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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

iterating 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 con-

Hence, there is a dire need to enhance tax to GDP ratio, the minister said.

The minister was Malik, Secretary Finance, Imdad Ullah Bosal and Revenue (FBR), Amjad Zubair Tiwana.

scored the importance of more tax on high income

ISLAMABAD (APP): Re- international bench marks, mented economy with endno country could sustain at 9.5 tax to GDP ratio base human intervention as much without external assistance. as possible and make the tax mechanism transparent and mitigate chances of corruption. The minister admitted that the Federal Board of flanked by State Minister Revenue (FBR) could not for Finance, Ali Pervaiz do compliance and enforcement to the extent it should have done. He said, the gov-Chairman Federal Board of ernment had introduced progressive taxes in the fedpair Tiwana. eral budget for upcoming fis-cal year 2024-25 to impose



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

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 Etagging 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

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

"I know the police with the coordinated support of Rangers and other law enforcement agencies have made progress in controlling law & order, includ-

ing 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 min-isters, Sharjeel Memon, Nasir Shah, Zia Lanjar, Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, SMBR Baqaullah Unar, IG Police Ghulam Nabi Memon, Commissioner Karachi Hassan Naqvi, Additional IG Karachi İmran 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

KARACHI: Former Federal Insurance Ombudsman Dr. Khawar Jameel

meeting with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori. Director General Min-

and Prof. Dr. Saleem Mazhar are also present

istry of Foreign Affairs Irfan Soomro, Deputy Chief Protocol Giyan Chand

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

on Keenjhar Lake in Thatta

The MoU signing ceremony was held here at a

local hotel on Thursday,

which was attended by

Sindh Minister for Energy

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 genera-tions 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-safe 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

President directs FIO to ensure prompt relief to aggrieved policyholders

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 exessed 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 high-President Asif Ali Zardari lighted the need to create awareness about the role of FIO in providing justice to aggrieved policyholders in the settlement of insurance

> FIO to use modern technology and ICT tools to increase the disposal of com-

> Earlier, the president administered the oath of office to Mumtaz Ali Shah as the Federal Insurance Ombudsman, at an oathtaking ceremony, held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Mumtaz Ali Shah is a retired Pakistan Administrative Service (PAS) officer who previously served in various positions through-



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.

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

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

Mumtaz Ali Shah has a rich professional background

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): **K**hyber 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 secre-

The newly elected member National Assembly from Multan, Ali Oasim Gilani also called on

the Chairman of PPP

Former Chief Minister KP Mehmood Khan also called on the Chairman 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 Naeemkhani 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 Commissioner Syed a library here is a Hassan Naqvi on Thursday inaugurated the library in a 100year-old historical building located in the Kharadar area of Karachi's district

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

Talking to media, Commissioner Kharadar was one of the old areas of Karachi city and

(APP): the establishment of 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 oppor-tunity to the people of the area.

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



ing 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

Karachi Yan Prime Minister's recent Yundong, met with Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel visit to China, ongoing joint projects between the Sindh



During the meeting, they discussed the ideal friendship between Pakistan and China, bilateral re-

government and China in Inam Memon at his office. the province, as well as transport projects, including the circular rail way in Karachi, among lations, mutual interests, other issues

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



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 coop-

eration to facilitate pilgrims

Al Haram including the promotion of religious and cul-

tural tourism. 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

Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah of the office in Karachi.

half of Imran Khan.

likely to be reduced for 15 days

reduced from June 16 by Rs 9.30 per liter for 15

The price of petrol is

petroleum products was market during last week. Government is deter

of reduction in price of petrol to the people.

Final approval in reduction of price of petroleum products will be accorded by Prime Miniser Shehbaz Šharif.



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

Imran, Sheikh, Qureshi acquitted in Azadi March case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Independent Report and the CPEC project. District and Sessions court KARACHI: Chinese ConThey also talked about the Islamabad has acquitted Sheikh Rashid, Shah Mehmood Qureshi and others in Azadi March case. Judicial magistrate Malik Muhammad Imran an-

nounced reserved judgment. Case was registered gainst PTI founder, Sheikh Rashid and others in 2022 on violation of section 144 and rioting clauses in police station I-9.

The court also acquitted Sadaqat Abbasi and Ali Nawaz Awan. It is pertinent to mention here that Anti Terrorism Court Lahore had extended bail of PT founder in 3 cases related to Jinnah House attack case day before. Barrister Suleman Safdar had appeared in the court on be-

Price of petrol

ISLAMABAD (Online): The price of petroleum products are likely to be

expected to be slashed by Rs 9.28 per liter, diesel by Rs 4.02 per liter and kerosene oil by Rs 2 per liter for 15 days.

Fall in the prices of

vitnessed in inernational mined to pass on benefit

floating solar energy project Syed Nasir Hussain Shah. Mayor Karachi visits different areas of **Manghopir Town**

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

Independent Report

Energy department and Go

Energy Pvt Limited have

signed a Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU) for laying off 500 Megawatts

CARACHI: The provincial

Municipal Corporaion 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 Haii Sakhi Sultan and laid a chader on his shrine and re-

cited Fateha. Speaking about the arrangements regarding the Urs of Haji Sakhi Sultan, the Mayor Karachi said

facilities will be provided on the occasion of Urs. The people have spe-

cial devotion to the dargah of Haji Sakhi Sultan and we are serving the saints, elders and Sufiyas whose blessings are for the people and thousands of devotees visit Haji Sakhi 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

Sindh govt announces three-day Eid-ul-Azha

holidays on

Mossadiq Ahmed Khan, CEO-STDC Salim Shaikh,

CEO-Go Green Amar Ali

Talat and Director K-Elec-

tric Haris Siddiqui were also present on the occa-

sion, the energy minister said that the Go Energy

Pvt Limited was working on the project with the co-

operation of Sindh Tour-

ism Development Corpo-

ration (STDC) and Irriga-

tion Department Sindh.

This project is Pakistan's

first and World's largest

solar power project, Shah

Speaking on the occa-

KARACHI (APP): Sindh government has announced three-day holidays on Eidul-Azha for government and private offices across the province with effect from June 17 to 19. According to a notification issued by the Services and General Administration here Thursday, the holidays have been scheduled from Monday to Wednesday, (June 17 to June 19), for all government offices, autonomous bodies. semi autonomous bodies. corporations and local councils functioning under the administrative control of Government of Sindh

Daily Aoice 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 GDF

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

Friday June 14, 2024

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 ter over 40 years of distinguished service in the Foreign & Commonwealth Relations Office. He spoke openly about Brexit and sub-continen-

tal politics

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 College. He had retired af- colour). Judging from the 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

tendees at KSLF Cam- exhibition on Ranjit Singh: 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, furni-

ture, 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 on all our faces. 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,

Slurs like 'chor', 'ghadar', 'Dirty Harry', 'diesel', 'youtheay',' insinuating corruption, treason, conspiracy, smuggling, and affiliathe tion with the youthdriven PTI, respectively, 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, aplenty but do not reflect over land and maritime 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

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.



Federal Board of Revenue.

PM vows to launch crackdown against tax evaders, facilitators

POS scheme soon:

Chairman FBR

Quarters

Islamabad.

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 role in running n the government's top priority, progress with respect to 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.

and

(INP):

LAHORE

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 net was the 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 tax rate and expanding the briefed the prime minister 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

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

\$14.38 billion

KARACHI (APP): The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan stood 14,383.8million as of June 07, 2024 while the reserves held by the central bank recorded as \$ 9,103.3 million.

The foreign reserves 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 Minister for Power The minister Division Sardar Awais informed the Secretary that

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.

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.

(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 political parties and not 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 parties of the province", he added.

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

HITEC University

showcases innovative

student projects

technology.

energy

Science

systems.

This included 44 related to construction

such as robotics, projects centered on

systems, human aid Internet of Things (IoT).

into

exhibited 64 projects

emphasizing robotics,

machine learning, artificial

intelligence, surveillance

systems and human aid

Engineering department

showcased 14 projects

technologies and the

Computer Engineering

department presented 10

artificial intelligence and the

departments

The Civil

up to the expectations of completed despite passage his party leadership. "I am of 10 years. There is no not the Governor from First-Class Cricket in the PPP but from all the province for a long time, he Kundi further assured "I am well aware of the delegations that he the problems faced by the would not let down the

The

Programme (BISP). Todav.

national cricket team

comprised of players from

Governor

other missing privileges would be provided to them. 4 MC employees die of electric shock at Dijkot disposal station

quota for them would be

institutions adding that all

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 the Committee Dijkot were repairing an electric water pump at a disposal station near the graveyard of Chak No 263-RB when they received an electric shock. As a result, four

officials were killed onthe-spot. They included Shafique (35), Asgar (40), an electrician; Haji Burhan (40) and Arsalan (36). Another official Hamid and a rescue official Nasir also



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 KP 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 of-

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.

spend the money in several

Ukraine will be able to

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

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 Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, U.S. President Joe Biden, French 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 Gaza war rages as US ahead." Zelenskyy, on social media, said the document is wants to 'close' truce deal "unprecedented, as it should be for leaders who support

President Emmanuel Macron, Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, 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

agreement would not commit DOHA: Top US diplomat S. troops directly to Ukraine's defense against Russia's invasion. That is a red line drawn by Biden, who

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-

Monitoring Desk

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 "close the deal"

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 offi-

cial, 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 treated for acute malnutri- health ministry.

dren with severe acute mal-"However, due to in-

tion, including 1,600 chil-

security and lack of access, only two stabilisation centres for severely malnourished patients can operate," he added. "Our inability to pro-

vide 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, according to Israeli tallies.

Israel's response has caused the deaths of more than 37,000 Palestinians, according to the Gazan

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 permanent deal.

Blinken declined to elaborate on the Hamas demands

Nigeria's president says economic reforms will continue despite hardships

Monitoring Desk ABUJA: Nigeria's Presi-

ficial said. The official spoke

dent Bola Tinubu said on Wednesday economic reforms would continue despite increasing hardships that have fuelled public anger, and promised to send an executive bill to parliament soon to set a new minimum wage.

Tinubu, who came to power a year ago, removed a decades-old petrol subsidy that kept prices artifi-cially low and devalued the currency, sending inflation soaring to 33.69% in April, its highest level in nearly three decades and eroding

In a television broadcast to mark Democracy Day, Tinubu acknowledged hardships caused by the reforms, which also include higher interest rates and the partial removal of electricity subsidies, but he said this would create a stronger 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 said. "As we continue to reform the economy, I shall always listen to the people and will never turn my back

Nigeria is grappling with the worst cost-of-living crisis in decades and labour unions last week suspended a strike called to pressure the government to agree a new monthly minimum wage. The government has offered to double the minimum wage to 62,000 naira (\$41.89) a month against labour demands of 250,000 naira, and Tinubu said his government had negotiated in good faith.

voices for American held in Afghanistan **Monitoring Desk**

Ukraine." Sullivan said the

does not want to have the U.S.

pulled into a direct conflict

with nuclear-armed Moscow.

UN expert

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 Thursday. "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

PM gives green light for Asaan Karobar Act enactment

Directs federal ministries, deptt heads to utilize Task Management System

ISLAMABAD Prime Muhammad 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 priority.

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 vari-

(APP): censes, certificates and Minister Muhammad other documents.

It was further told that 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.

The meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Division Ahad Khan Cheema, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Industry and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain, Petroleum Minister Musadik Malik, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Ali Pervaiz Malik, Coordinator to the PM Rana Ehsaan Afzal, chief

Shehbaz Sharif Thursday instructed federal secretaries and heads of departments to personally utilize the Task Management Sys-He issued these in-

structions while chairing a meeting to assess the implementation progress of directives requiring federal ministries and departments to use the Task Management System.

The Task Management 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 also decided to conduct daily review for implementing the task management system. He said that



ing on Ease of doing Business.

Naqvi attends

funeral prayer

of ANF martyrs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Inte-

rior and Anti-Norcotics

Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday attended the funeral

prayer of the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) personnel,

Muhammad Gulzar, Mazhar Iqbal and Zeeshan,

who were martyred in a fir-

ing incident by drug traf-

fickers at Tarkai Toll Plaza

met with the families of the

martyrs and offered heart-

felt condolences. He prayed

for the elevation of the mar-

tyrs' ranks and for the pa-

tience of their loved ones.

that the martyrs who have

laid down their lives in the

line of duty were our true

discussion on

finance bill

2024-25

cussion on the finance bill

Opening the debate, Leader of the Opposition

Shibli Faraz said the bud-

get for next fiscal year car-

ries no economic vision to

steer the country out of

debt trap. He welcomed

the enhancement in mini-

mum wage but regretted the

increase in the taxes on sala-

Participating in the debate, Irfan-ul-Haque

Siddiqui said there is no cri-

Mohsin Naqvi stated

The Interior Minister

Jhelum.

UN Resident Coordinator calls on **Planning Minister**

Newly designated United Nations Resident Coordinator in Pakistan Mohamed Yahya on Thursday called on Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal and discussed matters relating to mutual interest.

Emphasizing 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 he stated.

Pakistan during the 2022 floods and highlighted that, in response, the Ministry of Planning, in collaboration with policymakers, developed the 4RF framework to enhance the country's resilience against any catastrophic 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,'

Senate continues Meets Maulana Fazlur Rehman PM Shehbaz proposes committee to resolve ISLAMABAD (INP): The political issues Senate has commenced dis-

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

PM Shehbaz Sharif reached residence of Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Thursday to appease him. Maulana Fazlur Rehman welcomed PM.

PM lauded the religious services of Maulana Fazlur Rehman. PM said Maulana al-

ways promoted peaceful struggle for safeguarding democratic norms. We hold it in high esteem.

Sources said PM

Independent Report

KARACHI: Ehsan Ur

Rehman Mazari, Advisor to

the Chief Minister of Sindh

for Inter-Provincial Coordi-

nation and Cooperative

Department, attended the

"Allotment Ceremony for

Affected Members of

X&W Building" as the

chief guest. He was warmly

JHELUM: Federal Minister for Interior and Anti-Nar-

cotics Mohsin Naqvi paying homage to ANF martyrs.

Advisor to CM Sindh attends

allotment ceremony for affected

members of X&W building

management of the

Karimabad Ismailia Multi-

purpose Cooperative Soci-

ety Limited for inviting

kistan Peoples Party's

manifesto to providing ba-

sic necessities such as roti,

kapra, and makan to the

people of Pakistan and PPP

He highlighted the Pa-

Maulana Fazlur Rehman with reference to budget-2024 in the meeting.

Maulana Rehman once again informed PM about his reservations regarding results of February election saying we are struggling for democracy, transparent election and supremacy of constitution. We wanted all democratic forces should play their role together for strengthening democracy.

sis in the country as all the PM said we are coninstitutions are working and vinced of your services for the parliament is funcdemocracy Sources said Maulana Atta ur Reman, Maulana Abdul Wasay and other leaders were also present in the meeting.

Wajid Shaikh posted as Chief **Inspector Stamps**KARACHI (APP): Abdul Wajid Shaikh, an officer of

ried class.

Ex. PCS (BS-19) was posted as Chief Inspector Stamps, Board of Revenue Sindh against existing vacancy with immediate effect and until further orders. According to notifica-

tion issued here Thursday, Abdul Wajid Shaik, who was presently posted as Additional Secretary Home Department, was transferred and posted as Chief Inspector Stamps, Board of Revenue Sindh against an existing vacancy while Shah Nawaz Soomro, an officer of Ex. PCS (BS-19) was transferred from People's Poverty Reduction, Planning and Development Department and posted as Additional Secretary, Home

Six flights cancelled and one delayed at Karachi Airport

KARACHI Karachi's Jinnah International Airport experienced significant flight disruptions today as six flights have been cancelled and a flight of PIA is delayed.

According to the channel, due to disruptions of flights of different airlines including Emirates, Air Sial Serene and Air Blue, passengers on multiple routes were affected. Six flights have been cancelled, including: Air Blue Flight PA 171 from Karachi to Jeddah. Serene Air Flight ER 501 from Karachi to Islamabad

vacations

HYDERABAD (APP) The University of Sindh Jamshoro has announced the schedule for Eid-ul-Azha and summer vacations. According to the university spokesperson, the University and all its campuses will be closed from June 17 to June 19, 2024 in observance of Eid-ul-Azha. However, essential staff will remain on duty

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

Deputy Prime Minister and 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

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 months.

ISLAMABAD (APP): 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 when-

ever the country's economy started taking off, some hidden hands created hurdles and made the economy unstable again. He recalled that in 1998, when Pakistan faced international sanctions after performing successful nuclear tests, the PML-N government under the leadership of then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif revived the economy within eight



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired 10th Meeting of the Steering Committee on outsourcing of airports in Islamabad.

Sharjeel, CG of Qatar discuss bilateral friendly relations between two countries

Independent Report KARACHI : Consul General of Qatar in Karachi, Nayef Shahein, met with Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon in his office. During the meeting, they discussed the bilateral friendly relations between Pakistan and Qatar, mutual interests, cultural harmony

and other pertinent issues. At the meeting, Consul General of Qatar Nayef Shahien praised the hospitality of Pakistan, particularly the people of Sindh. He emphasized that Qatar feels like a second home to the citizens of Pakistan.

between the two countries,

On this occasion, Senior Minister of Sindh Sharjeel Memon extended an invitation to the Consul General of Qatar to con-

Memon highlighted numerous investment opportunities available in Sindh, expressing the government's readiness to host a delegation from Qatar for exploring these prospects. He emphasized the abundance of investment opportunities available in the region. He emphasized that there are vast investment opportunities across all sectors, particularly in the transport sector in Sindh. Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon expressed that investment from the Qatari government or private investors would be a welcome step for them.

Senior Sharjeel Inam Memon expressed the desire for businessmen from Qatar to establish relationships with businessmen in Sindh, simisider investing in Sindh. lar to the cooperation by Minister Sharjeel Inam tween the governments. lar to the cooperation be-

Commissioner holds meeting, reviews progress controlling power theft cases

LARKANA (APP): Com- force headed by Deputy missioner Larkana Division Commissioners will be es-Thursday chaired a meeting of the divisional task force and reviewed progress for controlling power theft cases in Larkana division.

The meeting also reviewed the action taken against electricity theft within the division. The officials participating in the meeting were briefed about the campaign launched under the instructions of the Chief Secretary of Sindh.

meeting that a district task

Ghulam Mustafa Phul on tablished to conduct the campaign at the district level. which will include officials nominated by SEPCO, police and district administration. He said that the task force will submit daily reports on FIRs lodged against power theft and disconnec-

It was decided in the

tions during the campaign. A list of different categories of electrical waste will also be prepared, he added. Apart from this, it was also decided that lawyers should be appointed to follow the cases in the courts about SEPCO.



HYDERABAD: Members of All Hyderabad LPG Gas Distributors Association are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Hyderabad press club.

SU, CUVAS sign MoU for research, exchange of information HYDERABAD (APP):

The University of Sindh (SU), Jamshoro and the Cholistan University of Veterinary and Animal Sci-(CUVAS), ences Bahawalpur signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Thursday, aimed at fostering collaboration in

various fields and promote research activities. According to the

spokesman, the agreement will bring about the exchange of information, teaching materials and scientific publications between the two institutions. Faculty members will collaborate in veterinary sciences, animal production & technology, agricultural sci-

ences and biosciences. The MoU was signed by SU Vice Chancellor Professor (Meritorious) Dr

Muhammad Siddique Kalhoro and CUVAS Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Muhammad Mazhar Ayaz. This partnership will facilitate the transfer of technology, joint research and development projects, as well as cooperation in individual projects.

According to the MoU, the universities will work towards distributing and implementing technoadvancements logical widely.

The agreement is initially valid for three years and will automatically renew for subsequent threeyear periods unless terminated. Either party may terminate the MoU by providing six months' written notice prior to the end of the current term, " the

secretaries of all the four continuous monitoring of ous initiatives, it was inprogress in all projects was formed that an electronic provinces and other relregistry would be establish evant high officials. the initial step towards Meanwhile Prime their timely completion. for business registration, li-

KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori addressing inauguration ceremony of new Gyne block at Kharadar General Hospital.

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

ISLAMABAD (Online): United Nations Independent 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.

International Commission of Inquiry on Occupied Palestinian territory including East Jerusalem and Israel.

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 She said Pakistan also and inhuman and cruel

welcomes the report of the punishment. SFA team destroyed 6500 litre chemical mixed milk: DG SFA Agha Fakhar

Independent Report KARACHI: A joint operation was conducted against profiteering and chemical milk at Guddu. A joint team led by Assistant Commissioner Kashmore, Police & Deputy Director Sindh Food Authority have conducted raids on source information against milk transportation from Punjab to Sindh. Three Containers were stopped at the checkpoint. A vehicle container

carrying 6500 liters of con-

taminated milk with samples of boric acid was searched by the Sindh Food Authority team and found positive samples harmful for human consumption after chemical analysis. The container milk was destroyed by a joint team at Murad Wah, Kashmore. Vehicle and two accused Muhammad Shah Jahan Khan Driver & Muhammad Azhar were taken into cus-

tody by Police.



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.

Friendship House celebrates "Russia Day"

KARACHI (APP): The strengthening the cultural Russian Culture Centre, the Friendship House, celebrated Russia Day in grand style on Wednesday (June 12). The event was hosted by Fariha Aqib and attended by media partners.

Director of the Russian House, Ruslan M Prokhorov welcomed the guests and thanked them for their support in promoting cultural exchange between Russia and Pakistan.

The evening featured a delicious dinner, gift hampers, and a joyful atmo-

contributions to promoting Russian culture and language in Pakistan, the media partners were also awarded shields and certificates of appreciation.

The awardees were and commitment to tionship.

bond between the two na-Russia Day com-

memorates the declaration of Russia's sovereignty on June 12, 1990. The country has a rich cultural heritage and a history of warm relations with Pakistan.

Ruslan M Prokhorov vice consul Director of the Friendship House, expressed gratitude to the media partners for their collaboration in promoting cultural events and activities.

He also appreciated the support of the Paki-In recognition of their stani community in celebrating Russian cultural

The evening was a testament to the strong friendship between Russia and Pakistan, and the Friendship House remains a sympraised for their dedication bol of this enduring relaprotests for release of **Imran Khan**

PTI finalizes

nationwide

ESHAWAR (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Minister Zahir Shah Toro has declared plans for nationwide protests on June 14, advocating for the release of Founder Chair-

man Imran Khan. Minister Toro disclosed that protests are scheduled to take place across the country, with Chief Minister Mahmood Khan pledging participation in demonstrations across all districts of Khyber tests aim to denounce what

sations against Imran Khan. **Inter provincial** female drug

is perceived as unjust accu-

dealer arrested KARACHI (APP): The Saeedabad Police Station of district Keamari on Thursday arrested a female drug dealer in a raid at the Yusuf Goth bus stand, recovering kg of drugs worth more

than Rs 10 million. According to SSP Keamari Captain (Retired) Faizan Ali, the arrested woman, Khairunisa, is an inter-provincial drug dealer who had transported the drugs from Gwadar, Balochistan via passenger

A case has been registered against Khairunisa and further investigations are

Customs massive raid at Karachi's Gadap; 4,700 cow hormone

injections seized KARACHI (INP): The Anti-Smuggling Squad of Customs Enforcement carried out a significant operation in Gadap, Karachi, resulting in the recovery of a large quantity of smuggled

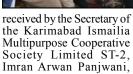
contraband A total of 4,700 injections, valued at Rs16 million, were seized from a warehouse

These injections, according to a spokesman, are administered to buffaloes to increase milk production.

Youth, three robbers killed in separate incidents

KARACHI (INP): A youth and three robbers were killed, while another held in separate incidents in different localities of the metropolis, police said on Thursday.

According to details, armed robbers attempted to rob two youth riding a motorcycle in Orangi Town and opened straight fire over resistance. As a result of firing, Gulzar was killed on the spot while Mohavia sustained bullet injuries.



along with other adminis-During his address to the media, Advisor Ehsan Ur Rehman Mazari ex-

is the only party that believes in serving the people. Mazari emphasized the importance of constructing flats according to modern standards and ensuring their timely and qual-

ity completion. He reiterated that his office doors are always open to the public pressed his gratitude to the



HYDERABAD: Residents of Tando Hyder are holding protest demonstration against high handedness of their police department, at Hyderabad press club.

Sindh University announces Eidul-Azha, summer

during this period.

This announcement was made through a notification issued by Registrar Dr. Mushtaq Ali Jariko.