



PFL starts distribution of 100,000 footballs under 'Football 4 Hope' initiative

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Football League (PFL) has started distribution of 100,000 international-quality footballs among young talented children in Pakistan under the initiative 'Football 4 Hope'.



QUETTA: A delegation of UNFPA Pakistan under leadership of Advisor for Women Development Department, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti

Mohsin Naqvi fumes over slow upgradation work at Gaddafi stadium

LAHORE (APP): Chairman Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Mohsin Naqvi has expressed displeasure over slow upgradation and renovation work at the Gaddafi stadium, Lahore.

There is no friend or foe in politics: Barrister Gohar

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chairman PTI barrister Gohar has said there is no friend or foe in politics.

Conspiracies to bankrupt Pakistan...

Continued from page 1 attracting investments instead of seeking loans. He said the environment of peace and political stability was inevitable for investment and that the nations always achieved success through hard work, dedication, and courage.

Media minister visits Interior Ministry's pavilion at Hajj Media Hub

MAKKAH (APP): Minister of Media Salman bin Yousef Al-Dossary visited the Ministry of Interior's pavilion at the Hajj Media Hub, organised by the Ministry of Media, taking place June 10 to 16 in the city of Makkah.

Security forces kill 181...

Continued from page 1... Security forces killed 181 terrorists in Balochistan while 42 were killed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. 61 terrorists were arrested from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan during this month.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar and Parliamentary Secretary Meena Majeed meeting with Provincial Finance Minister Mir Sohaib Nausherwani

Govt. unveils Rs. 18.877 trillion relief-oriented federal budget...

Continued from page 1... would help to develop the volume of infrastructure including transportation, energy, IT and water resources and improve the living standards of the people in the country.

production sector. The government has included projects related to support the productivity of exports oriented industries to enhance their competitiveness, to expend the digital infrastructure in the country.

TENDER NOTICE: The ADMINISTRATION (COLLEGE DIRECTORATE) invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-232406457561 Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required.

TENDER NOTICE: TSE-232406460693 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB.

ATTENTION COMPANIES/AOPS/INDIVIDUALS! PLEASE PAY YOUR QUARTERLY ADVANCE INCOME TAX LAST DATE 15 JUNE 2024 Under Section 147 of Income Tax Ordinance 2001, payment of Quarterly Advance Tax is mandatory for the categories below.

## Maqbool, vice CEO of Huawei discusses progress on agreements

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, and Vice CEO of Huawei Pakistan, Ray Yu, on Wednesday discussed progress on agreements signed during the Prime Minister's visit to China. During the meeting, Dr. Siddiqui highlighted the pivotal role that Pakistani youth can play in the development of the Information Technology sector. He appreciated Huawei's commitment to training 200,000 young people and offered the Ministry's support in establishing a Training Cloud to achieve this goal. "Every year, 25,000 IT graduates complete their education from universities in Pakistan; however, only 5,000 secure jobs. We need to equip our youth with training in modern technology to bridge this gap," Dr. Siddiqui remarked. He also highlighted the immense opportunities for cooperation between Pakistan and China in the private sector, emphasizing the need to harness these opportunities to further enhance the partnership between the two countries.



ISLAMABAD: Vice CEO of Huawei Pakistan, Ray Yu called on Federal Minister for Science and Technology Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui.

## Hina demands 'collective wisdom, supportive policies of agriculture in budget

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan People's Party Senior leader Hina Rabbani Khar Wednesday said that her party always played a responsible role in the country and always been a strong voice for the rights of neglected segment of society. Talking to PTV in Parliament, she said in budget 2024-25 PPP has once again demanded government for a supportive policies for agriculture sector. She said that we are supporting government in right direction for economic and political stability in the country, adding, PPP will add some of its proposals related to public welfare issues in the budget. "We will settle the issues with dialogue," she added. She said President Zardari also deliberated on various strategies to alleviate the economic burden on the poor and middle classes in the forthcoming fiscal plan. "We also demanded significant measures to support the poor and middle-income groups in the upcoming budget," she added.

## Budget 2024-25 to safeguard rights of common man: Dastgir

ISLAMABAD (APP): Protecting the rights of the average person is the federal and provincial government's main concern, according to senior PML-N politician Engineer Khurram Dastgir Khan on Wednesday. This would be included in the budget for the forthcoming fiscal year, 2024-25. Talking to PTV news channel, he said that vulnerable sections of society would be protected and top priority would be to reduce financial burden on common man. He said that selfless efforts by the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had resulted in the gradual improvement of the economy and incentives in agriculture sector will not only strengthen the agriculture sector but also increase production. He said we are giving incentives to IT sector which will boost its exports. Despite the difficult circumstances, the budget would not only provide relief to the masses, but also boost the industry, trade, commerce, and agriculture sector in the country, he added. He vowed that the government would continue to provide relief to the poor people and government employees in the current and future budgets.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed along with Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines Maria Agnes M. Cervantes cutting the cake on the occasion of the National Day of the Philippines at a local hotel.

## Committee recommends closure, merger of some govt entities; contributory pension for new employees

ISLAMABAD (APP): The committee constituted to reduce the government's expenditures recommended on Wednesday to close, merge, or hand over some government departments to provinces, introduce a contributory pension mechanism for newly-appointed employees, and abolish the vacancies lying vacant for over a year. Headed by the Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission and comprising federal Cabinet, Establishment, and Power secretaries, Dr. Qaiser Bangali, Dr. Farrukh Saleem and Muhammad Naveed Iftikhar, presented its preliminary report to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif containing its short- and medium-term recommendations at a meeting to discuss the reduction in government's expenses and the size of its infrastructure. The committee suggested engaging the private sector for service delivery in the government departments, besides banning unnecessary travel of government officials to reduce expenditures by promoting teleconferencing. Moreover, the government vehicles should be withdrawn from the officers availing the monetization facility, it added. Based on the said recommendations, the prime minister constituted a high-powered committee instructing it to furnish a comprehensive report within 10 days, considering the best global practices. Prime Minister Shehbaz expressed the hope that the recommendations by the high-powered committee would help save billions of rupees for the national kitty.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting on the matters related to Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination.

## Edu ministry introduces evening shifts to address enrolment challenges

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training has announced to introduce of evening shifts in 51 schools across the city, starting from the next academic session. According to the Education Ministry, this initiative aims to address the challenges faced during the enrollment campaign, where many schools saw a significant increase in student numbers, with some primary classes exceeding 50 students per class and reaching 100. To ensure quality education and a conducive learning environment, we will upgrade infrastructure in the designated schools and arranged additional honorarium for teachers to support the evening shifts. The prime minister, chairing a meeting to review the matters related to the Ministry of National Health Services, instructed to formulate a strategy to build the said tower through the public-private partnership. Highlighting the significant responsibilities of the health sector to save human lives, the prime minister expressed his concerns about the reported new polio cases in the country and resolved the elimination of the disease by utilising all-out resources in collaboration with partners.

## PM orders building Health Tower in Islamabad to house hospitals, medical, nursing universities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday directed the authorities concerned to build a health tower of international standard in the federal capital to house hospitals, medical and nursing universities, modern laboratories, and diagnostics centers. The prime minister, chairing a meeting to review the matters related to the Ministry of National Health Services, instructed to formulate a strategy to build the said tower through the public-private partnership. Highlighting the significant responsibilities of the health sector to save human lives, the prime minister expressed his concerns about the reported new polio cases in the country and resolved the elimination of the disease by utilising all-out resources in collaboration with partners. He also called for carrying out the third-party audit of the laboratories working under the purview of the Ministry of National Health Services, besides appointing well-qualified health professionals in the ministry and its allied departments. Vowing to personally monitor health-related matters, Prime Minister Shehbaz also ordered the third-party audit of the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan and the formulation of a strategy to bifurcate the drug processing from the Authority. Besides, he also instructed outsourcing of the human resource of all government hospitals in Islamabad and their waste treatment plants, besides the audit of countrywide nursing schools and colleges. During the briefing, the prime minister was told that a National Blood Transfusion and Blood Products Policy would be introduced soon, and work on a nursing and midwifery policy framework was in the final stage. It was told that an evening shift was being introduced in the nursing colleges to increase the number of graduates. Moreover, work on a revised National Action Plan 2025-30 has been started to control the population growth. As the prime minister was told about the installation of new health equipment worth Rs 711 million in Islamabad's hospitals, he instructed the third-party audit of the purchase of the said equipment. It was informed that a modern hospital management system would be installed in Islamabad's hospitals and that waste management plants were operating in the capital city's five public and four private sector hospitals.



Senator Bushra Anjum Butt, presiding over a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Federal Education after being elected as chairperson of the Committee at Parliament House Islamabad.

## Ambassador of Turkmenistan visits AIOU

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan, Atadjan Movlamov, visited Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) and met with Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood. During the meeting, Mr. Movlamov discussed the potential for enhanced mutual understanding and relations between Pakistan and Turkmenistan. Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood expressed the deep historical and cultural ties between the two countries and emphasized the mutual respect and affection between the people of Pakistan and Turkmenistan. He also proposed the establishment of a special section in the AIOU History Museum dedicated to showcasing the literature and work of Turkmenistani poets.

## Loader Rickshaw distribution PRCS empowers flood-affected families with livelihood assistance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Under the leadership of Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), in collaboration with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), on Wednesday has successfully distributed 210 loader rickshaws among the families affected by the monsoon floods of 2022. This initiative is crucial part of PRCS's Livelihood Assistance Program during the Recovery Phase. The loader rickshaws have been allocated to deserving families in five districts of Sindh province, including Dadu, Khairpur, Shikarpur, Larkana, and Qambar Shahdadkot, with each district receiving 35 rickshaws. Additionally, 35 loader rickshaws were distributed in Jaffarabad district of Balochistan. The distribution of loader rickshaws in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will take place after Eid-ul-Adha. This initiative aims to strengthen the affected communities by providing a source of income. It is part of PRCS's ongoing efforts to empower communities to regain their livelihoods and move towards a brighter future. The distribution ceremonies were attended by Secretary General PRCS, Muhammad Abaidullah Khan, Dr. Asfar Shams, Health Coordinator, IFRC Country Delegation Pakistan, officials from the provincial and district branches of PRCS and IFRC Country Delegation, volunteers, community members and local notables. Chairman PRCS Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari praised the relentless dedication of PRCS staff and volunteers, who continue to provide crucial support to flood-affected communities. He emphasized PRCS's steadfast commitment to restoring normalcy through multifaceted programs, including livelihood assistance, shelter construction, cash assistance, and health and hygiene initiatives. "We remain dedicated to our mission of serving humanity and stand ready to support communities in their journey towards recovery and resilience," Chairman Laghari stated.

## MORA advises Pakistani pilgrims to strictly adhere to Saudi laws during Hajj

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony (MORA) on Wednesday advised Pakistani pilgrims to comply fully with Saudi regulations, particularly during the Hajj days in Mina, Arafat, Muzdalifa and Jamarat. Issuing an advisory ahead of Hajj starting from 8th Zilhajj (June 14 - Friday), Secretary Religious Affairs Zulfikar Haider emphasized the importance of following the instructions of Saudi authorities without argument. "At the holy sites, including Mina, Arafat, Muzdalifa, and Jamarat, all arrangements during the Hajj days are managed by the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and its approved Makaanib." Haider also advised pilgrims to avoid all political and communal discussions and debates, as well as participation in banned activities such as political meetings, processions or protests. He warned Pakistani pilgrims that violating Saudi laws and engaging in prohibited activities could bring a bad name for the country, and stressed that individuals would be responsible for their own actions.

## Irfan elected unopposed as Chairman of Senate foreign affairs committee

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senator Irfan Siddiqui, the Parliamentary Party Leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in the Senate, was elected unopposed as the Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs on Wednesday. The coalition partners supported Irfan Siddiqui, while the opposition senators abstained from voting. Senator Irfan Siddiqui was nominated for the chairmanship by Pakistan People's Party (PPP) parliamentary leader Senator Sherry Rehman and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) parliamentary leader Maulana Atta ur Rehman. The nomination was seconded by PPP Senator Rana Mehmoodul Hasan and PML-N Senator Dr. Afanullah Khan. In a meeting attended by six members, including Sherry Rehman, Rana Mehmoodul Hasan, Rubina Qaimkhani, and Afanullah Khan, endorsed Irfan Siddiqui. PTI Senators Ali Zafar and Liaquat Khan Tarakai abstained from voting but expressed their support for post-election. Ali Zafar commented, "If it weren't for our ongoing political issues, I would have personally nominated Senator Irfan Siddiqui for the chairmanship."



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence & Defence Production Khawaja Muhammad Asif presenting a souvenir to Ambassador of Belarus, Andrei Metelitsa.

## NCRC launches State of Children in Pak Portal

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC) commemorated the World Day Against Child Labour by launching the State of Children in Pakistan portal and presenting its annual report for 2023-24. This event marks a significant step forward in the fight against child labour and the promotion of children's rights in Pakistan. In her welcome remarks, Chairperson NCRC Ayesha Raza Farooq emphasized, "As we leave this room today, let us commit to becoming advocates for change. Speak up against the silent exploitation happening in our midst. Let us not normalize young boys and girls working in our neighborhoods, sometimes in our own homes." Speaking as the chief guest, Minister of Law and Justice and Human Rights, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, affirmed the government's commitment, stating, "The Ministry of Human Rights is fully committed to supporting the efforts of the NCRC in their mission to end child labour and bring about legislative reforms. I am pleased to announce that the comprehensive bill 'Prohibition of Child Labour in Domestic Work 2024' drafted by the NCRC is being considered at the highest forum of the National Task Force on Human Rights." The event was participated by a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including international and national non-governmental organizations, embassies, high commissions, donor agencies, government representatives.

## IGP Islamabad addresses police officials' concerns

ISLAMABAD (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, held an orderly room at Central Police Office Islamabad, to ensure timely and prioritized resolution of institutional and personal matters concerning police officers. The establishment of an orderly room aims to prioritize and address issues faced by police officers on a timely basis, emphasizing their welfare and issue resolution. The orderly room was attended by all divisions' police officers. During the orderly room, police officers brought forth both personal and official concerns before the IGP Islamabad. He directed the senior police officers to complete re-inquiries in serious cases. On the occasion, the IGP Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi highlighted various measures taken for the welfare of police officers, including initiatives aimed at improving residence facilities, enhancing healthcare provisions, and raising educational standards. He assured all per-



sonnel of an open-door policy at his office, encouraging them to bring forward any concerns for immediate resolution. He further said that, the primary objective of the orderly room is not only to address the welfare, personal, and official issues of police officers but also to elevate their morale by prioritizing resolutions based on their well-being.

## Pak to host Global Conference on Girls' Education in September

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Government of Pakistan, in collaboration with Rabta Alaam Islami (Muslim World League), is set to host a landmark Global Conference on Girls' Education this September 2024. This prestigious event aims to bring together a diverse group of international and national dignitaries, including education ministers from numerous Islamic countries, to address and find solutions to the numerous challenges faced by girls in the education sector, according to a press release issued here yesterday. The primary objective of the three-day conference is to explore and formulate effective strategies to enable institutional responses and ensure better resource allocation for promoting girls' education on a global scale. The conference will see the participation of eminent scholars, education experts, policymakers, and various stakeholders who will share their expertise, experiences, and best practices in the field of girls' education. Prime Minister has established a dedicated committee to ensure the event is organized in a benefiting and efficient manner. This committee is headed by Mohyuddin Wani, Secretary of Education, and includes Ms Nausheen Iftikhar MNA, Ms Dr Tanveer Anjum representatives from the Foreign Office.



ISLAMABAD: Police officials carrying bags of budget documents arrive at the National Assembly before Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb presents the country's annual budget for fiscal year 2024-25.

## Budget designed to assist common people: Shakir

ISLAMABAD (APP): Member of National Assembly (MNA), Malik Shakir Bashir Awan said on Wednesday that the coalition government presented a people friendly budget keeping in mind their hardships. Talking to the media persons outside the Parliament House.





## Govt earmarks Rs 267,952m for various ongoing, new schemes of power sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government has allocated an amount of Rs 267,952.773 million for various ongoing and new schemes of power sector in annual public sector development programme (PSDP) for year 2024-25.

According to the budgetary document released here Wednesday, out of total allocation, a sum of Rs 113,760.301 million has been specified for ongoing schemes through PSDP, Rs 17,401 million for new schemes and Rs 136,791.472 million (own resources) for year 2024-25. Out of total allocation, the local component stands at Rs 135,564 million and foreign loan component is Rs 132,388.208 million during the said period.

For ongoing schemes, a sum of Rs 4500 million each has been earmarked for 220/132 Kv GIS substation Dhabiji and 220 Kv Haripur Substation, Rs 6,000 million for 220Kv Swabi Substation, Rs 6,500 million for 500 Kv Allama Iqbal Industrial City, Rs 1,424.360 million for

electrification works at different valleys of district Chitral, Rs 4,536.225 million for 220 kV Quaid-e-Azam Apparel and Business Park Grid Station, Rs 38,000 million for installation of 2x600 MW Coal Fired Power Project GENCO-I (Jamshoro), Rs 3,808 million for Power Distribution Enhancement Investment Program-II, Rs 4,499 million electricity distribution efficiency improvement project (MEPCO), Rs 3,691.509 million for electricity



Federal Minister for Communications, Privatization and Investment Board Abdul Aleem Khan presiding over a meeting of NHA in Islamabad.



LAHORE: Business community persons and LCCI members listening to the budget 2024-25 at LCCI.

## UAE-based British Pakistani launches Trade Gate, offering diverse trading opportunities

ISLAMABAD (APP): UAE-based British Pakistani Shakeel Ahmad Meer of the Meer Group launched the first Trade Gate branch in Dubai, aiming to innovate trading and joint ventures by integrating various business sectors.

It offers scholarships, practical training, and diverse trading opportunities across sectors like EV, automotive, e-commerce, real estate, and luxury cars, said a press release issued here.

Meer's vision is to democratise financial education and global investment opportunities, fostering a vibrant community through seminars and networking.

The initiative plans global expansion, aiming to lead in trading education and business investment globally, starting with Dubai as a transformative milestone.

Trade Gate goes beyond a conventional training center, becoming a dynamic hub that empowers individuals with the knowledge and tools for success in trading and joint ventures.

Its holistic approach to wealth creation and management offers participants a broad platform to explore and invest in various sectors.

Trade Gate offers diverse trading opportunities, allowing participants to explore sectors such as electric vehicles, automotive, commerce, real estate, and luxury car advisory services. With expert guidance and investment prospects, Trade Gate helps individuals capitalize on cutting-edge trends and market dynamics, paving the way for trading success.

## Chairman WAPDA reviews inspection of Neelum Jhelum Project's Head Race Tunnel

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman WAPDA Engr Lt Gen Sajjad Ghani (Retd) Wednesday visited Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Project to review ongoing inspection of the Head Race Tunnel.

He reached Dam (Weir) site of the Project located at Nauseri, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, said a press release issued here.

The Chairman visited in detail the de-watered head race tunnel to inspect and review damages that might have occurred to the tunnel.

He was accompanied by Project Manager, Neelum Jhelum Consultants James Stevenson.

The Consultants, the Contractors and the Project

Team briefed the Chairman about the progress achieved so far.

It was briefed that de-watering of 48-Km long head race tunnel had been completed from the elevation of 1012 feet to 607 feet above mean sea level. Subsequently, inspection of the head race tunnel has commenced. The process for engaging International Experts had also been initiated, as directed by the Prime Minister during his visit to the Project last month.

The International Experts would ascertain the causes of fault in the headrace tunnel and make recommendations for carrying out the remedial works.



ISLAMABAD: A shopkeeper displays a BBQ grill and wooden logs at his workplace for the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha.

## Wafaqi Mohtasib for immediate operationalization of five counters of National Bank

ISLAMABAD (APP): Wafaqi Mohtasib Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi has directed the office of Protectorate of Immigrants on Wednesday to open a separate counter for women and senior citizens, provide the facility of filling of forms online through internet, operationalize all the five counters of National Bank and authorize the regional offices to put protector stamp. He stated that the facility of protector clearance to all citizens of Pakistan be done at one place instead of asking them to visit regional offices.

Wafaqi Mohtasib gave these directions after submission of a report by the Inspection Team headed by Senior Advisor Ahmad Farooq.

It may be noted that Wafaqi Mohtasib had constituted the Inspection Team comprising officers of the Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat, after taking notice of irregularities in the office of Protectorate of Immigrants.

The Inspection Team visited the Rawalpindi Office of Protectorate of Immigrants yesterday and heard the complaints of hundreds of people present there and issued orders at the spot to the Protectorate Officers.



LAHORE: People purchasing the decorative stuff for sacrificial animals as shopkeepers displaying the decorative stuff for sacrificial animals to attract the customers at his shop in connection with upcoming Eid-ul-Azha.

## Tamasha, SIMOSA earn accolades at Pakistan digital awards

ISLAMABAD (APP): foremost digital entertainment platform, two premier digital platforms from Jazz, Pakistan's leading digital operator, have been recognized at the prestigious Pakistan Digital Awards 2024.

According to a press release, these awards earned in excellence in websites, apps, and digital creators, underscoring the dynamic digital landscape spanning public, private, and third-sector organizations.

Tamasha, Pakistan's

## Economists, businessmen, people laud federal budget 2024-25

PESHAWAR (APP): Senior economists, traders, businessmen and people of all walks of life Wednesday highly lauded the federal budget 2024-25 and termed it goal oriented with maximum relief provided to all sectors in the country.

Dr Muhammad Naem, former Chairman Economics Department, University of Peshawar told APP that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb and their finance team deserved full credit and appreciation for presenting a goal-oriented budget despite prevailing economic and fiscal challenges.

He appreciated the

three-pronged strategy announced by the Finance Minister to reform the pension scheme in line with international best practices. He said after reforms in the pension scheme, the pension liability would be reduced considerably in the next three decades.

Dr Naem supported the proposal of launching a contributory pension scheme for new recruitment for which the government would deposit its share every month and praised the proposal of the pension fund.

Dr Muhammad Naem highly appreciated the strong 6.25 percent expansion in the agriculture sector

of Pakistan as indicated by the Economic Survey of Pakistan 2023-24, which is the highest in 19 years.

He said that it would help drive the country's GDP by an expected 2.38 percent in financial year 2024-25 which means recovering from a contraction of 0.21 percent in the previous financial year.

He said that per capita income has increased to \$1,680 from \$1,551 while inflation was down to 26 percent against 28 percent last year. He said it was possible due to bold economic, fiscal and monetary policies of the present elected government.

## Chairman CST urges govt to bring non-filers into tax net

MULTAN (APP): Chairman of Chamber and Small Traders (CST), Ehtesham-ul-Haq advised the government to bring the non-filers into tax net instead burdening them with heavy taxes.

Giving reaction on budget speech by Finance Minister, Muhammad Aurangzeb, he said the government was well aware of numerical strength of non-filers in his statistical record. Moreover, he said among the non-filers were the majority who not aware of the system to which they could be registered as filers.

## KP Governor for economic well-being of KP people, alleviation of deprivations

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi in a meeting with Chairman State Life Corporation Shoab Javid Hussain here at the Governor House on Wednesday emphasized the economic well-being and alleviation of deprivation for the residents of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

During the meeting, discussions were held on improving State Life facilities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said a press release issued here after the

meeting adding that the governor issued directives to strengthen the health and Takaful zones of State Life in Dera Ismail Khan.

The meeting also discussed the SOS Village project, with an announcement of full cooperation from the Governor House. Additionally, deliberations took place on a pilot project for expensive treatments initiated by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Kundi announced measures to address the severe difficulties in pension payments.



HYDERABAD: Despite the high prices and limited affordability, large crowd gathered at the temporary cattle market Hatri bypass to select and purchase sacrificial animals for the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha festivities.

## Rupee shed 11 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Wednesday witnessed a devaluation of 11 paise against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.60 against the previous day's closing at Rs 278.49.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market, however, were Rs 277.7 and Rs 280.5 respectively. The price of the Euro decreased by 35 paise to close at Rs 299.39 against the last day's closing of Rs 299.74, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

## Karachiites applaud people-centric federal budget for FY 2024-25

KARACHI (APP): The federal budget presented by the federal government on Wednesday has been well-received for its people-centric approach. Citizens of Karachi, speaking to APP, expressed optimism about the fiscal year 2024-25 budget, hoping it would further steer the economy in the right direction.

An economics student Sameer shared his thoughts with APP, noting that the budget speech by the Federal Finance Minister indicated a serious commitment to economic stability. He praised the government's plan to shift from a state-controlled to a market-driven economy and the focus on promoting exports, considering these steps as wise for the country's future.

Furqan, a general store owner in the Defence area, voiced his hope that the government would follow through on its budget announcements, ensuring that their benefits reach the general public.

## Federal government presents people friendly budget: Mohabbat Awan

ABBOTTABAD (APP): District president PML-N Abbottabad and former candidate for National Assembly Malik Mohabbat Awan said that the federal government has presented a people-friendly budget which will provide relief to the public and the coming days of the country would be promising. Talking to APP, Mohabbat Awan said that

the federal budget not only aims to eliminate the deprivation of the people but also gives hope in challenging economic conditions while the federal government has also fulfilled its promise by increasing the salaries of employees and pensions.

Malik Mohabbat Awan said that PML-N has always pursued a people-friendly policy.

## PCJCCI keen to conduct Pak-China food, cultural analog

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President Moazzam Ghurki on Wednesday, during a think tank session, held at PCJCCI Secretariat, said the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) had achieved tangible and fruitful progress, becoming the world's broadest-based and largest platform for international cooperation. It had been joined by 149 countries and 32 international organisations, showing strong vitality, the president added.

The president PCJCCI said China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) had undeniably brought numerous benefits to Pakistan's economy and the project had resulted in the construction of highways, ports and energy infrastructure, leading to improved transportation and energy efficiency. Furthermore, the CPEC had strengthened bilateral ties between China-Pak, fostering a strategic cooperative partnership, he added.

PCJCCI Senior Vice President Fang Yulong said that it was observed that Chinese community live in isolation which had devastating impact.



LAHORE: Workers picking fruit from a lychee tree at an orchard in the provincial capital.

## Retailers may face penalty for selling smuggled cigarettes

ISLAMABAD (APP): The retailers may face penalty for selling fake, smuggled and non-taxpaid cigarettes as strict action has been proposed against such practices in the Federal Budget for the fiscal year 2024-2025.

Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb proposed the strict action while presenting the Federal Budget 2024-25 in the National Assembly on Wednesday.

According to him, the government and the concerned departments were concerned by the availability of such cigarettes in the market.

## PSX turns around to bullish trend, gains 207 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bullish trend, gaining 207.94 points, a positive change of 0.29 per cent, closing at 72,797.43 points against 72,589.49 points the previous day.

A total of 293,083,473 shares valuing Rs10,541 billion were traded during the day as compared to 372,538,669 shares valuing Rs11,650 billion the previous day.

As many as 435 companies transacted their shares in the stock market.



