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NA passes Finance Bill-2024 with majority vote

FM Aurangzeb says economy has achieved stability; PPP supports govt in passing budget

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly on Friday passed the Finance Bill 2024 after a clause-by-clause consideration, incorporating specific amendments.

Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb moved the motion for consideration of the Finance Bill, 2024 to give effect to the financial proposals of the federal government for the year, commencing on July 1, 2024.

The motion was passed with majority vote which led to the passage of Finance Bill-2024 after clause-by-clause reading and adopting amendments after due process of voting.

All the amendments, presented by the opposition members,

were rejected.

The total outlay of the federal budget for the fiscal year 2024-25 is Rs. 18.877 trillion. This budget outlines the government's fiscal policies and budgetary allocations for the upcoming financial year, reflecting a comprehensive plan to address various economic and social challenges.

The government has allocated Rs. 1,400 billion for the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) in its current budget, and an additional amount of Rs100 billion would be allocated under Public-Private Partnership, bringing the total to Rs1,500, the highest in the country's history.

In the budget grants amounting to Rs1,777 bil-

lion for the promotion of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Gilgit-Baltistan, merged districts of KP, Higher Education Commission, Railways, and IT sectors have been allocated.

To ensure equitable development in AJK, GB, and merged districts of the KP, the government has allocated at 10 percent and around 11 percent for other sectors development including IT, telecom, science and technology, governance, and production sector.

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



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif interacts with Chairman PPP, MNA Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in the National Assembly.

In a tit-for-tat move NA passes counter-resolution, criticizes US understanding of Pakistan's democracy

"Pakistan not to tolerate any kind of interference in internal affairs as a sovereign state," states resolution; US should pay attention to human rights violations in Gaza, Kashmir; Opposition MNAs oppose resolution, chanted "Shame-shame" slogans.

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly (NA) on Friday adopted a counter-resolution criticizing the United States' understanding of Pakistan's democratic system.

The United States (US) House of Representatives, in a resolution passed on June 25, expressed support for democracy in Pakistan, prompting the NA to pass a counter-resolution with a majority vote. While acknowledging the US as an important and valued partner, the NA emphasized the principles of the 1973 Constitution of Pakistan and reaffirmed its commitment to upholding democracy and fundamental human rights.

It reiterated Pakistan's ongoing efforts to safeguard those principles, reflecting the aspirations of its people and the vision of its founding fathers. The NA expressed deep regret that the US resolution demonstrated an incomplete and incorrect understanding of Pakistan's political and electoral processes.

It highlighted the enthusiastic participation of millions of Pakistanis in the general elections held on February 8, 2024, as evidence of the country's vibrant democracy.

The NA also asserted Pakistan's status as an independent and sovereign nation, rejecting any external

interference in its internal affairs. It viewed the US House's action as an attempt to undermine the state's autonomy.

In a call for a broader perspective, the NA urged the US Congress to focus on more pressing global issues, such as the ongoing acts of genocide in Gaza, human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), and state-sanctioned atrocities against minorities, particularly Muslims, in India.

It called on the international community to take immediate steps to alleviate the suffering of people in Gaza and IIOJK.

Elite class to be brought to tax net, vows PM after Budget 2024-25 approval

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif on Friday hailed the approval of the budget 2024-25 in the National Assembly (NA), vowing to bring elite class and tax defaulters to tax net.

The remarks came during the prime minister's meeting with Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb as he lauded the latter and his team preparing a "pro-people budget" that prioritises welfare of common man and promises to steer the country towards economic prosperity.

Talking to the finance minister, PM Shehbaz expressed his satisfaction over the active participation of all the treasury and opposition members in the budget session.

He also appreciated the efforts of the officers from ministries of finance, planning, other relevant ministries and Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) in preparation of the budget.

The government, he said tried its best to utilize all possible resources to provide maximum relief to the common man. He said the government provided relief to the salaried class, pensioners and workers.

The prime minister highlighted that a special attention was given in the budget to various important sectors such as health, education, agriculture and information technology.

He said the elite class and the tax defaulters would be brought to the tax net. It is not possible for the poor pay the taxes and the elites enjoy tax exemptions, he added.

Expressing satisfaction over the economic situation, the prime minister said the country's economy had now been put on the right path and that Pakistan's journey of prosperity had begun.



QUETTA: A3-member delegation of Dawoodi Bohra Community including Ali Asghar Jamali, Kumail Younis and Ali Hussain Kumail meeting with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori.

Tarar assures to form committee on journalists protection

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Friday assured the protesting reporters covering parliamentary proceedings of forming a committee on the protection of journalists and develop a mechanism in that regard in consultation with the provinces.

The reporters staged a walk-out from the National Assembly's Press Gallery to raise their concerns about the security of journalists facing violence across the country and reservations on working environment in the Parliament House.

The minister flanked by Press Information Officer Mubashir Hassan came to the Press Gallery to hold negotiations with the protesting journalists.

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

He said efforts were being made to solve the problems of journalists on priority.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting was working to address the issues of journalist community.

SC withdraws show-case notices of Vawda, Mustafa

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Friday accepted the unconditional apology of Senator Faisal Vawda and Mustafa Kamal of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement, and withdrew its show-cause notice in the contempt case. A three-member SC bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa heard the case.

Mustafa Kamal's lawyer Barrister Farogh Naseem adopted the stance that his client had tendered an unconditional apology and also expressed his regret in a press conference.

The chief justice asked Faisal Vawda whether his lawyer had not come and whether he had also sought an apology. Vawda answered in the affirmative. The chief justice said that under Article 66 of the Constitution "you can speak in the Parliament. However, the court is accepting your unconditional apology". He asked the two persons to be careful in this matter in the future.



NEW YORK: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi addressing the special session of UN Chiefs of Police Summit at United Nations headquarters.

CM Murad directs solarization of govt office across Sindh

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has directed the Minister Energy to expedite the solarization of government offices across the province during daytime hours.

The directives were issued by him while chairing a meeting in Karachi on Friday. Murad Ali Shah emphasized that converting government buildings to solar power will lead to substantial reductions in electricity expenses.

He directed Energy Minister Nasir Shah to accelerate the solarization efforts starting from new financial year.

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CJP calls JCP meeting to appoint CJs of LHC and SHC

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa has called a meeting of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) on July 2 to discuss the appointment of the chief justices (CJs) of the Lahore High Court (LHC) and Sindh High Court (SHC).

The agenda of the JCP meeting on July 2 includes the consideration of a permanent Chief Justice for the Lahore High Court.

Sources indicate that Justice Shujaat Ali Khan, Justice Ali Baqer Najafi, and Justice Alia Neelam are being considered for the position of Lahore High Court's Chief Justice.

Additionally, the meeting will also consider the appointment of a permanent Chief Justice for the Sindh High Court.

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa will chair the JCP meeting, which will be held in Islamabad on July 2.

Justice Shujaat Ali Khan is the Acting Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court (LHC). He took the oath of office on July 25 following the elevation of former CJ Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmed Khan to the Supreme Court on June 25.

PM questions KP govt's failure to establish CTD despite receiving Rs590 b funds

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday questioned the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government for its failure to establish the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) despite receiving Rs590 billion during the last 14 years.

The prime minister, responding to a point of order raised by Sunni Ittehad Council member and former NA Speaker Asad Qaiser, highlighted that under the NFC, an additional one percent share was allocated for the KP province just to augment its efforts against terrorism.

He said the last NFC Award was agreed upon in 2010 by the government of Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani when terrorism was at its peak and the KP province suffered the most, followed by Balochistan and other provinces.

The prime minister said that KP people had been the frontline soldiers against terrorism which would always be remembered.

He said the additional one percent share for KP in NFC was still intact and no other province including Balochistan got such funds nor objected to it despite immense sacrifices by their law enforcement agencies and people against terrorism.

He told the House that from 2010 till now, the KP province had received Rs590 billion but could not yet establish the CTD for which the funds were mainly allocated.



LAHORE: Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz addresses the budget session at Punjab Assembly.

IGP orders committee to implement Habitual Offenders Monitoring Act, 2022

KARACHI (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh, Ghulam Nabi Memon, on Friday ordered the formation of a committee consisting of Deputy IGPs from Telecommunication and Transport (T&T), CIA, Investigation, and others to advance the implementation of the Sindh Habitual Offenders Monitoring Act, 2022.

Speaking at a meeting at the Central Police Office (CPO) Karachi to review the progress on e-tagging of habitual offenders, IGP Memon emphasized that the committee should perform its duties efficiently and complete the assigned tasks.

IGP Sindh stressed the need to eliminate any loopholes or errors by refining the rules and regulations for the technical support and procurement of equipment related to e-tagging.

He highlighted the importance of implementing the Sindh Habitual Offenders Monitoring Act, 2022, to curb crime and ensure justice, noting its significance for maintaining peace and benefiting society.

Ghulam Nabi Memon expressed satisfaction that the Sindh Police is gradually moving towards modern policing. During the meeting, DIGP T&T provided a detailed briefing on the goals and objectives of the e-tagging project for habitual offenders and its effectiveness.

The meeting was attended by DIGPs of Investigation and Crime, T&T, Headquarters, CIA, Finance, and Administration, along with AIGPs of Operations, Admin, Finance, and the Project Director IT.



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Senate Standing Committee for Climate Change, Sherry Rehman addressing during the seminar titled "Building Resilience by Strengthening the Community (BRSC) -II Project Ends".

Mayor Karachi opens special recreational facilities at Safari Park

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi, Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Friday inaugurated the special recreational facilities, Amusement Multi-Adventure and Junior Multi-Adventure Challenge Course, at Safari Park. Talking to the media after the inauguration, he reiterated the promise to restore Karachi's vibrancy. Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad and other elected representatives and officials were also present on this occasion.

Murtaza highlighted the improvements seen in the park and the revival of previously closed spaces. During holidays, the park will be bustling.

He mentioned that these projects will provide modern recreational facilities

for both children and adults, operated under public-private partnership. Children aged 8 to 15 will have access to multi-adventure amusement facilities, and there is also a Dino Park at the Safari Park, he said.

He said that we have introduced a zip line in Safari Park along with the Dino Park and aim to provide more affordable and quality recreational facilities to Karachi's citizens. Murtaza clarified that the Quaid-e-Azam Park in Gulshan-e-Hadeed is not under KMC but belongs to the Steel Mills.

He reminisced about revisiting Aladdin Water Park in his childhood, which was demolished following an order by former Chief Justice Gulzar.

China, US ambassadors meet DPM Dar; review bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of China Jiang Zaidong on Friday called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

Reaffirming Pakistan-China All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, the two sides expressed the resolve to implement the bilateral consensus reached during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China, a Foreign Office press release said.

Both sides also resolved to further strengthening of Pakistan-China friendship and up-gradation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Meanwhile, Ambassador of the United States in Islamabad Donald Blome separately met Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar.

The two sides reviewed the latest developments in bilateral relations and discussed ways to move the relationship forward.

Khurshed Shah floats proposal of 4-year govt constitutional term

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP) senior leader Syed Khurshed Ahmed Shah on Friday reiterated his proposal of a four-year constitutional term for a government.

"If we want the system to function properly, the term of the government and assemblies should be four years," Khurshed Shah said in statement.

"Although the term is said to be five years, in reality, the government has never lasted more than three

and a half to four years," he added.

Khurshed Shah recalled that about a decade ago, the then Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government had also suggested that the four-year term should apply from the next government, and "I had proposed that we should make the constitutional amendment for the purpose now". He said the government's four-year term would bring stability in the system and institutions.



KARACHI: Opposition members in Sindh Assembly are holding protest demonstration against prolonged electricity load shedding, Sui Gas load shedding and shortage of drinking water in Karachi, at Sindh Assembly in Karachi.

