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Single-digit taxation not sustainable: Aiming to take tax-to-GDP ratio to 13pc in next 3 years: Finance Minister 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 ratio, 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 underscored the importance of doing away with undocumented economy with end-to-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 do compliance and enforcement to the extent it should have done. 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 earners.



ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb addressing media persons at the Post Budget 2024-25 Press Conference along with Minister of State for Finance & Revenue Ali Pervaiz Malik.

Sharjeel invites Chinese govt, business community to invest in Sindh

Independent Report KARACHI: Chinese Consul General in Karachi, Yan Yundong, met with Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel



and the CPEC project. They also talked about the Prime Minister's recent visit to China, ongoing joint projects between the Sindh government and China in the province, as well as transport projects, including the circular railway in Karachi, among other issues.

Sindh Minister, Iraqi envoy discuss promotion of religious, cultural tourism

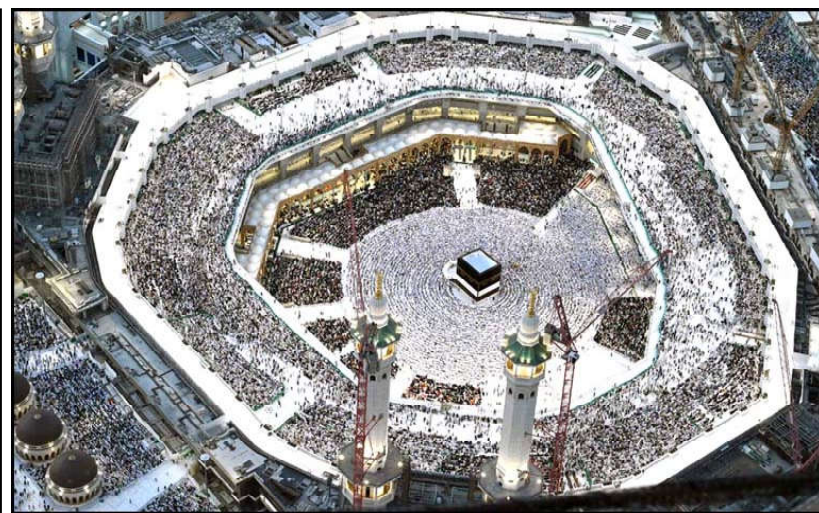
Independent Report KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Culture, Tourism, Antiquities and Archives Sindh Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah met the Ambassador of Iraq Hamid Abbas Lafta in Islamabad to discuss religious tourism, cultural promotion and joint cooperation to facilitate pilgrims of Sindh during Muharram

Al Haram including the promotion of religious and cultural tourism.

Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah demanded the opening of an immigration office in Karachi for the convenience of pilgrims. He said that a large number of pilgrims from Sindh travel to Iraq facing problems due to the absence of the office in Karachi.



KARACHI: Sindh Police Inspector General (IG), Ghulam Nabi Memon presides over a high-level meeting, at CPO Headquarters in Karachi.



MAKKAHALMUKARRAMAH: A beautiful view of the Khana Kaaba through rooftop of Clock Tower as a large number of pilgrims performing circumambulation (Tawaaf).

CM directs to procure 4000 devices for E-tagging repeat criminals, monitoring dacoits activities through drones

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah chaired a meeting about law and order on Thursday and decided to acquire 4000 devices for E-tagging repeat street and drug criminals.

The CM decided to implement GEO-tagging and GPS utilization to prevent street and drug crimes in the hotspot areas of the city.

He instructed the Inspector General of Police (IGP) to provide 14 drones, which were procured last month, to the police in Sukkur, Ghotki, Kashmore, and Shikarpur Districts to monitor the movement of criminals/dacoits and their hideouts.

"I know the police with the coordinated support of Rangers and other law enforcement agencies have made progress in controlling law & order, including street crimes in the city and kidnapping for ransom in the Kutcha area but we should take benefit of the latest technology in curbing the crime," the CM said and added he had already provided enough funds to the police for equipment.

The meeting was held at CM House and was attended by provincial ministers, Sharjeel Memon, Nasir Shah, Zia Lanjar, Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, SMBR Baquallah Unar, IG Police Ghulam Nabi Memon, Commissioner Karachi Hassan Naqvi, Additional IG Karachi Imran Yakoob, Secretary Local Govt Khalid Hyder Shah, Secretary Finance Fayaz Jatoi, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, Secretary Law, Secretary E&T Saleem Rajput and provincial heads of other law enforcement agencies.

The CM said we should not be complacent in terms of the Karachi Situation and its current crime rate index if we did not control drugs. He was of the view that our future generations and society at large would fully become prone to the use of drugs consequently leading to crimes and lawlessness.

"I committed to making Karachi a drug-free city," the CM said. At this, the IG Police told the CM that 574 drug dealers had been identified in the province, from them 299 had been rounded up and put in jail, five were eliminated and 270 were at large but would be arrested soon.

The CM was told that 4000 devices would be procured for E-tagging of repeat criminals which includes street and Narcotics dealers.



KARACHI: Former Federal Insurance Ombudsman Dr. Khawar Jameel meeting with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori, Director General Ministry of Foreign Affairs Irfan Soomro, Deputy Chief Protocol Giyan Chand and Prof. Dr. Saleem Mazhar are also present

World's largest solar power project to be launched in Sindh: Nasir

Says this project will be an important milestone of affordable electricity as per the vision of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto



Independent Report KARACHI: The provincial Energy department and Go Energy Pvt Limited have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for laying off 500 Megawatts floating solar energy project on Keenjhar Lake in Thatta district.

The MoU signing ceremony was held here at a local hotel on Thursday, which was attended by Sindh Minister for Energy Syed Nasir Hussain Shah.

Mayor Karachi visits different areas of Manghopir Town

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab visited different areas of Manghopir Town here on Thursday.

Municipal Corporation Chairman Haji Nawab Ali Brohi, local leaders and concerned officers were also present on this occasion. The Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab went to the shrine of Haji Sakhli Sultan and laid a chader on his shrine and recited Fataha.

Speaking about the arrangements regarding the Urns of Haji Sakhli Sultan, the Mayor Karachi said that all local government facilities will be provided on the occasion of Urs.

The people have special devotion to the dargah of Haji Sakhli Sultan and we are serving the saints, elders and Sufiyas whose blessings are for the people and thousands of devotees visit Haji Sakhli Sultan's shrine on the occasion of Urs, he said. He also discussed with the administration regarding alligators pond and their feed. He also visited different areas of Manghopir and said that the local government problems of the area will be solved on priority basis.

President directs FIO to ensure prompt relief to aggrieved policyholders

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday directed the Federal Insurance Ombudsman (FIO) to provide speedy and free of charge justice to the aggrieved insurance policyholders against the maladministration 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 expressed these views while talking to the newly-appointed Federal Insurance Ombudsman (FIO) Mumtaz Ali Shah, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

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 as the Federal Insurance Ombudsman, at an oath-taking ceremony, held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Mumtaz Ali Shah is a retired Pakistan Administrative Service (PAS) officer who previously served in various positions throughout his career.



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

Mumtaz Ali Shah sworn in as Federal Insurance Ombudsman

ISLAMABAD (APP): Mumtaz Ali Shah, a retired senior officer of the Pakistan Administrative Services (PAS), on Thursday took oath of the office of Federal Insurance Ombudsman.

President Asif Ali Zardari administered the oath of office to Mumtaz Ali Shah at a ceremony held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr here.

Mumtaz Ali Shah has a rich professional background spanning over three decades.

He retired from the administrative service in March 2022 as Sindh Chief Secretary.

Besides serving in multiple public departments, he also represented Pakistan abroad including on a maritime mission to Netherlands, Pakistan International Maritime Organization in London and International Maritime Conference in Shanghai.

Governor Kundi meets Bilawal Bhutto

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi along with party President Ali Shah Bacha, General Secretary Shazia Khan and others on Thursday met with Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

They discussed party matters and the political situation of the province, said a news release issued here by the party secretariat.

The newly elected member National Assembly from Multan, Ali Qasim Gilani also called on the Chairman of PPP.

Former Chief Minister KP Mehmood Khan also called on the Chairman of PPP.

The members of KP Assembly Arbab Waseem and Iqbal Wazir, former member of KP Assembly Nadia Sher, former ticket holder PTI Parliamentarians Ikram Khan, Iftikhar Ahmed Bacha and Provincial office bearers of PTI Parliamentarians Malik Abid Noor and Mian Syed Naeemkhanji also met Bilawal Bhutto.

Mehmood Khan appreciated the role of the Pakistan Peoples Party in the stability and progress of the country.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

Commissioner inaugurates library established in 100 year old building

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Syed Hassan Naqvi on Thursday inaugurated the library in a 100-year-old historical building located in the Kharadar area of Karachi's district South.

The old building has been used as a Police check-post in the past.

Talking to media, the Commissioner said Kharadar was one of the old areas of Karachi city and the establishment of a library here is a good effort and it will be beneficial for the students and people of this area.

Hassan Naqvi said usage of such historical buildings as the library and a park would provide opportunity to the people of the area.

Social activist Yasmeen Lari, DC South Altaf Hussain Sario and others were also present on the occasion.

