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# Sindh Govt presents Rs 3.056.27 trillion development, social protection-oriented budget

Rs.300 bln earmarked for health sector; Allocates Rs454 billion for education depicting 36% increase; Policing budget boosted by 22% to enhance law and order; Allocates Rs. 6.1b for Rangers; Earmarks Rs 25b for solarization; Rs10 bn allocated for clean water; Allocates Rs. 500 million for Benazir Women Agricultural Workers Program; Allocate 13 billion for "Benazir Hari, Mazdoor Cards"

KARACHI (APP): Sindh rent year 2023-24. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Friday pre-3.056.27 trillion development and social protection-oriented budget of the province for the next fiscal year and a significantly higher 2024-25 on the floor of Provincial Assembly of Sindh.

The next fiscal year's budget marks 34 percent increase over budget estimates of Rs.

year 2024-25.

Govt employees get

up to 30pc raise in

salaries in budget

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh government pro-

posed up to 30 per cent increase in its employ-

ees' salaries as Chief Minister Syed Murad Al

Shah who also holds finance portfolio presented

Rs3.056 trillion provincial budget for the fiscal

in the budget the government proposed 30 percent rise

crease in salaries of employees in BPS-7 to BPS-16 and

a 22 percent rise in salaries of officers in BPS-17 to

sion of Sindh government's retired employees 15 per-

cent. He also proposed a 15 percent increase in pen

sions and the minimum wage from Rs35,550 to Rs37,000. CM Murad Ali Shah said that the total out-

lay of the budget for the province is estimated at Rs3.056

set aside Rs519 billion for education and Rs334 bn for

56 billion for the transport sector in budget 2024-25

the health sector in the budget 2024-25.

and Rs302 billion for the local government.

The chief minister said that the government has

Likewise, the provincial government has allocated

in salaries of employees in BPS-1 to BPS-6.

Presenting the budget, the chief minister said that

CM Murad Ali Shah proposed a 25 percent in

The chief minister also announced to increase pen

The chief minister, mainly centred around the who also holds the portfolio of the Sindh Finance Minister in his budget speech, proposed a hike of 22 to 30 percent in salaries development expense of Rs 959 billion, which accounts for 31 percent of the out-

While terming as the

rehabilitation of flood-affected people and social protection for the poor. The total projected revenue for the province is

Shah said that the budget

Rs. 3 trillion. The majority of this comes from federal transfers 62 percent, followed by provincial receipts 22 percent. The remaining receipts are balanced budget, Chief through current capital receipts of Rs. 22 billion, foreign project assistance of Rs. 334 billion, other federal grants in the form of PSDP of Rs. 77 billion, foreign grants of Rs. 6 billion and a carryover cash balance of Rs. 55 billion.

Provincial Receipts of Rs. 662 billion comprise Sales Tax on Services of Rs. 350 billion, Tax excluding GST of Rs. 269 billion, and provincial non-tax receipts of Rs. 42.9 billion. These funds are strategically allocated 63 percent or Rs. 1.9 trillion goes towards Current Revenue, 6 percent or Rs. 184 billion for Current Capital, and the remaining percent or Rs. 959 billion is dedicated to Development Expenditure.

Murad Ali Shah said that a hefty 30 percent increase in salary of employ-ees of BPS-1 to BPS-6 with Personal Allowance2024 for them have been proposed. He said this relief has been provided to them in order to bring their monthly salary at the level of minimum wage Rs.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah presents the budget for the next financial year 2024-25 on the floor of the Sindh Assembly, in Karachi.

37,000 as announced by the federal government.

He said that such remarkable step shall provide a huge relief to the existing staff serving in the nongazetted category, to cater the challenge of inflation.

Whereas, for the employees in BS-7 to BS-16 increase of 25 percent and for the category of BS-17 and above 22 percent increase in salary have been oposed.

He further said that 15 percent increase in pension of retired employees has been proposed in the bud-

Shah said that considering the surging inflation and increasing cost of liv- and Government Investing, minimum wage for ment of Rs. 142.5 billion.

labour has been proposed as Rs. 37,000 for FY 2024-

Salaries account for the largest portion 38 percent, followed by grants 27 percent directed towards various programs. Non-salary expenses 21 percent encompass operational costs, transfers, interest payments, maintenance, and

Employee pensions and retirement benefits claim the remaining 14 percent of current expenditures. Current Capital Expenditure includes repayments of loans and others of a budgeted amount of Rs. 42 billion

Development Expenditure includes Provincial ADP excluding Foreign Project Assistance of Rs. 493 billion, Foreign Project Assistance of Rs. 334 billion, Other Federal Grants through PSDP of Rs. 77 billion, and District ADP of Rs. 55 billion. The Sindh provincial budget prioritizes investment in social serrices. Education receives the largest allocation at Rs. 519 billion, with Rs. 454

revenue expenditure. Healthcare follows closely with a total allocation of Rs. 300 billion. Local government rounds out the top three with a proposed budget of Rs. 329 billion. The budget also al-

billion dedicated to current

locates significant resources well-being for the people of to key infrastructure sectors: Řs. 58 billion for agri-The remaining major culture (including Rs. 32 departments include Trans-

billion for current expendiport (Rs. 56 billion), Works ture), Rs. 77 billion for enand Services (Rs. 86 billion), SG&CD (Rs. 153 bilergy (with Rs. 62 billion for ongoing costs), Rs. 94 billion), and Home (Rs. 194 lion for irrigation (with Rs. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah 36 billion for current expenses), Rs. 86 billion for

30 billion for Planning and

tion, health, local govern-

velopment reflects the

government's commitment

This focus on educa-

Development.

Works & Services, and Rs. prioritized social and economic well-being, particularly in the wake of recent floods. ment and infrastructure de-

He said that the salary increases of 22-30 percent and pension hikes of 15 percent aimed to bolster to long-term growth and financial security.

# Sindh Cabinet approves Rs3.056 trillion budget for next fiscal year 2024-25

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Cabinet on Friday approved Rs3.056 trillion budget proposal after thorough consideration for the next financial year 2024-25 in a pre-budget Cabinet meeting at CM House here on Friday. The Provincial Cabinet approved the budget for the next financial year 2024-25 in the meeting chaired by the Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah. Sindh Ministers, Advisors, Chief Secretary, Planning & Development Chairman, Finance Secretary and other officers concerned attended the meeting.

The Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said that the budget had been prepared to implement 10 points of the PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. He said that the time was beginning to implement the promises made by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in the elections. The budget contained proposals to eradicate poverty and provide facilities to the people, he said adding that the meeting considered the proposal to increase the salaries of government employees in the new financial year. The Sindh Cabinet also considered increasing the pension of retired employees.

# PM assures to extend facilities to private sector for revival of economy

Shahbaz Sharif for consultation with renowned firms to realize investment agreements with friendly countries

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday instructed the relevant authorities to hold consultation with the globally reputed consultancy firms to realize the investment agreements with the friendly countries.

The prime minister, in a meeting with a delegation of an international consultancy firm headed

rected for consultation with the reputed firms to reduce the volume of government infrastructure and enhance revival. effectiveness of the gover-

nance system. He told the delegation that there existed a huge potential for investment in minerals and energy sec-

Appreciating the Shaza Fatima Khawaja and key role of the private relevant senior officials at-

ernor Raza Bagir, also di- nomic development, the prime minister assured of all-out facilitation by the government for economic

> Federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Ahad Khan Cheema, Dr Musaddik Muhammad Aurangzeb, Awais Ahmed Leghari, ministers of state Ali Pervaiz Malik and

tended the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of an International Consultancy Firm called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

# **Sharjeel Inam Memon says** Mazdoor Card, Kisan Card are revolutionary step by the Sindh government

**Independent Report** KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has stated that the Mazdoor Card and Kisan Card are a revolutionary step by the Sindh government, which will provide facilities to laborers and farmers. When President Asif Ali Zardari was elected for his first term, he launched the Benazir Income Support Program for poor women across Pakistan. Public governments work for the benefit of poor people, and the Sindh government's budget is a testament to this commit-

Speaking to the media outside the Sindh Assembly, Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that the budget presented by the Sindh government has prioritized crucial initiatives, including the largest flood-affected hous-

ing project in Pakistan's amount of funds has been allocated in the budget, with the government of Sindh aiming to build 2.1 million houses for the people. Additionally, the budget includes provisions for every important sector to alleviate the suffering of the people.

Minister Senior Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that on the instructions of Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the budget has allocated funds for installing solar panels in the homes of the poor. Additionally, the minimum salary has been set at 37,000 rupees, taking into account the prevailing economic conditions of the country. The budget also includes special projects for roads,

infrastructure.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari briefed by Sarfraz Bugti, **Balochistan Chief Minister on his government** performance, future plans and other measures regarding solving public problems in the province through video link, in Karachi.

### Political parties must prioritise country's progress: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi called on President Asif Ali Zardari at the Aiwan-e-Sadr here Friday.

During the meeting issues of mutual interest and country's overall situation were discussed in detail.

President Asif Ali Zardari emphasized we need to take Pakistan forward and everyone has to play their role in this regard. He stressed that political parties must prioritize the country's progress and prosperity by fulfilling their democratic and constitutional responsibility. He added we must only think about Pakistan and put aside personal differences

## **Pakistan** dispatches 300 tones relief tranche to conflict-hit Gaza

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) as per the direction of the government of Pakistan dis patched 300 tons of relief goods including medicines, hygiene kits and ration bags to conflict-hit masses of Gaza. According to the NDMA, the Authority dispatched the ninth tranche of relief goods with the sup-port of Al-Khidmat Foundation while continuing the process of sending aid to the people of Gaza

# **Maximum steps being** taken for welfare of media community: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Friday that the government was taking all possible steps for welfare of the regard. media community.

Addressing a cer-emony regarding launch of the health insurance scheme for the journalists, the minister said the journalists.

government had been playing its due role for the welfare of journalists community and he had personally requested the prime minister to take more initiatives in that

The minister requested the All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) to give due rights of the media workers and



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi meeting with President Asif Ali Zardari.

## CJP Qazi Faez Isa says Court reporting is a challenging task ISLAMABAD (INP): new members. Justices

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa said on Friday the culture of mudslinging could not be completely eradicated but it could certainly be reduced. Speaking at the swear-

ing-in ceremony of the Supreme Court Press Association, CJ Isa said judicial reporting was a very challeng-

The chief justice administered the oath to the lamented.

Athar Minallah, Jamal Khan Mandokhail, and Naeem Akhtar Afghan also participated in the ceremony. The chief justice said he and his mother, Saeeda Qazi Isa, used to write articles years ago. In those days, writing involved a lot of research, he said. "It has become very easy to say whatever comes to mind now," the top judge

# Govt reduces petrol, diesel prices to ease inflation pressure Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: The government announced on Friday a significant reduction in petrol and high-speed diesel (HSD) prices for the upcoming fortnight, providing relief to con-

sumers grappling with inflation. Effective from June 15, petrol prices will decrease by Rs10.20 per litre, bringing the new price to Rs258.16 per litre. HSD will see a reduction of Rs2.33 per litre, with the new rate set at Rs267.89 per litre, according to a state-

ment issued by the Prime Minister's Office. Kerosene oil will remain priced at Rs171.61 per litre, and light diesel oil (LDO) will stay at Rs157.32 per litre in the open market.

Petrol is primarily used for cars and motorcycles, while HSD powers heavy vehicles such as trucks and buses, as well as industrial machinery.

# sector in national ecoby former State Bank Gov-

KARACHI: Chairman Port Qasim Authority Rear Admiral (Retd) Syed Hassan Nasir Shah meeting with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori.

# Cleaning of nullahs to be completed before monsoon season: Mayor

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab Friday said that the cleaning of the storm water drains has been started and it will be completed before the monsoon season.

Choking points have been identified and cleaning work of Karachi's 46 major drains has been started simultaneously, he expressed these views during his visit to various storm water drains. Municipal Commissioner Afzal Zaidi and officers concerned were also present. The Mayor Karachi visited the drains in Manzoor Qayyumabad, Colony, Mauripur, Sakhi Hasan, Paposh Nagar, Pahar Ganj, KDA Chowrangi and other areas and issued instructions regarding their cleanliness.

He said that apart from 46 big drains, there are 500 such small drains and cleanliness of which will clear all rainwater in these areas, especially the people of the suburban area will not face any problems.

He said that our effort is that the citizens will face minimal suffering in the monsoon season and the process of drainage of rainwater also be completed quickly, rainwater must be cleared immediately from the main highways so that the flow of traffic is main-

He said that during the rains, the officers concerned and staff should be seen on the roads and I myself will supervise the work during the rainy season.

### Jamal Raisani discusses **Balochistan** politics with **Bilawal Bhutto**

SLAMABAD (APP) Young member national assembly of the Pakistan People's Party, Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani, met with Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Friday to discuss Balochistan's political situation and strategies for strengthening the party. MNA Jamal Khan Raisani highlighted the issues of his Saryab constituency and proposed solutions.

### **T20 World Cup 2024:** Pak eliminated as rain abandons USA, Ireland match

Sports Desk NEW YORK: Pakistan suffered early exit from the T20 World Cup 2024 after USA bagged one point to qualify for the Super Eights following the abandoning of their match against Ireland due to rain.

Pakistan's hopes of qualification to the Super ight Stage in West Indies might remain alive if USA lost against Ireland in today (June 14) match. However rain played spoilsport and both the co-hosts and Ireland bagged one point each.

# Daily Aoice of Masse Independent

# **Budget and politics**

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb on Thursday expressed his 'resolve' to increase Pakistan's tax-to-GDP ratio to 13pc in the next three years. Addressing a post-budget media briefing, he said: "Our basic principle while framing this budget was to expand the tax base.'

Given this statement and his earlier declaration at the launch of the Economic Survey that "countries cannot be run on charity but taxes" it was expected that the new budget would have significant measures to broaden the tax base. The reality of the taxation measures announced by him in the budget, however, does not match his rhetoric. Before we delve into the reasons for this gap, it should be acknowledged that the budget does propose the revocation of certain tax exemptions being enjoyed by certain privileged sectors of the economy. That, though, has been done to raise the annual tax collection to Rs12b.97tr, a sine qua non to qualify for the three-year Extended Fund Facility being sought from the IMF.

One does not have to be a financial wizard to see that the budget still follows the same tried, tested, flopped and, therefore, oft-rejected trope of milking those already in the tax net even more. A large part of the additional revenue measures being proposed target the same two segments the salaried classes and documented businesses — which already pay the bulk of personal and direct taxes.

At best, the government can only hope that its proposal to levy higher taxes on non-filers trying to buy or sell property will force them to join the tax net voluntarily. At worst, it will force more people to engage in cash transactions and, thus, increase tax evasion.

The next budget, in fact, reflects the ruling PML-N's political concerns more than its economic reform agenda. For one, it has left its traditional support — traders — virtually untouched. Nothing except such political imperatives explain why the finance minister did not levy any direct taxes on retail trade even when the government has talked a lot about it of late.

Similarly, while there is a proposal to levy federal excise duty on property, real estate devel opers and agents have been shielded from any additional tax burden. This, too, stems from political expediency: the PML-N cannot afford to anger the middle class other than those sections that have already turned against it. The budget, therefore, lacks both imagination and courage. It shows that the finance team did not envision any structural changes to broaden the tax-to-GDP ratio and, instead, chose to stick to old formulae. It also shows that the ruling party is scared of taking bold steps lest it loses whatever little public support and legitimacy it has. Consequently, the budget it has presented signifies nothing but a lost opportunity to fix the system.

# A helping hand

### Zubeida Mustafa

Saturday June 15, 2024

In a country without institutionalised social security, how do people of limited means survive in an emergency? A wage earner might lose his job unexpectedly, a young woman with small children may be widowed, or a serious illness might strike. The well-to-do have their savings and insurance to help them tide over the emergency. But for the indigent, the options are limited. At best, they can beg, borrow or steal.

that the social network system has assumed great significance. Many large communities existed even before Pakistan, such as the Ismailis, Memons, etc. Several biradaris are relatively new, having been formalised after 1947 when populations were uprooted and needed support. The fact is that communities have stepped in to fill the vacuum created by the failure of the state to provide economic and social security to its citizens. A well-known community is the Saudagrani-Delhi

These communities

are structured div-e-rsely and perform complex functions. I lea-rnt more about them from Seema Liaquat of the Anjuman-i-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen, Partabgarh [Awadh]. Seema's father died in 1974. She is grateful to the AIMPG as it came to her mother's rescue when she Kha--lq being its most imwas left with four young children. The community assigned her a stipend, which arrived, without fail, every month at her doorstep until her eldest son began to work and support the family. "When my mother requested for the stipend to be discontinued, a committee member was dispatched to check if all was well," Seema re-

The AIMPG is an urban community though its founding members traced their origins to varivillages

especially the US support

during the initial days of

countries both in times of

cluded the fraternity of

households of the area.

Following partition, 100-odd Part-ab-gar-hians migrated to Karachi to test the greener pastures promised by the Muslim League. Then followed the migration of families. Meanwhile, the sight of a woman from Partabgarh begging on a Karachi street upset the pioneers so much that they decided to set up a welfare society It is in this context in 1955 so that no one would have to beg. The idea was also to connect members with relatives

with whom they had lost

touch. There was no look-

ing back after that.

The community's membership has risen to 6,000, comprising a number of highly educated and socially and economically well-placed individuals. It had started as a group of illiterate men, mostly unskilled workers such as gardeners, peons, drivers and chowkidars. The Anjuman now boasts a 99 per cent literacy rate and has PhD doctors, a veterinarian, an MPhil (to be), an MNA, two MPAs and lawvers in its ranks. For many, it has been a story of from rags to

I was impressed by the AIMPG's self-help spirit. Its focus has been on humanitarian service, the Shoba-i-Khidmat-iportant department. When I asked the organisation's president Khalil Qureshi what he took most pride in, he replied: "We have delivered stipends or assistance to those on our list on the first of the month for the last 69 years without fail. Today, 82 families between them receive Rs1,000,000 every

Mr Oureshi, who is commercial manager at Port Qasim, also speaks proudly of the 60-bedded of Awadh General Hospital, tesy Dawn

Partabgarh, a district of a healthcare centre and Awadh. It was not based the Awadh Public School exclusively on common that provides education paternal descent but in- to 400 children — 100 of them receiving fee sub-

> The Anjuman raises its own funds. The membership fee is a token one rupee, which was fixed in 1955. But members and non-member beneficiaries are generous with their zakat, fitra and other do-

> The administ-r-ation structu-r--ed democratical--ly. It is divided into 19 wards in the city (Karachi) with a representative to monitor the well-being of the members under his jurisdiction. Above the wardens is a three-member council consisting of a president, general secretary and finance secretary assisted by an auditor. Elections are held every two years.

Events held periodically are well-attended and help the members bond. Membership is entirely voluntary and those who choose to join demonstrate a strong sense of brotherhood, which means a lot in a country that has failed to give its people a sense of ownership. The AIMPG has been progressive in its outlook and had managed generational change effectively. No wonder all children are attending schools, and the emancipation and empowerment of women in an extremely patriarchal community has proceeded smoothly. How does the government feel about such communities? Obviously, it welcomes them because they are apolitical and do not challenge the state's power. The wealthier com-

munities contribute a lot of fish. to the national economy. But with membership hardly amounting to anything in a country of 241 million, the communities pository. make no impact on the social security situation in the country. -- Cour-

# Protecting the coast

### **Umar Farooq**

Pakistan's coastal and marine ecosystems, such as the Indus delta, Karachi's mangroves, and the Makran coast, are not merely scenic beauties but foundational to the country's environmental and economic stability. The Indus delta mangroves alone encompass about hectares (321,237 acres) serving as vital carbon sinks that store approximately 14.4 million tonnes of carbon annually. Yet, toring the health of the connect-i--on to the these ecosystems face critical threats — industrial pollution, rampant overfishing, and the overarching impacts of climate change compromise their ability to perform essential functions. In Karachi, the un-

checked discharge of industrial pollutants has severe consequences on its marine ecosystems. Notably, the city's release of about 90 per cent of its untreated wastewater into the Arabian Sea introduces pollutants such as heavy metals and hydrocarbons, with the tanning industry releasing toxins that have water treatment plants been shown to damage sensitive mangrove roots and reduce the water quality, affecting the health of fish and other marine life. The recent controversial construction of the expressway along the route of the Malir river, the treatment of wasteposes a direct threat to these ecosystems re- and sulting in increased sedimentation that might suffocate the mangrove forests, which are crucial nurseries for many species

One solution to these problems is the establishment of a national marine data recentralised data system and hefty fines for nonwould enable better compliance, ensuring a afford to ignore. -- Cour-

accurate and timely information on pollution levels, biodiversity health, and the effectiveness of conservation efforts. The data on pollution levels, including concentrations of heavy metals and chemicals from industrial discharges, will help identify pollution hotspots and guide regulatory enforcement. Biodiversity data, tracking species populamangroves and coral reefs through satellite imagery, and field surveys and data on water quality indicators such as pH, dissolved oxygen, and nutrient levels the broader environ-

mental health of the blue ecosystems. Strengthening regulatory frameworks is essential to addressing the threats faced by Pakistan's marine ecosystems. One specific policy would be the introduction of a 'marine pollution control act' which would mandate industrial facilities to instal and maintain wasteto remove harmful pollutants before discharge. The act should be reinforced with the insetting and offsetting suring justice means of toxin release. Additionally, a permit system for factories along the coast, mandating water before the release that honour their roles catchment restoration, should be introduced. This would be in the form of 'marine credits' for funding coral reef stand." Just as the tides restoration or seagrass meadow rehabilitation, which could then be used to offset their pollution footprints. These permits would be linked This to regular inspections management and moni- deterrent effect that tesy Dawn

toring of marine envi- would encourage inronments by providing dustries to adopt cleaner practices.

Community volvement is equally critical for sustainable outcomes. Local and indigenous communities, which have depended on Pakistan's coastal and marine ecosystems for generations, are often overlooked in policymaking processes. These communities are key stakeholders, possessing invaluable traditional tions and health, moni- knowledge and a deep environm-e--nt. Yet, policymakers from urban centres frequently impose re--gulations without con---sulting them, leading to ineffective would help in tracking un--sustainable made by genuinely en-

outco-m--es. progress can only be gaging these communities, earning their trust, and implementing tailored awareness campaigns where needed. Without their involvement, no policy will be effective or enforce-

Looking at international examples, community-led initiatives were one of the key components in the success of Marine Protected Areas, helped revitalise coral reefs. Enrecognising these communities' rights, incorporating their insights, and creating inclusive conservation strategies investment in as stewards of the environment. In the words of a local fisherman, "We protect what we love, and we love what we undersustain the shores, so, too, we must sustain our efforts to protect these vital ecosystems. For the future of our oceans, and the communities that depend on them, is a shared responsibility we cannot

# Commerce News

# Masood Khan urges greater US investment in Pakistan, trade to boost bilateral ties

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Masood Khan, has called for greater American investment in art products, you have 240 partnership of the two Pakistan and more trade between the two countries in an effort to further strengthen their relations.

Speaking at the World Affairs Council in Philadelphia, he urged US businesses to increase their investment portfolios, especially in tech-startups, renewable energy, regional stability. In this agriculture and extractive regard, he focused on the industries.

"Pakistan is a big market for American manufacturers," ambassador told a gathering of scholars, policy-makers

legislators, entrepreneurs, Pak-US business leaders and professionals. "If you manufacture state-of-the- Pakistan and the robust million consumers in Pakistan," he said.

dealt with Pak-US relations, war on terror, recalibration of their bilateral ties in the post-withdrawal relations and the issues of existing investment and trade between the two countries that provided new sinews to the relationship. te relationship. investing in future Tracing the roots of technologies," he said.

war and peace, the In his remarks, Ambassador presented a Ambassador Masood Khan holistic view of the ties spanning over seven decades, saying the two countries are now investing people-centric period, Pakistan-India diplomacy. "We have a big human capital and it is growing. Pakistan is digitally connected with the rest of opportunities the world and it is tech savvy, with hundreds of

> Shipping activity at Port Qasim

institutions which are

KARACHI (APP):Three ships namely, Beijing, Victorian Kosan and Xin Hai Tong-23 carrying Containers, Chemicalsand Coal, berthed at Container Terminal, Engro Terminal and Bulk Terminal respectively on Thursday.

Meanwhile three more ships, Bristol Trader, Two Million Ways and Magique Marline with Chemicals, Gas oil and Stell coil also arrived at outer anchorage of the port during the last 24 hours.

A total of seven ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them four ships, Beijing, Victorian Kosan, Asia Inspire and Hafnia Excellence are expected to sail on today afternoon.Cargo volume of143,392 tonnes, comprising 106,111 tonnes imports cargo and 37,281 tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 2,206 Containers (13 TEUs Imports and 2,193 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours. Three ships are at outer anchorage, out of them two ships namely Bristol Trader and Two Million Ways & another ship Eleoussa carrying Chemicals, Gas oil



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja exchanging views with Julian Gorman, GSMAs Head of Asia Pacific during meeting held in Islamabad.

# **Envoy Tirmizi, UAE minister** discuss insurance, facilitation of Pakistani workers

DUBAI Ambassador of Pakistan to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Faisal Niaz Tirmizi on Friday met with the UAE's Minister of Human Resources and Emiratisation Abdulrahman Abdulmannan Al Awar wherein they discussed the issues of mutual interests especially those pertaining

Ambassador Tirmizi conveyed regards and gratitude on behalf of and country by sending

to Pakistani diaspora

working in the multiple

Federal Minister for remittances back home. Overseas Pakistanis and Resource Development, Chaudhry Salik Hussain to Dr. Abdulrahman Abdulmannan Al Awar. He lauded and thanked the leadership of the UAE for reposing great trust in

Pakistan as a brotherly and friendly country. He appreciated the government and people of the UAE for hosting about 1.7 million Pakistanis who were supporting their families

Pakistanis in the UAE's development, and the tremendous potential and opportunities for further enhancing cooperation in various fields. The meeting focused or enhancing collaboration aiming at the efficiency in visa processing, screening, attestation of documents, and others, with a view to facilitating Pakistanis

the significant role played by

### seeking jobs in the UAE. Rupee gains 9 paisa against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP) Pakistan Rupee on Friday gained 9 paisa against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.50 against the previous day's closing at Rs 278.59. According to the

Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market, however, were Rs 277.6 and Rs 280.5 respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased by Rs 3.06 to close at Rs 298.22 against the last day's closing of Rs

### transforming Pak into digital economy: Shaza ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan, GSMA, Saira Faisal was also present

**Govt committed for** 

Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja here on Friday said that the government is committed for digitalization and transform Pakistan into Digital economy

During the meeting with GSMA's Head of Asia Pacific Julian Gorman matters related to digital transformation, and upcoming GSMA Digital Nation Summit were discussed said a news

Country Digital Transformation,

in the meeting.

She said Ministry of IT will play pivotal role in GSMA Digital Nation Summit. Ministry of IT & Telecom will extend full support and facilitation regarding GSMA Digital Nation Summit to be held on August 7.

Julian Gorman expressed his gratitude to MoITT for their support of the GSMA Digital Nation Summit in August and assured full support to the government in their digitization journey.



ISLAMABAD: President of Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Atif Ikram Shaikh addressing a press conference at his office in the Federal Capital.

# **Pakistan Food Festival** Inaugurated at Shangri-La Hotel, Chengdu BEIJING (APP): The Office, Vice President

Pakistan Food Festival was inaugurated on Friday at the prestigious Shangri-La Hotel in Chengdu, celebrating the rich culinary heritage and diverse flavors of Pakistan.

The festival with signature Muslim cuisine is jointly being presented by Shangri-La Chengdu and Pakistan Consulate General in Chengdu.

The event saw the participation of several distinguished guests and officials, including Director General Zhang Tao of the Sichuan Foreign Affairs Office, Director General Jiang Bin of the Chengdu Foreign Affairs

Tang Jilan of the Sichuan People's Association of Friendship with Foreign Countries, Vice President Wang Guangjun of the China Council for Promotion of Investment and Trade - Sichuan Branch, Song Junwu, Deputy Director General of the Sichuan Provincial People's Department of Culture and Tourism, He Di, Director of the Office of International and Overseas Chinese Affairs Committee of the Sichuan Provincial People's Congress, and Thomas Gou, Assistant General Manager of Shangri-La

# with Eid-ul-Azha at Resham Bazaar. Indonesia embassy, **ACI hosts 'ASEAN** Movie Night'

HYDERABAD: Family busy in selecting and

purchasing sandal on a roadside stall in connection

ISLAMABAD (APP): rich cultural ties and The Embassy of the immense similarities Republic of Indonesia, in between Indonesia and collaboration with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Committee in Islamabad (ACI) has hosted a Hindiarta in his ASEAN Movie Night welcoming remarks event featuring the awardwinning Indonesian film distinguished guests from "Ngeri-Ngeri Sedap", the diplomatic and directed by the Indonesian Pakistani community that Producer Bene Dion Rajagukguk.

The event was a continuously bolstering delightful fusion of cinema friendship among ASEAN and cuisine, celebrating the family members

Pakistan.

On this occasion, the Indonesia Chargé d' Affaires (CDA) Rahmat apprised the ASEAN Movie Night reflects the spirit of

inflow

and Coal

# **RDA** inflows rise to \$8.055 bn in May 24 ISLAMABAD (APP): March and US\$ 182

remittances under Roshan Digital Account (RDA) has risen to US \$8.055 billion by the end of May 2024 as compared to US \$7.831 billion by April (2024)

Pakistan (SBP). The number of The data showed accounts registered that the inflows of under the programme also rose by 12,960 to were recorded at US\$ 224 million as compared to US\$ 171 million in

of million in February 2024. These accounts provide innovative banking solutions to millions of Non-Resident Pakistanis (NRPs), including Non-Resident Pakistan Origin Card (POC) holders, seeking end, according to the to undertake banking, latest data released by payment, and investment the State Bank of activities in Pakistan.

> 702,610 in May 2024 from 689,650 accounts in April 2024

**Punjab Governor says:** 

# **Sundus Foundation** doing great work for thalassemia patients

**Independent Report** 

LAHORE: The Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan today visited Sundus Foundation on World Blood Donor Day. He met children suffering from thalassemia and hemophilia. Governor Punjab also donated blood on this occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that donating blood for people suffering from lifethreatening diseases is a great service to the humanity. He said that Sundus Foundation is doing great work for thalassemia patients. Governor Punjab Foundation and other such charitable organizations

said that blood donation is reach the rightful persons. a hope of new life for people suffering from lifethreatening diseases including children suffering from thalassemia and hemophilia. Sardar Saleem Haider said that millions of patients get new lives every year through blood donation while it is like thalassemia. The harmless for the persons Governor of Punjab said harmless for the persons Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that Sundas Foundation has noble cause. He said that a good repute as a reliable as the chancellor he would organization which is

serving the persons

suffering from thalassemia

and hemophilia. He said

that the people have faith

LAHORE: Provincial Minister of Punjab for

Finance Mian Mujtaba Shuja-ur- Rehman

addressing during pre-budget press conference in the Provincial Capital.

PTI founder enjoying

lavish lifestyle in jail: Azma

In the last eight along with a separate months, the PTI founder kitchen.

lawyers meet him thrice a allowed to meet his people

week, the minister said only once a week on

Provincial Information

Minister Azma Bokhari

said on Friday that

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

(PTI) founder was enjoying

a lavish in jail, as six jail

cells had been vacated for

met 288 people in jail, she

added. His family and his

while rebutting Barrister Thursday.

(APP): Saif's statement.

stretching

She said Imran Khan

had been provided with

TV, room-cooler, study

table, chair, exercise bike,

bookshelves, books and

a separate space for

walking twice a day,

Mian Nawaz Sharif was

She recalled that

which are serving humanity in Sundus Foundation that should be encouraged. He their donated blood would Governor Puniab said

that Sundas Foundation has state of the art system for blood screening and tests which is on a par with the international standards. He He said that Sundas Foundation has also test facility to prevent diseases donate blood. that he appeals to the Speaking to the media, the public, especially the youth, through the media, to donate blood for the also issue special instructions to set up blood banks in the universities to motivate students to donate blood.

### Coaster accident claims one life, leaves injured

ABBOTTABAD (APP): At least one person was cilled and several others injured when the brakes of a coaster carrying students and teachers of Haripur Rehana Umar Islamic Public School failed at Batangi Mor Bagnotar in Abbottabad on Thursday.

According to rescue sources, the coaster carrying 42 students and 8 teachers met with an accident in which 12 people were injured.

Rescue 1122 shifted the injured to the Ayub Teaching Hospital (ATH)
Abbottabad.

Unfortunately, one injured student could not survive and succumbed to injuries, and the condition of four patients remains critical, while others injured are stable. The injured were identified as Zahid, Imran, Mah Noor. Riyadh, Noor Fatima, Fiza Sharif, Anabia, Ayesha, Shanza, Manahil Aziz, and Khizra Waris. Mazhar Igbal, a resident of Darband Khelabat lost his life in the

accident.



# **Punjab health ministers** stress collective responsibility in dengue control

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Ministers Khawaja Salman Rafique and Khawaia Imran Nazir have emphasised that combating dengue is a collective responsibility of all stakeholders, not just one department.

They made these remarks while chairing a crucial meeting on dengue, infectious diseases, and disaster management at the Civil Secretariat, on Friday. Minister Khawaja

the need for commissioners and deputy commissioners to actively monitor antidengue operations. He urged religious

scholars to raise public

awareness about dengue during Jummah prayers and called for increased dengue surveillance in Lahore, Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, and Multan. "All departments must be mobilized at the district level to tackle the dengue threat

Salman Rafique stressed effectively. The health department implementing comprehensive plan to

prevent dengue and other diseases, with the timely revamping of major hospitals being a top priority," he stated. To date, Punjab has reported 170 confirmed dengue cases this year. He also mentioned the

availability of ample dengue medicines in government hospitals.

# **KP** Governor lauds peformance of national health services academy

(APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Faisal Karim Kundi on Friday visited Health Services Academy Islamabad where he lauded its performance. Upon arrival, the Governor was received by Vice Chancellor of the Academy, Dr Shahzad Ali Khan, says a statement of Governor house.

He was accompanied Member Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Kundi. The Ahmad Governor visited different departments of the National Health Services Academy

working under an aegies of Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination. He was briefed on it's over all performance and its future projects. While appreciating

performance of the national services Islamabad, the Governor said that the academy can play an effective role in elimination and healthcare facilities to the

unemployment provision of better remote and far flung areas of Khyber Pakthunkhwa.



LAHORE: Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan donating blood for children suffering from thalassemia and hemophilia during his visit to Sundus Foundation on World Blood Donor Day.

# Punjab presented tax-free budget with largest ADP: ministers

Pakistan Muslim League-(PML-N) Punjab government has presented a tax-free and surplus budget of Rs 5,446 billion, having the largest ADP (Annual Development Programme) for fiscal year 2024-25, mainly focusing social sector, infrastructure development, production sectors, services sectors,

and special initiatives for

people's welfare and poverty alleviation. This budget is not an exaggeration of figures but a consolidated document that has full cash cover and it is the outcome of the effective and well-thoughout policies of the incumbent government.

LAHORE (APP): The particularly the provincial own revenue receipts, will ensure complete utilisation of the ADP, thus ensuring maximum relief to the common man.

Provincial Senior Minister for Planning and Development (P&D) Marriyum Aurangzab and Provincial Finance Minister Mian Mujtaba Shuja-ur-Rehman stated this while addressing the post-budget conference, here on Friday.

The senior minister said that now the elected government was in place and "we have shun politics for the sake of politics and blame game, and we will have to make joint efforts for people's well-being". The opposition has the The full cash cover due to constitutional right of

government welcome its objections which deemed better for the people and the country, she added

She said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, the Punjab government was putting in order comprehensive measures such as promotion of information technology, skill development among youth, women, transgender community and the minorities. The priority sectors of the government are Education, Health, IT, Agriculture, infrastructure, and law and order. She elaborated that the government has allocated more funds for the above sectors, stating that Health Sector has been allocated a

ADP of Rs 129 billion; Education sector was allocated Rs 670 billion with Rs 66 billion ADP; Local Governments to get Rs 321 billion with Rs 62 billion ADP; Agriculture budget is Rs 117 billion with Rs 65 ADP; Rs 375 billion would be spent on infrastructure; and Rs 220

lion on Law and Order. During the next financial year, she said, the government will also give subsidy in various sectors including Agriculture Rs 26.6 billion; Transport Rs 24.3 billion; and Rs 100 billion for the special initiatives. Finance Minister Mian Mujtaba said that Rs 842 billion ADP was 28 per cent higher than the outgoing FY 2023-24 containing Rs 655

of the development budget, he elaborated, 33 per cent would be spent on Social Sector, 29 per cent on Infrastructure, 13 per cent on Production Sector, and per cent on Services Sector, while 20 per cent would go to Special Programmes/Initiatives.

The finance minister said that total revenue collection was estimated at Rs 4643.40 billion; Rs 3,683.10 billion will be received from federal divisible pool; provincial receipts (Own Resource Revenue) are estimated at Rs 960.30 billion (54 per cent higher than the current fiscal year) for financial year 2024-25, while Non-Tax Revenues are estimated at Rs 488.40 billion (111 per cent higher surplus revenue receipts, criticism and the total of Rs 539 billion with billion on this count. Out than the current FY).

# International News

# **Putin demands more** Ukrainian land to end war; Kyiv rejects 'ultimatum'

Vladimir Putin said on Friday Russia would end the war in Ukraine only if Kyiv agreed to drop its NATO ambitions and hand over the entirety of four provinces claimed by Moscow, demands Kyiv swiftly rejected as tantamount to surrender.

On the eve of a conference in Switzerland to which Russia has not been invited, Putin set out maximalist conditions wholly at odds with the terms demanded by Ukraine, apparently reflecting Moscow's growing confidence that its forces have the upper hand in the war. He restated his demand Ukraine's demilitarisation, unchanged

from the day he sent in his troops on Feb. 24, 2022, and said an end to Western

**Monitoring Desk** 

GUWAHATI: At least six

people have been killed

this week and around 2,000

tourists stranded in India's

Himalayan state of Sikkim

in landslides and floods af-

ter incessant rainfall, offi-

have been killed in Nepal's

Taplejung district, which

borders Sikkim, after a

landslide following rains

swept away the house in

which they were sleeping,

landslides at several loca-

tions in Mangan district,

which covers north Sikkim

and lies about 100 km (60

miles) north of the state

capital Gangtok, the local

government of the north-

tinuously for 36 hours.

The road to north Sikkim

has been damaged in mul-

'It's been raining con-

eastern Indian state said.

Heavy rains triggered

officials there said.

Another four people

cials said on Friday.

sanctions must also be part

He also repeated his Ukraine's "denazification", based on what Kyiv calls an unfounded slur against its leadership. Ukraine said the conditions were "absurd".

"He is offering for Ukraine to admit defeat. He is offering for Ukraine to legally give up its territories to Russia. He is offering for

Ukraine to sign away its geopolitical sovereignty," Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykĥailo Podolyak told Reuters.

President Volodymyr Zelenskiy told Italy's SkyTG24 news channel: "These are ultimatum messages that are no different from messages from the U.S. Defense Secre-

tary Lloyd Austin told re-Heavy rain, landslides

tiple locations, snapping

connection to the district,

said Hem Kumar Chettri

the district magistrate of

ists are all safe but we have

not been able to evacuate

them because of the dam-

age," he said, adding that

11 of them were foreign

The small Buddhist state of 650,000 people,

wedged between Bhutan,

China and Nepal, is a popu-

lar tourist destination but

also faces natural disasters

caused by extreme weather

events in the Himalayas. At

least 179 people died last

year in Sikkim when a Hi-

malayan glacial lake out-

burst triggered floods. Per-

sonnel and machinery have

been deployed to fix the

road, Chettri said, adding

that the damage was "ex-

tensive" and repair will take

nationals.

The stranded tour-

kill 6 in India's Sikkim,

2,000 tourists stranded

porters at NATO headquarters in Brussels: "He (Putin) is not in any position to dictate to Ukraine what they must do to bring about peace." The timing of Putin's speech was clearly intended to preempt the Swiss summit, billed as a 'peace conference" despite Russia's exclusion, where Zelenskiy seeks a show of international support for Kyiv's terms to end the

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy is meeting world leaders for a summit this weekend.

"The conditions are very simple," Putin said, listing them as the full withdrawal of Ukrainian troops from the entire territory of the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions in eastern and southern

# Finland will host a NATO land command

in Brussels.

Monitoring Desk HELSINKI: Finland will host a new land command unit of the NATO military alliance, Minister of Defence Antti Hakkanen told reporters on Friday following a meeting of the alliance

and troops

After decades of military non-alignment, Finland joined NATO last year in response to neighbouring Russia's invasion of Ukraine. "I'm pleased to state that today all NATO member states have given their political consent to Finland's key goals in its NATO integration,'

Hakkanen said. "Finland will host a NATO command and there will be land force presence in Finland," he added. Hakkanen said the Finnish NATO command will have as a task to direct land warfare operations in northern Europe and in Scandinavia.



the Russian foreign ministry in Moscow, Russia.

# **Huthi missile attack** severely injures sailor on cargo ship: US military

**Monitoring Desk** DUBAI: Two cruise missiles launched by Yemen's Huthi rebels struck a bulk cargo carrier in the Gulf of Aden on Thursday, severely injuring a sailor who was evacuated by American forces, the US military said.

The Huthis have been targeting vessels in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden since November 2023 in attacks they say are in solidarity with Palestinians during the ongoing Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

Although this has caused major disruption to international shipping, CENTCOM said.

The M/V Verbena a Palauan-flagged, Ukrainian-owned, Polish-operated ship—"reported damage and subsequent fires on board. The crew continues to fight the fire. One civilian mariner was severely injured during the attack," the US Cen-Command

statement. "Aircraft from USS Philippine Sea (CG 58) medically evacuated the injured mariner to a partner force ship nearby for medical

(CENTCOM) said in a

him as 21-year-old Qais

# Over half of cropland in Gaza has been damaged, says UN

**Monitoring Desk** 

GENEVA: More than half of Gaza's agricultural land, crucial for feeding the warravaged territory's hungry population, has been degra-ded by conflict, satellite images analysed by the United Nations show.

The data reveals a rise in the destruction of orchards, field crops and vegetables in the Palesti-nian enclave, where hunger is widespread after eight

months of Israeli bombardment. The World Health Organisation warned on Wednesday that many people in Gaza were facing 'catastrophic hunger and famine-like conditions".

Using satellite imagery taken between May 2017 and 2024, United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) found that 57 per cent of Gaza's.

# **Palestinians** say Israeli **West Bank** raid kills 3

**Monitoring Desk** QABATIYAH: Palestinian officials said Israeli troops killed three Palestinians in a raid in a town in the occupied West Bank Thursday, as Israel's military reported it had "eliminated two wanted suspects"

The raid took place in the town of Qabatiyah near the city of Jenin, said Jenin governor Kamal Abu al-Rub who confirmed the "deaths of two martyrs' The Palestinian Red

Crescent said a third Palestinian was also killed in the The Ramallah-based health ministry identified

Muhammad Zakarneh. Hamas' armed wing says Israeli airstrike killed

### two hostages in Rafah **Monitoring Desk**

CAIRO: Hamas' armed wing al-Qassam Brigades said on Friday that two Israeli hostages held in Gaza were killed in an Israeli airstrike on Rafah a few days ago. The group, in a video posted on its Telegram channel, did not release the names of those said to have been killed or provide any evidence

# that humans must not lose control of AI **Monitoring Desk**

Pope Francis tells G7

Francis became the first pontiff to address a Group of Seven summit on Friday, warning world leaders that Artificial Intelligence must never be allowed to get the upper hand over humanity.

An array of global chiefs warmly embraced the 87-year-old pope as he made his way around their huge oval table, pushed in a wheelchair as age and infirmity limit his mobility.

The pope said AI represented an "epochal transformation" for mankind, but stressed the need for close oversight of the ever-developing technology to preserve human life and dignity.

'No machine should ever choose to take the life of a human being," he said, adding that people should not let superpowerful algorithms decide their des-

"We would condemn humanity to a future with- President Joe Biden.

**Monitoring Desk** 

out hope if we took away people's ability to make decisions about themselves and their lives, by dooming them to depend on the choices of ma-

chines," he warned.
The G7 draws together the leaders of the United States, Germany, Britain, France, Italy, Canada and Japan

In addition, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, the summit host invited 10 other nations to join the talks on Friday, including the prime minister of India and presidents of Turkey and

On entering the conference room ahead of his speech, Francis was warmly enveloped by a fellow Argentine, President Javier Milei, received a hug from Jordan's King Abdullah, a kiss from Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and had a long, whispered conversation with U.S.

# Putin is in no position to make demands of Ukraine for peace, US defense secretary says

BRUSSELS: Russian President Vladimir Putin is in no position to make demands on Ukraine to end the war, U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said on Friday, as he touted Kyiv's military successes confronting Moscow's full-scale invasion. Putin said earlier on Friday that Russia would end the war in Ukraine only if Kyiv agreed to drop its NATO ambitions, hand over the entirety of four provinces claimed by Moscow, and carry out a demilitarization. "He is not in any position to dictate to Ukraine

ters in Brussels. Russia controls nearly a fifth of Ukrainian territory in the third year of the war. Ukraine says peace can only be based on the full withdrawal of Russian

what they must do to bring

about peace," Austin told re-

porters at NATO headquar-

forces and the restoration of its territorial integrity.

"He's had some hundreds of thousands of troops wounded and killed in this unjust and unprovoked invasion. He could end this today if he if he chose to do that. And we call upon him to do that and to leave Ukrainian sovereign territory," Austin said.

In his address, Putin said "the future existence of Ukraine" depended on it withdrawing its forces, on it adopting a neutral status, and on beginning talks with Russia, and said Kyiv's military situation would worsen if it rejected the offer. The timing of Putin's speech was clearly intended to preempt Ukraine's Swiss summit, billed as a "peace conference" despite Russia's exclusion, where President

Ukrainian Volodymyr Zelenskiy seeks a show of international support for Kyiv's terms to end the war.

# **Upper House witnesses** mix reaction over **budget 2024-25**

Senate on Friday witnessed mix reaction on the budget friendly oriented. as the treasury benches termed it pro-people and relief orientated while the opposition called for reviewing increase in tax on salaried class besides giving more relief to the masses.

Resuming debate on the budget, Senator Raja Nasir Abbas of MWMP said that no relief was given to the poor masses in the

He said that sufficient fund was also not allocated for education and health sectors. The budget lacked future economic plan, he

He said problems of industries should be addressed on priority basis as it played key role in country's exports.

Increase in petroleum levy would further cause inflation in the country, he

LAHORE: Federal Minister for education and pro-

fessional training Dr Khalid Magbool Siddigui talk-

ing to media after visits Pakistan Institute of Fash-

MoEF, WAPDA sign

agreement for Mohmand

**Dam Hydropower Project** 

lion for the Mohmand Dam of the Kuwait Fund's com-

Google team to visit

Pak soon for cooperation

in education, tech field

ISLAMABAD (APP): a news release.

represented WAPDA, said US\$ 25 million.

ion and design at Johar Town.

The Ministry of Economic

Affairs (MoEA) and Water

and Power Development

Authority (WAPDA) on

Friday signed a Subsidiary Loan Agreement (SLA)

amounting to US\$ 25 mil-

Gen. (Retd.) Sajjad Ghani,

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Federal Ministry of Education and Vocational

Training has announced

that a high-level team from

Google will visit Pakistan

soon to explore possible cooperation in the fields of

education and technology.

Ministry of Education, the

purpose of the Google

team's visit to Pakistan is

to improve educational out-

comes and increase access

to quality education, espe-

cially for out-of-school chil-

dren. The visit follows a re-

According to the

Hydropower Project.

ISLAMABAD (APP): the government should made the budget people-

Sarmad Ali of PPP said that the country was facing severe economic crisis and we have limited resources and fiscal space. Our over 50 per cent revenue collection spent on debt servicing, he added. He said proposed tax on papers would education and newspaper

Sadia Abbasi of PML-N said the government should review proposed increase in tax on salaried class and provide maximum relief to the common

people in the budget. She said government's policy should be pro-people, pro-business and pro-agriculture. She also suggested that the government should control its expenditure.

Dr Zarqa Suharwardy Taimur of PTI termed the Maulana Atta ur budget pro-elite rather than Rehman of JUI-F said that pro-people.

Ambassador of Ku-

This significant fi-

wait in Pakistan Nassai

Abdulrahman Jasser Al.

Mutairi graced the cer-

emony with his presence.

nancing comes as a result

quest from the Ministry of Federal Education to

Google to support

Pakistan's efforts to create

a digitally enabled educa-

Google have already con-

ducted preliminary work

and are excited about the

potential for collaboration,

Advance teams from

tion system.

it added.

school children

She said tax has increased on the salaried class particularly on grade 1-16

She claimed that exemption was given to the elite class in the budget.

liament and elite class, she

start from its own door. She welcomed an increase in minimum wages of

He said that it would take time to clear mess created by PTI government during 2018-2022.

### Mohsin Naqvi calls on Fazlur Rehman

SLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Interior Affairs and Narcotics Control Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi called on Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman at his residence in Islamabad on Friday.

According to media reports, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi inquired about Maulana Fazlur Rehman's health during the meeting. During the visit, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi expressed his best wishes for Maulana Fazlur Rehman and said, "I am praying for your health and safety." Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi mentioned that he has a long-standing relationship of 25 years with Maulana Fazlur Rehman, based on respect and honour.

### Court discharges **Imran Riaz** from case

mitment to extend a total LAHORE (Online): Local The Secretary, Minis- of US\$ 100 million to suptry of Economic Affairs, Dr. Kazim Niaz, signed on be-Hydropower Project. The court of Lahore has ordered to discharge and release Anchorperson Imran Riaz half of the Ministry, while chairman WAPDA, Lt. total financing will be disbursed through four equal from the case of interference in state affairs.

Police Imran Riaz in the court for physical remand

Police took the plea the accused was arrested a day before being nominated in FIR. The other accused have to be arrested on indication of the accused, therefore, 10 days physical remand in respect of Imran Riaz be granted.

### Man who robbed pan shop in police van was DSP himself

KARACHI (INP): The ministry also said that a national workshop shocking twist has emerged was organized with stakein the robbery case at a pan shop in Karachi's Gulshanholders to explore technole-Iqbal area. Initial reports ogy solutions for out-ofclaimed that the perpetrator was the son of a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), but investigations have revealed that the culprit is actually the DSP himself.

> Sources privy to the new developments have revealed that the investigation uncovered a significant revelation: the DSP himself, identified as DSP Zafar, committed the robbery while driving a police mo-

According to sources, DSP Zafar was assigned the mobile two years ago. The investigation team tracked the mobile's location using a tracker, confirming its presence at the crime scene during the robbery. The victim has also identified DSP Zafar.

### **Speedy water** tanker crushes two bikers to death in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Two motorcyclists were dead and one was injured when a speedy water tanker hit them near Safoora Chowrangi in Karachi on Friday.

According to police, both the deceased persons belong to the law enforcement agency.

However, the dead bodies were shifted to mortuary of Jinnah Hospital while the third injured person was shifted to the hos-



KARACHI: A large number of people gather for boarding on special Eid train as they are going to their native areas for celebrate upcoming festival Eid-ul-Azha with their family members, at Cantt Railway Station in Karachi.

# Dr. Khalid Maqbool stresses future-ready education

tion that will be essential in

Talking to the media at the Pakistan Institute of Fashion and Design (PIFD) here on Friday, he mentioned that a significant portion of our population consisted of youth, and they were our future. He stated that the government is aware of its responsibilities and has declared an education emergency to educate the youth, adding that we should provide an education that will be relevant

in ten years. In response to a question about the 18th Amend-

He suggested that tax should not be based on areas, industry and agriculture, rather, it should be on

# Pakistan gets permanent membership of Washington Accord

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan has made history, becoming permanent member of Washington Accord for

International Engineering Alliance (IEA) approved the extension in Pakistan's membership during its 2-day session at New Delhi.

The IEA unanimously approved the Pakistan's membership in Washington

However, a delegation of Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) couldn't attend the IEA session as India rejected the visas and NOC to Pakistani delegarejection of visas to Pakistani delegation was to halt positive lobbing of Paki-

Meanwhile, China, Turkiye, and Hong Kong supported Pakistan in the IEA session

PEC officials attended the IEA session online. PEC Chairman Najeeb Haroon congratulated the Pakistani engineers on the milestone.

He stated that engineering education of Pakistan has been recognized on international stage.

He highlighted that extension in Washington Accord was the result of fruitful efforts of the Engineering Accreditation

It is pertinent to note manent member of Washington Accord, an international forum of engineering

rected the officers of the

health department to find

out the reasons for the poor

performance of the polio

campaign in the union coun-

cils and adopt effective

ficers of the Mirpurkhas

Health Department were

briefed that the cooperation

of the police is needed for

the appointment of transit

points at the entrances and

exits of Mirpurkhas. Addi-

tional Commissioner I, Dr.

Ali Nawaz Bhoot, Deputy

Commissioner Mirpurkhas

Dr. Rashid Masood Khan,

Additional Deputy Com-

missioner I, Mirpurkhas

Ghulam Dastgir Sheikh,

SSP Mirpurkhas Captain

Retd. Asad Ali Chaudhry,

Director Information

Ghulam Raza Khoso, Act-

ing Director Local Govern-

ment Ayaz Ali.

In the meeting, the of-

strategies to solve them.



Mazar of Quaid-e-Azam in the Provincial Capital, after taking charge of Federal Ombudsman (Wafaqi

# DC chairs meeting to review anti-Polio campaign

MIRPURKHAS (APP): during the meeting, also di-Divisional Commissioner Mirpurkhas Faisal Ahmad Uqeli has said that for the success of the polio campaign, understanding and support should be taken

from all stakeholders. This he said while presiding over the meeting regarding the review of advance arrangements to make the polio campaign successful. According to the handout issued here on Friday, he further said that polio is a contagious disease that is very important to eradicate, so solutions to the problems and difficulties faced in connection with the polio campaign should be sought from the elected district council members, union council members, and municipal

corporation members so that any problems and difficulties can be solved. The commissioner,

LARKANA: Members of Sindh Sabha are holding protest demonstration for recovery of innocent girl Pirya Kumari as soon as possible, at Jinnah Bagh

# PM okays massive electricity tariff reduction for industrial

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday approved a massive reduction in electricity tariff for the industrial sector by Rs 10.69 per unit in order to boost production and exports.

sector

In view of the prime minister's initiative, the new electricity price per unit for the industrial and export sector had now been fixed at Rs 34.99, a PM Office press releasé said.

ISLAMABAD (INP) -Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) Chairman Mahmood Khan Achakzai expressed his willingness to hold talks with Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari.

Earlier, PTI chose Achakzai to spearhead negotiations through the op-

strong army," Achakzai stated clarifying that his movement is not against the military. "We have raised the banner for the supremacy of democracy and

# SFA seizes thousands of harmful juice

HYDERABAD (APP): A team of Sindh Food Authority (SFA) Hyderabad, under the supervision of Deputy Director Fida Hussain Khoso, while taking action, recovered thousands of juice boxes from the truck carrying harmful drinks

Shaukat Ali was also

According to a handout, the truck bearing number LT-1350 was carrying packets of unhealthy juice from Tando Muhammad Khan to Badin. The SFA team discarded thousands of packets of unhealthy juice on the spot.

### **K-Electric** asks Sindh govt to clear Rs1.7b dues

tric, city's solder power provider, has warned Sindh government of electricity suspension in case of failure to pay the pending

chief secretary and secretary energy, K-Electric has demanded payment of Rs1.7 bln withheld dues from the Sindh government. The letter has a list of

In a letter to Sindh

64 defaulter departments of the Sindh government. The government has been urged to clear the dues else the electricity supply will be disconnected.

# donor day observed in Sukkur

year's, World Blood Donor Day theme is "20 years of celebrating giving: thank you, blood do-

# **Interference of establishment** in judiciary will soon come to end: CJ LHC

Chief Justice (CJ) Lahore High Court (LHĆ) Malik Shehzad Ahmad Khan has said establishment interference in judiciary will soon come to end.

"Different institutions are involved in the affairs of judiciary. The interference started from Moulvi Tameez ud Din case. Establishment interference in the matters of judiciary will soon come to end, he said this while addressing a ceremony here Friday.

He went on to say We together will have to get rid of interference in judiciary. Our judiciary is performing its obligations without fear or inducement.

He held "during tele-

phonic talk with a judge he told me all what happened with him. Judge said he does not fear. He will perform his duty honestly.

He remarked complaints have come regard- fairs.

RAWALPINDI (Online): ing pressure on judges. Those who fear Allah don't

fear any blackmailing. I had come out from my home alone for the sake of justice system in 2007,

There is general complaint that judges don't sit in courts on time. We have brought biometric system in Punjab for the attendance of judges. Action will be taken against the judges who don't reach courts on time.

He underlined there are black sheep every where. Some judges get do their work by readers and go home after sipping tea. CCTVs have been installed in court rooms to see the presence of judges.

The chief justice's comments came after six Islamabad High Court (IHC) judges wrote a letter Supreme Court on March 25, accusing spy agencies of meddling in judicial af-



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with JUI (F) Chief Maulana Fazal-

# KP governor thanks PM for allocating Rs 19 bln for Chashma Lift Canal

ISLAMABAD (APP): spectively) had not been Khyber Pakhtunkhwa fulfilled whereas the issues Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Friday extended his gratitude to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for allocating Rs 19 billion the Federal Budget for completion of the Chashma Lift Canal project that would help boost the wheat crop

yield in the province. Talking to the media outside the Parliament House, Governor Kundi said after the project's completion the province would be able to chip in the the province did not have a country's wheat export along with meeting its local

The Chashma Lift Ca-

The governor regretto federally and provincially administered tribal

pertaining to the new taxes for the newly merged districts needed to be resolved. 'Everyone knows

about the security situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the KP chief minister must call an emergency meeting of the apex committee," Kundi said.

The Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government was bragging about its education reforms whereas 26 universities in vice chancellor, he added. The governor under-

lined that efforts were being made to solve the probnal would be inaugurated lems of the people of during the current year, he Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and give them rights, whereas a task force was being formed, ted that the promises made and education experts would be appointed to mull over reforms to improve the areas (FATA & PATA re- education system.

# DC stresses provision of relief to consumers on Eid-ul-Azha

SUKKUR (APP): The Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Khairpur, Syed Ahmed Fawad, gave a free hand to the Price Control Magistrates on Friday to provide relief to the consumers on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha

He took this decision while chairing a meeting to review the performance of price control magistrates.

During the meeting, the DC also hinted at writing a letter to their respective secretary reprimanding the Price Control Magistrates for their performance

Additional Deputy Commissioners (ADC), Assistant Commissioners (ACs), and all other relevant officers were also present in the meeting.



KARACHI: Markazi Muslim League (PMML) Sindh President, Faisal Nadeem addresses during Karachi Stakeholders Conference, in Karachi.

# SAU, FAO sign agreement to train farmers in climate resilient agriculture, modern techniques

Letter of Agreement (LOA) was signed between Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) Tandojam and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to train farmers in 22 fields across various union councils in three districts of Sindh. The focus of the training will be on modern agricultural techniques, marketing and seed production.

According to the University Spokesperson, the focal person from SAU Dr. Ghulam Murtaza Jamro and Florence from FAO signed the LOA for the project titled "Transforming Indus Basin with Climate Resilience Agriculture and Water Management."

The project aims to establish adaptive demonstration plots to test and

HYDERABAD (APP): A validate Climate Resilient Agriculture (CRA) practices according to the targeted cropping system of agro-ecological zones. This initiative will enhance the capacity of farmer beneficiaries and raise awareness in the three targeted districts of Sindh including Sanghar, Badin and Umerkot. The signing ceremony took place in the presence of the Vice Chancellor Dr. Fateh Mari.

According to the LOA, experts from SAU will educate farmers on sustainable agriculture, land preparation, inter-cropping, irrigation, the impact of climate change, marketing and pure seed production techniques. The university will also be responsible for providing access to modern technology at the

them along with the HEC its report in the upcoming graduate education policy. roundabout in Larkana. pital for medical treatment. patients. meeting Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah printed at Dhoom Printing Press Building No. RY/9/11/6X11/7, Mashoor Mahal, Off: I. I. Chundrigar Road, Karachi and Published from Room # 44, 3rd Floor, Handicraft Building, Abdullah Haroon Road, Saddar, Karachi Cell No. 0300-3898091 E-mail: dailyindkhi@gmail.com, khi.editor@gmail.com

# KARACHI: Activists of Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) are holding protest demonstration for release of PTI Founder Imran Khan, at Karachi press club. **KU Academic Council** approves HEC Graduate

**Education Policy** 

Commission's Graduate Education Policy in light of the recommendations submitted by the committee formed in the KU Academic Council's previous meeting. The KU Academic Council was chaired by KU Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi, the meeting was held at the Chinese Teachers Memorial Auditorium on Friday. The committee had

recommended a few obser-

vations and suggestions and

asked the house to adopt

KARACHI (APP): The The Academic Council meeting of the Academic Council of the University of Karachi approved the Higher Education Education The Academic Council of the University of the HEC policy.

The Academic Council members approved the recommendations along with the HEC policy.

tailed report would be submitted to the KU VC Prof Dr Khalid Iraqi and later that report will be sent to HEC-Islamabad. The Academic Council approves the HEC Undergraduate Education Policy for BS and AD programs. It also approved the Senate resolutions to implement the Quran's translation and Seerat course as compulsory subjects across the campus The House formed a five-member committee to review 'our vision our mission' statements and submit

No tax was imposed on IPPs, members of Par-

She said that governhave negative impact on ment has to curtail its own expenditure and she should

> the labourer but the government should reduce tax ra-

Nasir Butt of PML-N while taking part in the debate said that the government presented people friendly budget and announced sizable increase in salaries and pensions of the employees despite economic crisis.

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui has said, "We must provide our youth with an educa-

ment, he said that some provinces benefited from the amendment while others did not. He mentioned that the 18th Amendment was introduced for devolution of powers, but it proved otherwise in the past 15-20 years. He noted that the federal government has very limited fiscal space after debt repayments and defence expen-

income, adding that who-ever earns should pay tax.

# Achakzai to hold talks with PML-N, PPP

Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharifand Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Co-chairman

position alliance's platform. Tehreek-e-Tahafuz Ayeen-e-Pakistan (TTAP).
"Pakistan needs a

the Constitution

# boxes

Assistant Director

sent on this occasion.

KARACHI (INP): K-Elec-

# World blood

SUKKUR (APP): World Blood Donor Day was observed here on Friday to create public awareness of blood donation. The theme of this

The objective of the

day was to thank blood donors for their life-saving gift of blood and highlight the dimension of sharing and connection between blood donors and