balanced budget for 2024-

Talking to the media, Mashhood said that the completion of the stand-by agreement with the IMF was the achievement of the government and we have reduced the inflation rate from 38 to 11 percent.

He added that the country was on the verge of default when Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif came into

The reduction in the

of Pakistan, increase in exports reflected the best economic policies of the government.
He added that the country's economy was moving towards right direc-

interest rate of State Bank

tion under the dynamic lead-ership of PM Shehbaz Sharif and he would succeed in overcoming the financial problems. **APNEC** lauds restoration of

health insurance scheme for **journalists** ISLAMABAD (INP): All Pakistan Newspapers and Electronic Media Employ-Confederation (APNEC) has welcomed

the restoration of health insurance scheme for journalists, as announced by the government in the budget year 2024-25

APNEC Chairman Muhammad Siddique Anzar in a statement expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, saying the step would benefit thousands of journalists and media workers.

Anzar said the decision would establish a cordial relationship between journalists and the government and would help discourage the perpetrators of carrying out malicious propaganda against the country and the nation.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meet ing on Ease of doing Business.

PM's aide Romina Khurshid urges collective action for climate-resilient Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, MNA Romina Khurshid Alam, on Thursday said that while Pakistan is struggling to cope with exacerbating impacts of climate change particularly heatwaves and floods, the present government is taking all-out policy measures to overcome the impacts, which have already caused irrecoverable economic losses worth billions

While addressing a national seminar 'Disaster-Resilient Pakistan held here at the National University of Technology and organised by the National Disaster Management Authority, PM's aide noted that frequent disruptions in normal weather patterns overall last one decade has severely impacted the country's agricultural productivity, posing risk to

national food water, energy

millions, deepening hunger and malnutrition woes.

The country's geographical location, coupled with its heightened socioeconomic vulnerabilities, intensifies the risks posed by the climate crisis, she highlighted. Evidence from the vari-

ous reports international financial institutions including World Bank and Asian Development Bank suggest the country would continue to experience more adverse effects of climate change in future, including more erratic weather patterns, heightened glacial melting, paced sea-level rise and unleashing of more intense weather events such as floods and droughts. These impacts not only threaten human lives and infrastructure but also exacerbate existing socio-economic disparities, the reports highlight.

Quoting from a World Bank study 'Pakistan: securities, livelihoods of Country Climate and De-

velopment Report', the PPPM's aide Romina Khurshid said that between 1992 and 2021 climate- and weather-related disasters in Pakistan causes economic losses to the tune of US \$29.3 billion from damage to property, crops, and live-

of the 2020 GDP. The devastating riverine floods in 2022 alone resulted in more than \$30 billion in economic losses and damages, highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive action, she added.

stock, equivalent to 11.1%

Apprising the event participants of the the present PM Shehbaz Sharif-led government's climate risk mitigation measures, Romina Khurshid Alam said, "The present PM Shehbaz Sharif-led government is taking all-out policy initiatives and implementing various adaptations and mitigation coping measures to address the

Egyptian Ambassador, China **Energy International Group** officials meets IG Islamabad

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Islamabad discussed secu-

rity matters with the Ambassador of Egypt and officials from China Energy International Group to ensure the protection of ambassadors and their properties. Islamabad Police will

with the appointed Ambassador of Egypt and senior officials from China Energy International Group at the Central Police Office Islamabad

IG Islamabad exchanged views on security matters with the Egyptian Ambassador and expressed

Egyptian Ambassador. Moreover, he also met with the senior official from China Energy International Group Company Limited During the meeting, the delegation thanked the Islamabad Police for ensuring security to the Chinese

company.

IG Islamabad said that



Inspector General of

Police (IGP) Islamabad training. IG Islamabad pre-Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi met sented a memento to the

ing both countries' police forces through collaborative

Islamabad Police will utilize all resources to ensure the safety of foreign guests and their properties.

UNDP aims to overcome climate vulnerabilities in GB & KP ISLAMABAD (APP):

United Nations Develop-ment Programme (UNDP) implemented project "The Glacial Lake Outbrust Floods "(GLOFs), in partnership with the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination and supported by the Green Climate Fund aims to overcome the climate vulnerabilities of the valleys of Gilgit Baltistan (GB) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Pakistan is home to over 13,032 glaciers spanning the Karakoram, the Hindu Kush and the Himalayan Mountain ranges, making its northern region the largest reservoir of glaciers outside of the polar regions. However, with striking changes in the climate, these glaciers and the habitats surrounding them are deeply troubled, with 10,000 glaciers reported to be receding. The project aims to protect communities from the impacts of

nificant glacial melts. In collaboration with Cirrus Pakistan, the project is rolling out awareness ses-

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah, Editor: Syed Farooq Shah, Editor: Syed Rizwan Shah, Printed by: Rohani Art Press, Mohammadi Town, Sohan, Islamabad and Published from H. No. 426, Street No. 20, Ghori Town Phase 4/A Islamabad Ph: 051-2158688, 2158997, 0331-8383955 Email: dailyindisb@gmail.com

GLOFs resulting from sig-

sions at various universities and colleges in GB and KP, leading up to a climate-centric hackathon to incubate ideas and solutions based on local knowledge to propel climate adaptation mechanisms and programming. Applicants were asked to submit their concepts for advancing climate-conscious solutions through livelihood interventions and innovative disaster risk reduction practices, among other focus areas.

Dr. Allah Ditta, Associate Professor/Chairman, Department of Environmental Sciences of the Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University Sheringal, Dir said, "Collective efforts in engaging our youth through such initiatives will pave the way for innovative solutions to combat the severe impacts of climate change in our region." Sumaira Gul, a student of Karakoram International University, (Chilas) Diamer Campus discussed the need to invest in climate-centric solutions to overcome the impacts of global warming during the awareness session.

AIOU ranked 1st in quality education among Pak universities

ISLAMABAD (APP) The Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has been ranked first among 89 Pakistani universities and 7th among 2175 international universities in the recent Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2024 for quality education (SDG-4).

Additionally, AIOU has secured the first position among Pakistani universities for SDG 8 (Decent **Employment and Economic** Growth) and ranked third for SDG 10 (Reduction of Inequality) and SDG 17 (Partnership for the Goals).

Vice Chancellor, OU, Dr. Nasir AIOU, Mahmood congratulated the entire faculty and staff on this proud moment and stated that Allama Iqbal Open University is in no way inferior to the best universities in the world "Our curriculum, laboratories, and teachers adhere to international standards, and we make every effort to achieve the benchmarks of quality education"

UN Resident Coordinator calls on Planning Minister

ISLAMABAD Newly designated United Nations Resident Coordinator in Pakistan Mohamed Yahya on Thursday called on Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Igbal and discussed matters relating to mutual interest. Emphasizing the strong and enduring relationship between Pakistan and the United Nations, the minister said Pakistan has a robust bond with UN agencies and the United Nations has always stood by us during challenging times,

such as climate disasters. He also appreciated the UN's significant efforts in assisting Pakistan during the 2022 floods and highlighted that, in response, the Ministry of Planning, in collaboration

policymakers, developed the 4RF framework to enhance the country's resilience against any cata-

strophic situations. Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the significance of the newly established Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Secretariat, which will become operational from 1st of July 2024. "Our focus now needs to be on engaging policymakers to achieve our SDG targets and involving media professionals to spotlight critical issues related to the SDGs," he stated.

Reflecting Pakistan's commitment to the SDGs, he maintained that Pakistan was among the first few countries to have adopted SDGs agenda in National Assembly in with 2016 as our national agenda.



ISLAMABAD: Mohamed Yahya the United Nations Resident newly designated Coordinator in Pakistan paid a courtesy called on Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal in his office.

Speakers discuss Gender-based violence, legislation in Pakistan

The speakers on Thursday said that the level of discrimination marginalisation prevalent in the society was more owing to the adverse impact of culture, and the medieval mores of patriarchy that spike up gender-based violence in the contexts of sexual, psychological and physical realms with no legislation and good governance that can control it.

A Roundtable Conference on "Gender-Based Violence and it Legislation in Pakistan," was conducted by Islamabad

tions Islamabad Syed Mustafa Tanveer; Nabeela Malick, chairperson INGAD; and Hafiz Ahsan Khokhar, lawyer, a news release said. President IPRI Dr Ambassador Raza Muhammad opened the debate by highlighting the importance that Islam has laid on gender equality, and the values that Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAWW) preached in terms of women empowerment. It was underscored that there are a plethora of laws to deal with any of the eventualities in terms of violence in the gender proximity, but Policy Research Institute either they lack implemen-(IPRI) in Collaboration tation mechanisms of the will with Chief Commissioner of the concerned adminis-Office Islamabad, on trations. It was pointed Wednesday, and was par- out that laws are free from ticipated by Additional gender contextualisation, Commissioner and Direc- and anyone either it is a tor Women Development woman or a man can be a Islamabad Administration, victim of abuse and vio-Nishaa Ishtiak; Valeria lence, andthe law is equally Khan of ASF; DIG Opera-applicable.

Digital advertising prioritizes preservation of Islamabad's natural beauty: Randhawa

Chairman Capital Develop-Authority Muhammad Ali Randhawa on Thursday said that special attention would be given on preserving the Islamabad's natural beauty during the digital advertising in the capital.

While chairing a meeting on digital advertising project in the federal capital, he said the implementation of various tools for digital advertising is planned, including digital screens, signage, billboards and LED screens.

The meeting was at-

ISLAMABAD (APP): tion Islamabad (MCI) and other senior officials, said a press release.

> CDA chief said a groundbreaking step is being taken in Islamabad with the introduction of 3-D advertising, heralding a new era in the city's development and advertising strat-

ensure the project's success, Muhammad Ali said a technical committee has been established, and consultations with experts are on-

Additionally, he said a comparative analysis of the tended by Administrator of the Metropolitan Corpora-will be conducted.

Pakistan Army, Rescue 1122 extinguish forest fires in Murree

concerted effort to combat the raging infernos engulfing the lush forests of Murree, Pakistan Army and Rescue 1122 joint forces, deploying over ten teams to extinguish the blaze at various locations. "We are pleased to

announce that the combined efforts of armed forces and emergency responders have brought the fire under control in eighty percent of the affected area. "a rescue

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a spokesperson told PTV With the remaining twenty percent of the area still under scrutiny, the firefighting teams remain vigilant, ensuring that every ember is extinguished and every corner of the forest is secured, he maintained

He said the relentless efforts not only subdued the flames but also shielded the neighboring communities from the encroaching



Senator Qurat-ul-Ain Marri, Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Special Initiatives presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House Islamabad.