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dailyindish@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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NA, Senate pass bills to extend term of services chiefs, increase SC judges' seats,

Tenures of all armed services chiefs extended from three to five years; Judges in Supreme Court increased from 17 to 34

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The National Assembly on Monday approved a legislative amendment to extend the tenures of all armed services chiefs from three to five years. Hours later, the Senate approved the same set of bills, sending them to President Asif Ali Zardari for final approval.

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif presented amendments to the Pakistan Army, Navy, and Air Force Acts, which were passed by majority vote amidst

intense protests from opposition members. This amendment will extend the tenure of all military chiefs from three to five years.

The proposed changes will align the retirement and reappointment regulations across the armed forces, giving the president authority, upon the prime minister's advice, to appoint, reappoint, or extend terms for these positions for up to five years.

The amendments remove previous age limits

and extend tenure options, enabling the Chief of Army Staff and other military leaders to continue serving as generals beyond the earlier prescribed 64 years, should national security or critical needs arise.

Moreover, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar also presented proposals to increase the number of judges in the Supreme Court and Islamabad High Court, which were subsequently approved by the House.

Tarar presented the Su-

preme Court Number of Judges (Amendment) Bill 2024 for parliamentary approval, proposing an increase in the number of Supreme Court judges to 34. As the bill was introduced, the opposition erupted into chaos, raising slogans and protesting. Additionally, the law minister introduced the Islamabad High Court Amendment Bill 2024, explaining that the number of judges in the High Court would be raised from nine to 12.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the PML-N's Parliamentary Party at Parliament House.



QUETTA: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti

Governor Punjab, CM Bugti agree on cooperation for viable public welfare projects

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan met the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti here at the CM's secretariat on Monday.

During the course of meeting, the Governor Punjab and Chief Minister discussed different matters of mutual interest.

Also present in the meeting were the Provincial Ministers Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani, Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Mir Asim Kurd and Mir Ali Madad Jatak.

The Chief Minister Balochistan apprised the Governor Punjab about the process of reforms contin-

ued in different sectors in the province besides the measures being taken for improvement there.

During the meeting, both the leaders were agreed on extending cooperation and continuous coordination for viable public welfare projects in their provinces. They also expressed best wishes for the President Asif Ali Zardari for early recovery from the health issue.

The Governor Punjab on the occasion appreciated the Chief Minister Balochistan for initiating certain public welfare projects in Balochistan.

He also formally invited Chief Minister Balochistan to visit Punjab.

Iranian FM in Islamabad for consultations on ME situation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi on Monday arrived here on a two-day official visit to hold consultations with Pakistan's leadership on the situation in the Middle East and bilateral relations.

During his visit, Foreign Minister Araghchi will hold meetings with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, according to a Foreign Office press release.

This visit provides an important opportunity to advance cooperation and dialogue between Pakistan and Iran on a wide range of areas including trade, energy and security.

Global peace confronted with ever evolving threats, challenges: COAS

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir has emphasized that global peace today is confronted with ever evolving threats and challenges.

Addressing at the 28th Annual Conference of International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centre (IAPTC), the COAS said that despite the numerous peacekeeping endeavors underway by the UN and other organizations, the plight of innocent Kashmiris and Palestinians serve as a stark reminder that still a lot needs to be done, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release issued on Monday.

The 28th Annual Conference of International As-

sociation of Peacekeeping Training Centre (IAPTC) is being hosted for the first time in Pakistan at the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), NUST, Islamabad from November 4-8.

The event officially commenced with the inauguration of new CIPS building by COAS General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M).

Under Secretary General, Department of Peace Operations, Jean Pierre Lacroix, United Nation's Police Advisor, Acting Deputy Military Advisor, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan and Rector NUST, also accompanied the Chief Guest during inauguration and opening ceremony of the conference.

PM expresses satisfaction at economic stability, inflow of foreign investment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday expressed his satisfaction over the economic stability in the country and the inflow of foreign investment.

He said that the State Bank of Pakistan had reduced the policy rate by 250 basis points and with its reduction, the interest rate had been brought down to 15 percent from 17 percent, adding that it would increase the business activities, boost exports and generate employment opportunities.

Addressing a meeting of PML-N parliamentary party at the Parliament

House, the prime minister said that due to government's efforts, the inflation rate was also reduced from 38 percent to 7 percent and observed that all the global and national institutions were projecting economic stability in the country.

"The evil machinations of those who were out to create chaos and those who pushed the country to verge of default have been foiled," PM Office Media Wing, in a press release quoted the prime minister as saying. He further said that the history would always remember those who had staked their politics for the sake of country's

survival, adding the historians would always write about those who worked for the sake of the country and those elements who addressed letter to International Monetary Fund (IMF) to halt country's financial programme.

The prime minister also lauded the members of parliament belonging to PML-N for sacrificing their politics for the sake of country and said that they had thought about 240 million people.

He said that during his recent visits to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, a new chapter of economic partnership between the two countries had been added.

Governor vows to overcome challenges facing in promotion of higher education sector

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that no doubt, we have made remarkable progress with regard to promote higher education and create an educational environment in the province, but our journey has not ended yet, rather we have to do a lot in this regard.

The Governor said that our resolve is high despite the problems, adding firmly believe that he would succeed in overcoming all the challenges together with his team.

He stressed that our very objective is to prepare the people equipped with the scientific education and modern skills, who may play constructive and positive role in their respective areas. The Governor was speaking to the Member

Provincial Assembly, Mir Asadullah Baloch who called on him here at the Governor House on Monday.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor said that we have the dream of an educated Balochistan, and it's materialization needs wholehearted attention and long struggle. He said that all the public sector universities are producing best youth to benefit from the economic and trade changes taking place in the region.

Adding he believed that the educated youth of the province being produced by our public sector universities would lead to move on the process of sustainable development.

The Governor also said that it is our objective to prepare the educated and skilled youth who may contribute in development of their areas.

Finance Minister hopes for stronger Pak-ADB partnership

ISLAMABAD (INP): Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has expressed the hope that long-term partnership between Pakistan and Asian Development Bank will grow further, with the Bank continuing to play a pivotal role in supporting Pakistan's development agenda.

He was talking to new Country Director of the Asian Development Bank in Pakistan, Emma Fan, who called on him in Islamabad Monday.

Asad Aleem, Deputy Country Director-ADB Pakistan was also accompanied the Country Director ADB, the press statement said.

Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb welcomed Ms Emma Fan on her posting in Pakistan, and hoped the long-term partnership between Pakistan and ADB would grow further during her tenure and the Bank would continue to play a pivotal role in supporting Pakistan's development agenda.

The Minister also shared with her an update on the state of the economy and ongoing reforms in SOEs, taxation and energy and other sectors for improving governance, efficiency and sustainability of these sectors.

AC Quetta city meets MD WASA over issue of employees strike

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Assistant Commissioner Quetta city met the Managing Director of WASA, Hamid Rana here on Monday.

During the course of meeting, the Assistant Commissioner talked about the issue of strike being observed by the employees of WASA in Quetta.

It was informed that a constitutional petition is being submitted against the employees of WASA staging dharna in the High Court under contempt of court.

It may be mentioned here that the WASA employees are observing strike and staging dharna for acceptance of their demands. Following strike, the water supply is badly affected in different areas of the metropolis.

Medical board declares Imran medically fit

RAWALPINDI (Online): A 4-member medical board of senior doctors including Dr Asim Yousuf personal physician of PTI founder conducted medical check up and declared Imran Khan medically fit. Dr Asim Yousuf met Imran Khan in Adiala jail on Monday. A 3-member team of doctors from PIMS hospital was also present there.

Medical Board comprising 4 doctors conducted medical examination of Imran Khan. The team declared him medically fit after one hour long medical check up. According to Dr Asim Yousuf medical board has recommended some tests of former chairman PTI and following these tests, report regarding medical check up will be evolved.

Six Khwarij terrorists killed in 2 separate IBOs in KP

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Security Forces killed six Khwarij terrorists in two separate intelligence-based operations (IBOs) conducted in general areas of Dosali, North Waziristan District and Khamrang, South Waziristan District of Khyber-Pakhtunkwa (KP) on Sunday night.

During conduct of the operation, the Army troops effectively engaged the khwarij's location, reportedly one kharij Ahmed Shah alias Intizar was killed, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release.

In another incident, the movement of the Khwarij group, who were trying to infiltrate through the Pakistan-Afghanistan international border, was picked up by the Security Forces in the general area of Khamrang, South Waziristan District.

The Army troops effectively engaged and thwarted their attempt to

Terrorist killed, weapon, ammunition recovered

RAWALPINDI (APP): A terrorist was killed on Monday by Security Forces during a fire exchange took place between own troops and the terrorists in Nushki District of Balochistan.

"Own troops effectively engaged terrorists' location, and reportedly one terrorist was killed," said an Inter Services Public Relations news release. Weapon and ammunition were also recovered from the killed terrorist, it further said.

"Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area. Security forces of Pakistan, in step with the nation, remain determined to thwart attempts at sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan," further said the news release.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday paid tribute to the security forces for conducting successful operations against Fitna al-Khawarij terrorists in Khamrang area of South Waziristan and the Dosali area of North Waziristan.

Pak Navy conducts successful flight test of indigenously developed ballistic missile

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Navy conducted successful flight test of an indigenously developed ship launched ballistic missile.



The weapon system with 350 KM range is capable of engaging land and sea targets with high precision, said a Pakistan Navy News release issued here Monday. The weapon system is equipped with state of the art navigation system and maneuverability features. Flight test was witnessed by Chief of the Naval Staff and Senior Officers from Pakistan Navy and dedicated scientists and engineers, it further said. The President, Prime Minister, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and Services Chiefs congratulated participating Naval Units and Scientists on this excellent achievement.



QUETTA: MPA Asad Baloch meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

NADRA has policy regarding children deprived of parental identity: Attaullah Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar has said that there is a policy in NADRA regarding children deprived of parental identity.

These children are registered under this existing policy. Such children are required to belong to an orphanage or child protection unit registered with NADRA.

He was speaking on the resolution of Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri in the Upper House on Monday.

The Federal Minister of Information said that when ID cards are made for children without parents, names are put randomly in place of paternity.

He said that if ID cards are issued without parents, they will be discriminated and there will be difficulties for them in the society.

He said that instead of sending this matter to the committee, the house should allow to have a meeting with the chairman NADRA. He said that under the current policy, 280 children have already been registered while it can be further improved.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Disregarding CCI

The 18th Amendment reflected the collective commitment of the 2008 parliament to increased participatory federalism. Its authors were aware that devolving powers to the federating units would not be seamless, despite the tremendous support that political parties had extended to the changes in centre-province relations. That is why the Council of Common Interests was 'institutionalised' in the amendment, with its own separate secretariat. Its decisions can now be overturned only by a joint sitting of parliament. Unfortunately, some elements are trying their best to roll back the amendment to ensure the continuation of the centre's dominant position in the federal scheme. In fact, when in power, certain political parties, including some that had supported the amendment, too, look at it as an obstacle to their plans. The CCI is the highest constitutional body empowered to decide, formulate and regulate policies concerning interprovincial and centre-province matters, as well as those enlisted in Part II of the Federal Legislative List. It also exercises supervision and control over related institutions such as Irsa. The idea is to strengthen the federal system by resolving policy disputes related to the devolved subjects at CCI meetings mandated to be held every 90 days. However, successive governments have been in breach of the Constitution by not convening these meetings, not even when the provinces have approached them with complaints or reservations. There have been at least 20 such violations in 14 years due to delays in CCI meetings. No CCI meeting has been held since the present government came to power. One scheduled in July was postponed twice. Only two CCI meetings have been held in 34 months. This shows the respect politicians have for the Constitution when in power. In February 2016, the then Senate chairman Raza Rabbani had noted that policy matters falling under the CCI's purview would cease to have legal effect without the council's approval. The failure to regularly convene CCI meetings means that the process of democratic decision-making is falling apart, with centrist forces dominating matters where the provinces feel that their interests are hurt. For example, the present Shehbaz Sharif government has twice bypassed the CCI in total disregard of Sindh's concerns. First, it ignored the province's reservations regarding undemocratic changes in the Irsa law. Now it is baulking at Sindh's request to discuss its objections on the Cholistan canal project at the CCI forum. In both cases, unilateral decisions were taken to facilitate the military's Green Initiative for large-scale corporate farming. Sindh, being the lower riparian, has valid reasons to be upset over these decisions and for insisting on the CCI's intervention. The federal government is afraid that, if presented before the CCI, the project might be rejected or delayed. By breaching the Constitution to favour centrist forces, the government is harming participatory federalism.

Roads to ruin: The perils of drinking and driving

By Zainab Ramzan

Drink-driving, which is also known very commonly in the present day as driving under the influence of alcohol, poses a serious threat to public health and carries deadly risks for the driver and other road users. Alcohol interferes with fundamental functions required for reaction time, coordination, and judgment of a driver, making the act extremely hazardous to drive a vehicle. In Pakistan, the problem of drinks and driving is an issue that is extremely serious and multiproblem presenting traffic safety challenges. Even though there are laws prohibiting acts under the impact, the weakness of the legal system still relates to the police, and the police remain unrelated to weaknesses of frequent cases of corruption. The inadequacy is coupled with cultural attitudes that may normalize the risks associated with drinking and driving. As a consequence, road accidents and deaths associated with drink-driving in Pakistan are very high, generating considerable pressure on the health system with severe consequences on social and economic fronts for families concerned by such incidents. The solution to this problem involves stricter traffic laws enforcement, comprehensive public information campaigns and systematic improvements in the legal and health measures to better address consequences of alcohol consumption. Pakistan needs to punish criminals strongly, although checking should be strict, through breath analyzer and stern penalty against violators, and the offenders may be treated impartially. In order to prevent drinking and driving properly, Pakistan must strengthen its law enforcement measures; such measures include strict checks, the use of breath analyzers, and treating the offenders impartially. It is equally possible for a change in attitude and action if there is a start towards a nationwide campaign educating the public on the dangers of drunk driving.

Roads to ruin: The perils of drinking and driving

Education must start with the people, bringing home the effects of drinking and driving into real life and responsible conducts. These campaigns can be sustained through media entities like television, radio, and social networks. Introduction of information education in school and community sites on alcohol or driving risks would have a long-term impact. Strengthening the legal system so as to expedite the prosecution of offenders would also help deter potential criminals. Additional mitigations include equipping healthcare facilities with proper equipment in preparation for debris from accidents, as well as support to accident victims and their families. Collectively, these steps are more contributory to a holistic approach in reducing the incidence of driving under the influence activities. Drinking and driving can be avoided by encouraging the use of other transport means, which may include assigned drivers or horse riding services. Activate local leaders and organizations to promote safe driving practices and encourage local efforts on reducing drunk driving. If you know where you are going and what you are drinking, plan for how you are getting there: ask for a designated driver; use public transportation; reserve a ride-sharing service. Have a designated driver stay sober and to ensure everyone gets home safely. You can find good ride-sharing services through apps like Uber or Careem, if you cannot drive yourself home. When visiting friends, you may party all night instead of driving home drunk. Make use of buses, trains as well as other public transport when possible. Involve or promote a community project designed to promote safe driving practices and offer options for continuing under the influence. This means data collection and analysis on drunk driving cases are improved, which helps understand the magnitude and develops targeted interventions. Support services to alcoholics help address the causes of drink driving. By doing so, Paki-

stan can make very good progress in reducing drink driving and improving road safety. More than 150 road accident deaths have occurred in the Karachi city over the last 10 months due to drunk," said the official. According to the data of traffic police, till October 31, 147 road accidents reports were received from different hospitals in the city. According to the reports, 154 people died in 147 accidents in the various parts of the city. In 41 negligence accidents, around 135 people were injured. Over the last few years, we have seen that driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs is responsible for many deaths. An incident occurred in Karachi claiming a life and injuring several others when once again a speeding SUV driven by a woman went out of control near Karsaz and crashed into a motorcycle and another vehicle killing two and injuring four. A service road bore testimony to murder of the father and daughter killed on the spot after an SUV crashed into the motorcycle. A third person is under treatment who was left wounded in the accident according to other reports the third victim has died at the hospital. Another case arose in Just a few months ago, one man — driving allegedly while drunk — ran over and killed a man and a woman on Karachi's Korangi Road. The case was eventually settled after paying 'blood money' under the country's Qisas and Diyat laws. Therefore, this is the only cure that can help Pakistan successfully battle this threat of drinking and driving: concerted effort that comprises tougher law enforcement, more public awareness, and some structural changes in the legal and healthcare sectors. As these elements are streamlined effectively, Pakistan will be able to have far less tremendous road accidents with alcohol, thereby bringing overall road safety. "Drinking alcohol is harmless but carries a risk when driving. Every choice matters. Choose life, choose safety. Remember, a moment's temptation can lead to a lifetime of regret".

My enemy's enemy

Zarrar Khuhro

America has allies while its enemies have proxies; America's allies have governments that must be supported while its enemies have regimes that must be changed. And right now, in the midst of their jointly conducted genocide, America and Israel have decided, in their infinite wisdom, that this is a ripe time to change the face of the Middle East. Again. The plan for Gaza has been clear for some time: it involves starving and terrorising the remaining population of Gaza into fleeing their homes and making way for Jewish settlements and a permanent Israeli military evacuation. But there are plans afoot for Lebanon, too, where both Israel and US feel that the Israeli attack is a perfect opportunity to degrade Hezbollah, while also changing the country's political landscape. They're not exactly making a secret of it: in October, State Department spokesman Vedant Patel took a break from his regular genocide apology to tell reporters that America's "goal is to get the government and country of Lebanon to a place where it is out of the stranglehold of Hezbollah". To achieve that end, the US tasked Amos Hochstein, the US special envoy to the region and a former IDF soldier, to press Lebanon to immediately hold elections despite the Israeli onslaught. Lebanese officials protested that in order to do so, they would have to reconvene parliament and there was no guarantee that Israel would not target that parliament to eliminate politicians they find problematic, given that Hezbollah and its allies control more than half the seats. Would the US guarantee the safety of

Lebanon's parliament? Hochstein had no reply. Reportedly, the US is pressing for the head of the Lebanese army, Joseph Aoun, to take charge as president, either through fiat or through an election in which pro-Hezbollah and pro-resistance voters will be disenfranchised thanks to Israel's forced evacuation of large parts of southern Lebanon where Hezbollah has its strongest support. The Lebanese army, one should note, evacuated its positions before the Israeli assault, leaving Hezbollah to protest. Some of Hezbollah's opponents in Lebanon are also sensing an opportunity: Samir Geagea, the leader of a right-wing Christian party, feels this is the perfect time to push for the disarming of Hezbollah, after which he feels an agreement could be reached with Israel. However, the indiscriminate nature of Israel's bombing, and the Lebanese people's own experience with Israeli atrocities mean that this is, for now, seemingly a minority view even in Geagea's own community. That hasn't stopped Lisa Johnson, the US ambassador to Lebanon, from using her position to pursue the agenda of eliminating Hezbollah from the Lebanese political arena and thus providing a clear field for Israel to do as it wishes. Lebanese media has reported her saying to Lebanese politicians that "Israel cannot achieve everything through war; it's time for you to do your part and launch an internal uprising under the banner of 'Enough'". Chiding them for being "afraid" of Hezbollah, she reportedly said: "Hezbollah has been defeated, its leadership is destroyed, and we are with you, and the entire free world stands by your side."

The Arab states would back such a movement, she added. Meanwhile there's Iran, the government of which has been in the target sights of successive US administrations from 1979 onwards. Thus far, all attempts at actual regime change have been unsuccessful but hope springs eternal, especially in the borderline psychopathic circles of US policymakers and think tanks. As for who would lead Iran after the current regime is done and dusted, a very usual suspect has officially thrown his crown into the ring — His Royal Highness Reza Pahlavi, the son of the deposed Iranian Shah, who is going around marketing himself as the perfect ruler of Iran which would then become the most allied ally of Israel and the US in the region. However, he only has the support of the monarchist elements of the Iranian diaspora and these worthies are, I can assure you, the most unhinged lot you will ever come across in this lifetime. In their hate for Iran's government, some of them have become the vocal allies of Zionism, going to the extent of calling for the mass killings of their own compatriots if it were to bring their Prince Charming one step closer to power. Here's an example: 'journalist' Babak Eshagi, who is affiliated with a pro-monarchist Persian news outlet bedded with the Israeli army in Gaza, while recording a piece to camera in the ruins of a Palestinian home, inscribed the slogan of the 2022 Iranian protests 'women, life, freedom', on the remains of a wall. These then are the Ahmed Chalabisi of today, the genocidal court jesters who would be king. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Aurangzeb, TPG Capital delegation discuss investment opportunities to boost economic growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday held a meeting with TPG Capital delegation led by Partner Jide Olanrewaju to explore investment opportunities, focusing on strengthening economic ties and boosting Pakistan growth. The minister highlighted the positive trajectory of Pakistan's economic indicators and pointed out the notable

decline in the current account deficit, which reflects improved economic stability, said a news release. He also emphasized the government's commitment to boosting exports through diversification strategies, adding that the recent efforts have resulted in a marked increase in export performance. Furthermore, he announced that inflation has decreased to single-digit levels, a testament to



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, held a meeting with a TPG delegation led by Mr. Jide Olanrewaju at the Finance Division.

FPCCI proposes amendments in Petroleum Act 1934

Independent Report KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has appreciated Senator Musadik Malik, Federal Petroleum Minister and the Director General of Explosives at Ministry of Petroleum for responding to the concerns of trade and industry vis-à-vis the definition, handling, storage and licensing requirements of liquid hydrocarbon, mixed hydrocarbons and any other material or mixture containing hydrocarbons. Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh apprised that FPCCI had officially written to the DG Explosives after receiving multiple complaints and queries from the sector to seek clarification. While we acknowledge their reply; nevertheless, we, at FPCCI, feel that the country needs amendments and updates in the Petroleum Act of 1934 — to create an enabling environment for the sector to flourish. Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magooni, SVP FPCCI, proposed that the Petroleum Act 1934 should be updated to remove irrelevant or obsolete items in it; and, reflect only the necessary precautionary or safety measures. The petrochemical industry has evolved over the past many decades and we need to amend our laws accordingly, he added.

Economic indicators improving, says Punjab Finance Minister

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Finance Minister Mujtaba Shuja-ur-Rehman on Monday said that inspiring economic progress has been made by both the federal and Punjab governments during the past eight months with a good improvement in economic indicators. He highlighted that the Punjab government has presented a tax-free budget of Rs 5.5 trillion aimed at facilitating businesses. He was speaking here at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI). The LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad presented the address of welcome while Senior Vice President Engineer Khalid Usman, former President Muhammad Ali Mian and Executive Committee Members also spoke on the occasion. The Minister congratulated the LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad for winning LCCI polls with thumping majority. The Provincial Minister credited Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, along with their teams, for improving the overall economy. He mentioned that the stock market has set records, interest rate is stabilized around 17 percent and inflation.

SME dev. plan to revitalize SMEDA approved

LAHORE (APP): The Business Plan 2024-27, developed by the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) in compliance with the directions of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, has been approved by SMEDA Board. CEO SMEDA Soerat Aman Rana, while giving a detailed presentation to the Board Members highlighted key features of the plan at a meeting held in chair with Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister Industries and Production, according to SMEDA spokesman here Monday.

Kundi assures support to foster a business-friendly environment

RAWALPINDI (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday assured the business community of his support in addressing their concerns, reinforcing the commitment of the Governor's Office to foster a business-friendly environment in KP. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to increasing business activity and addressing security concerns facing the business community. He remarked this during his meeting with the top brass of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce (RCCI) during his visit to the chamber. He outlined the ongoing initiatives to improve infrastructure, enhance law enforcement capabilities, and promote economic growth in KP. "The government is utilizing all available resources to tackle law and order and improve security across the province, along with upgrading roads, educational institutions, and medical facilities," he said. The governor underscored the importance of fostering cooperation among institutions to activate Central Asia's trade routes. He also emphasized that political stability and economic growth were essential goals that required the support of all political parties. He encouraged RCCI to prepare proposals for the upcoming fiscal budget to ensure the needs and priorities of the business community are addressed. He noted the shared responsibility of enhancing Pakistan's image internationally, stating, "All institutions must work collaboratively to promote Pakistan in a positive image", he added.



FAISALABAD: Farmers carrying freshly harvested radishes for transport to the vegetable market.



RAWALPINDI: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi being presented Shield by president RCCI Usman Shaoukatt during his visit to Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

SCCI, PSATAF agree for joint initiatives to attract foreign investment

PESHAWAR (APP): Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Pakistan South Africa Trade Federation (PSATF) have decided to launch joint initiatives to attract foreign investment in various potentials and sectors of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The decision came during a meeting of SCCI president Fazal Moqem Khan and PSATF Chairman Muhammad Rafiq Memon, who is currently leading a delegation of the PSATF to K-P, said SCCI spokesman here on Monday. SCCI senior vice president Abdul Jalil Jan, vice president Shehryar Khan, former senior vice president of the chamber Shahid Hussain, Secretary General of the chamber Muqtasid Ahsan were present during the meeting. The PSATF delegation consisted of general secretary of the federation Ikramullah Jan, President for the Middle East, KP, and Islamabad region Mumtaz Khan Yousafzai, Members Advisory Shahid Khattak, Naseer Khattak and Coordinator Hafiz Khalid Zaheer.

Gold prices increase by Rs.700 per tola

ISLAMABAD, Nov 4 (APP): The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased by Rs.700 and was sold at Rs.283,700 on Monday compared to its sale at Rs. 283,000 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs. 600 to Rs. 243,227 from Rs. 242,627 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs. 222,958 from Rs. 222,408, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs. 3,430 and Rs. 2,940.67, respectively.

Zong's data center achieves TIA-942-C rated-3 certification

ISLAMABAD (APP): Zong, Pakistan's leading cellular and digital services provider, achieved the prestigious TIA-942-C Rated-3 certification for its Data Center located at Zong HQ, Islamabad. According to a news release, this certification is a testament of Zong's unwavering commitment to be an excellent information services and technology innovation company of Pakistan. The TIA-942 is an internationally recognized standard for Data Center infrastructure, and the Rated-3 certification highlights Zong's dedication to offering state-of-the-art solutions to its customers. This achievement demonstrates that Zong's Data Center adheres to strict criteria for system redundancy, uptime, and disaster resilience, reinforcing the company's position as a leader in the telecommunications industry. While congratulating the Network team Zong's Chief Technical Officer Lu Jianhui said, "Achieving this certification reflects our ongoing investment in the latest technologies and infrastructure."

KP CM vows to promote education on modern lines

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has said that the incumbent provincial government is working under a well-devised strategy to promote the education sector on modern lines with a special focus on imparting quality education to students, especially to females adding that Alternate Learning Pathways (ALP) program is an integral part of that strategy.

Under the ALP program, 1,267 centers

have been established in 27 districts of the province, presently imparting formal and informal education to 42,644 students, while 62,000 students have completed their education so far under the program.

He further said that the main objective behind launching the ALP program was to provide educational opportunities to those children who are out of school and cannot be enrolled in formal schools for being over age. He mentioned that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

government had been working on introducing an Education Card, prioritizing the merged districts and backward areas of the province.

The Chief Minister added that female students in the schools of merged districts were being provided with a monthly stipend to improve literacy rates in those districts.

He was addressing a graduation ceremony organized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Department here on Monday at Nishtar Hall, Peshawar.



PESHAWAR: Chief Minister KP Ali Amin Gandapur giving degree and trophy to graduate student during the graduation ceremony under Alternate Learning Pathways Initiative of Elementary and Secondary Education Department at Nishtar hall.

Punjab govt to present Rs630bn surplus budget next year: Azma

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has said that the KP government doesn't even have funds to pay employee salaries but still dreams of buying PIA.

At a press conference at DGPR, she said the Punjab government was set to present a surplus budget of Rs630 billion in 2025. "It's a joke that Maryam Nawaz is following Gandapur. Mian Nawaz Sharif never said that the Punjab government was planning to purchase PIA. All Pakistanis want the national airline to improve, and if investors from Karachi are interested in investing in PIA, it's a positive development," she added.

She said that KP needs jail reforms more urgently, as prisoners can break out of jails there.

"When there was a forest fire in KP, their so-called revolutionary fire brigade didn't even have money to refuel their vehicles. Tackling smog is not easy; China has been fighting it for 26 years," she added.

She noted that smog has become one of the biggest issues currently. "When the wind from India blows towards Pakistan, Lahore's air becomes more polluted. We are aware that efforts are also being made on the Indian Punjab side. According to today's data, Delhi ranks first for smog, while Lahore is second. Delhi's air quality index is around 393, and Lahore's is close to 280. Primary schools in Punjab have been given holidays due to the smog. The Chief Minister of Punjab will soon write a letter to the CM of India Punjab," she added.

Punjab govt's amendments to procurement rules spark outrage

LAHORE (PR): The Punjab government's recent amendments to the Procurement Rules (PPRA) have been met with fierce criticism from the All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) Punjab Committee. The changes are seen as a covert attempt to ban tender notices and advertisements in national and regional newspapers, potentially strangling the already financially vulnerable newspaper industry.

APNS Punjab Committee Chairman Jamil Athar Qazi expressed grave concerns

over the amendments, labeling them a "sinister conspiracy" to economically strangle newspapers.

He urged Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif to immediately revoke the amendments and save the industry from collapse.

The committee emphasized that these changes would not only harm newspapers but also render thousands of journalists and media workers jobless. They stressed that the amendments would undermine transparency in government procurement processes.

One killed, other injured in Korangi traffic accident

KARACHI (APP): A man was killed and another sustained injuries in a traffic accident that took place near Korangi Godam Chorangi area of Karachi, tv channels quoting rescue sources reported on Monday.

According to details, a rashly driven trailer hit the two-wheeler coming from opposite direction near Korangi Godam Chorangi area. As a result of accident, a motorcyclist died on the spot. One person was also injured in the same incident.

Rescue team rushed to the site and shifted the dead and injured to nearby hospital. Police also reached the spot and started search for the heavy vehicle.



KARACHI: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Chief, Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman along with others addresses to media persons during press conference, at Idara-e-Noor-ul-Haq in Karachi.



HYDERABAD: An electric pole has fallen due to a truck collision at Tando Yousuf Road.

CM's Advisor on Health chairs reforms review meeting

Independent Report PESHAWAR: A high-level meeting of the Health Department was held under the chairmanship of Health Advisor Ihtisham Ali here on Monday. The meeting was attended by Special Secretary Health Ghafoor Shah, Special Secretary Health Budget and Accounts Habibullah, Additional Secretary Fayaz Sherpa, Director General Health Services Dr. Muhammad Saleem, DG PHSA Dr. Abdul Waheed, Chief HSRU Dr. Khalil Iftikhar, Chief Planning Officer Qaiser Alam, ADG Public Health Dr. Shahid Younis, Deputy Director IT Zakrullah, Deputy Chief HSRU Dr. Majid, and other relevant officials.

During the review meeting on departmental

CM Maryam hospitalised after throat infection

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has been hospitalised due to health issues, and her departure abroad is now contingent upon approval from her doctors.

CM official sources told APP that the chief minister was admitted to Sharif Medical City Complex as she was suffering from a throat infection and doctors examined her.

Lahore second most polluted city in the world

LAHORE (APP): The provincial capital was still the second most polluted city in the world on Monday despite the Punjab government efforts. The average smog rate in the City of Gardens was 414; Air Quality Index at DHA Phase-VIII was 714 and Syed Maratab Ali Road 613. The average rate of smog in the city was less than the previous day, but the situation is still alarming. In order to protect children from the polluted atmosphere, holidays have been announced in the primary schools of Lahore from November 4 to November 9.

SU enter in final of Inter University cricket Championship

HYDERABAD (APP): Sindh University Jamshoro has secured its place in the final of the Inter-University Cricket Championship, set to be held in Peshawar.

The championship, hosted by Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) Tandojam, was conducted with the support of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Islamabad.

The Zone-K matches culminated in a triangular

series featuring Sindh University Jamshoro, Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur, and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University Nawabshah. In the decisive match, Sindh University Jamshoro showcased an impressive performance, posting a score of 276 runs in the allotted overs. Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur, despite their efforts, managed to score only 160 runs, declaring Sindh University Jamshoro the Zone-K champions and

earning them a spot in the national finals.

The Zone-K matches were held across various venues, including the grounds of SAU Tandojam, Larkana, Sukkur, Nawabshah, and Jamshoro. The championship concluded with a prize distribution ceremony where the President of the Regional Cricket Association Hyderabad, Mir Suleman Khan Talpur, and the President of the District Cricket Association Hyderabad, Shakeel Ahmed Khan, presented trophies and awards to the victorious team.

Director Sports, Anwar Hussain Khanzada, highlighted the participation of several universities in this tournament, including Sindh Agriculture University, GC University Hyderabad, Isra University Hyderabad, Mehran University Jamshoro, Sufi University Bhit Shah, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University Larkana, and Larkana University Larkana.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from various university sports officials, including Shoukat Hussain Sangi, Ghulam Umar Dasti, Mian Ajwaer Ahmed, and Taj Muhammad Mahar, alongside a large gathering of cricket fans and spectators.

International News

South Korea and EU condemn North Korea's reported troop dispatch to Russia

Monitoring Desk SEOUL: Top South Korean and European Union officials on Monday strongly condemned North Korea's reported troop dispatch to aid Russia's war against Ukraine and agreed to work together to try to block deepening military cooperation between Moscow and Pyongyang.

North Korea's alleged troop deployment threatens to expand the almost 3-year-long war and is causing security jitters in South Korea, where many worry Russia might reward the North by giving it sophisticated weapons technology or offering a defense commitment in the event of a conflict on the Korean Peninsula.

In a meeting in Seoul, South Korean Defense Minister Kim Yong Hyun and the EU's visiting foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, expressed "serious concerns" about North Korea's reported troop dispatch and "strongly condemned" it, according to a statement from the South Korean Defense Ministry.

The two agreed to work together with the international community to try to obstruct Russian-North Korean security cooperation, the statement said.

The U.S. government said Thursday that about 8,000 North Korean soldiers were in Russia near Ukraine's border and preparing to join Russia's fight against Ukraine in the coming days. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Friday urged allies to stop just "watching" and take steps before North Korean troops deployed in Russia reach the battlefield.

According to U.S., South Korean and Ukrainian intelligence assessments, North Korea was estimated to have moved about 10,000-12,000

troops to Russia. If they start fighting against Ukraine forces, it would mark North Korea's first participation in a large-scale conflict since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has used the Russia-Ukraine war as a way to expand defense and economic cooperation with Russia in the face of an intensifying U.S.-led pressure campaign against his advancing nuclear program. The U.S., South Korea and others accuse North Korea of having already exported artillery shells, missiles and other conventional arms to Russia.

In the past two years, Kim has also ramped up tests of nuclear-capable missile systems, as Russia and China have repeatedly blocked U.S.-led attempts to toughen international sanctions on North Korea over its testing activities in defiance of U.N. bans.



Members of the delegations, led by Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui, attend a meeting in Moscow, Russia.

Putin greets North Korean foreign minister with long handshake in Kremlin

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin held a meeting in Moscow on Monday with North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui, at a time of mounting concern in the West about growing military ties between the two countries.

Video of the meeting showed the pair shaking hands for a full minute as Putin greeted Choe in the Kremlin.

Putin noted that they were meeting on Russia's National Unity Day, a public holiday, and Choe conveyed "sincere, warm, comradely greetings" from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

The United States says North Korea has sent thousands of troops to Russia and is poised to join the war in Ukraine on Moscow's side. Russia has neither confirmed nor denied their presence.

Choe, making her second trip to Russia in six weeks, told Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Friday that the two countries enjoyed relations of "invincible military comradeship" and that North Korea would stand alongside Russia "until the day of victory" in Ukraine.

The Kremlin had said last week that there were no plans for Putin to meet Choe.

Crashing waves in a hilltop village, a night of terror from Spain's floods

Monitoring Desk CHIVA: Irene Cuevas will never forget the sound of the waves crashing below her apartment's balcony.

If only there had been a flash of lightning in the darkness to let her glimpse what sounded like a roaring sea.

"It was a constant fear because we didn't have light to see by," Cuevas told The Associated Press. "We could hear the roar of the waves, which was unbelievable. The street was completely flooded and we were hoping for some lightning so that we could at least see what situation we were in. It was all waves, currents everywhere."

"We have that sound of the waves burned in our memory."

The devastating flash floods in eastern Spain this week that claimed over 200

Trudeau condemns violence at Hindu temple near Toronto

Monitoring Desk TORONTO: Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau condemned as "unacceptable" violence at a Hindu temple near Toronto on Sunday, following skirmishes blamed by some leaders on Sikh activists.

Local police in the city of Brampton, roughly 50 kilometres northwest of Toronto, said they had deployed heavily outside the Hindu Sabha Mandir in order to maintain calm during a protest.

A spokesman for the Peel Regional Police told AFP that no arrests had been made. Police have also declined to assign blame for the reported violence.

"The acts of violence at the Hindu Sabha Mandir in Brampton today are unacceptable. Every Canadian has the right to practice their faith freely and safely."

36 dead in bus crash in Indian Himalayas

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: A bus in India plunged into a deep Himalayan ravine on Monday, killing at least 36 passengers and injuring several others, a government official said.

Photographs released by government rescue teams showed the crumpled wreckage of the bus in thick undergrowth, with the twisted front of the vehicle squashed nearly flat.

This handout photograph taken on November 4 Uttarakhand shows people at the site of a bus accident, after it fell into a gorge at Almora district in

Iran executes Jewish Iranian man in murder case: NGO

Monitoring Desk TEHRAN: Iran on Monday executed a member of the country's Jewish minority who had been convicted of murder, an NGO said, at a time of rising tensions with Israel.

Arvin Ghahremani was hanged in prison in the western city of Kermanshah after being convicted of a murder during a street fight, said the Norway-based Iran Human Rights group.

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Germany's top diplomat is in Kyiv as Ukraine girds for impact of US election on the war

Monitoring Desk KYIV: Germany's top diplomat arrived Monday in the Ukrainian capital Kyiv on an unannounced visit, in what appeared to be a show of European support for Ukraine on the eve of U.S. presidential election that could bring far-reaching changes in Washington's policy toward Russia's all-out invasion of its neighbor.

Germany is Ukraine's second biggest weapons supplier after the U.S., and Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock vowed that Berlin's backing would remain steadfast.

"Together with many partners around the world, Germany stands firmly by Ukraine's side," she said, German news agency dpa reported. "We will support the Ukrainians for as long as they need us so that they can continue on their path to a just peace."

The war is at a critical moment for Ukraine, with the Russian army making creeping gains on the battle-

Israel ends agreement with UN agency providing aid in Gaza

Monitoring Desk NEW YORK: Israel said on Monday it has terminated the agreement facilitating the work of the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, the main aid provider in Gaza, in what appeared to be a step to implement legislation passed last month that would sever ties with the agency and prevent it from operating in Israel.

Israel says the agency, known as UNRWA, has been infiltrated by Hamas. UNRWA denies the allegations and says it takes mea-

Israel ends agreement with UN agency providing aid in Gaza

sures to ensure its neutrality. On Sunday, Israel said its troops had carried out a ground raid into Syria to seize a Syrian it accuses of working with Iran. It was the first time in the current war that Israel announced its troops operated in Syrian territory. Despite growing pressure from the United States and others in the international community for a cease-fire in Gaza and Lebanon, intensified Israeli strikes against the Hezbollah militant group are expanding beyond Lebanon's border areas.

Volcanic eruption burns houses in Indonesia, killing at least 9 people

Monitoring Desk MAUMERE: Indonesia's Disaster Management Agency said Monday that at least nine people have died as a series of volcanic eruptions waned on the remote island of Flores. Authorities raised the danger level and widened the danger zone for Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki on Monday, following a series of eruptions that began last week. The country's volcano monitoring agency increased the volcano's alert status to the highest level and more than doubled the exclusion zone to a 7-kilometer (4.3-mile).

CM Bugti expresses concerns over surge in polio cases, orders plan for eradication

Independent Report
 QUETTA: Expressing concern over the surge in polio cases in Balochistan, the Chief Minister, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has directed to the concerned high ups to prepare comprehensive roadmap for eradication of the virus from the province within 10 days.

He also directed to increase the outreach of anti-polio campaign from 38 percent to 60 percent in the province and complete the registration of national electronic immunization in all districts of the province at the earliest. In addition to this, he also directed to make the anti-polio campaign more effective adding assured that no negligence or lenience is tolerable in this regard.

These directives were issued by the Chief Minister while chairing a meeting on the situation of polio and measures for its eradication in the province, here at the CM's secretariat on Monday.

The Provincial Minister for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Imran Zarkoon, Inspector General of Police, Moazzam Jan Ansari, Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat, Coordinator Emergency Operation Center for Polio Eradication, Inamul Haq and other concerned high ups were in attendance at the meeting.

The Chief Minister expressed concern over the rise in cases of polio virus in the province and stressed that there is a dire need to make the anti-polio measures fruitful in the province. He asserted that the anti-polio campaign should be made fruitful and result-



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over a high level meeting regarding elimination of polio

Pakistan can be connected with modern railways to Iran, China: Aleem Khan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Communications, Privatization and Board of Investment, Abdul Aleem Khan on Monday said that Pakistan can be connected with modern railways to Iran, China and Central Asian countries through trade corridors for ensuring low cost and fastest cargo service to make the Pakistan railway profitable.

Presiding over a high-level meeting of the Focal Group to review the current status of track of Pakistan Railways and other important issues related to this department, the minister emphasized that China and Russia can invest in improving the present infrastructure of Pakistan Railways in order to offer investment to the private sector instead of having loan to improve the Railways to avoid further financial burden.

He said that not temporary relief but we need long-term planning and policies for the improvement of the Pakistan Railways as in fact that for the up-gradation of the railway system, the train tracks have to be safer, stronger and faster.

Aleem Khan said that in developed countries, people take train travel as tourism and entertainment while our railway system is far behind that. He directed the pending issues between the National Highway Authorities (NHA) and Pakistan Railway should be dealt with quickly.

Jackob Linulf calls on Minister for Maritime Affairs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Denmark in Pakistan Jakob Linulf on Monday called on Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh to discuss the practical implications of memorandum of understanding (MoU) in maritime sector ahead of Danish Foreign Minister visit.

During the meeting, the Minister said that MoU with Maersk Line (Danish company) through Danish Government was a landmark achievement for Pakistan's maritime sector.

First time in the history, a company was ready to invest USD 2 Billion in maritime sector, said a press release.

He assured full support and provide conducive environment to Denmark's Government and investors to invest in maritime sector.

Qaiser Shaikh expressed the hope that MoU with Maersk Line turn into agreement on the arrival of Danish Foreign Minister H.E Lars Lokke Rasmussen. He added the government was ready to welcome him because both countries have a long history of brotherly relationship.



ISLAMABAD: H.E. Jakob Linulf, Ambassador of Denmark, calls on Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh.

Thanks to Buledi P&D Dept. approves MGFMH project costing Rs. 2.5 billion for Buleda Zamran

Independent Report
 QUETTA: The Planning and Development Department, Government of Balochistan has approved the Mir Ghulam Farooq Memorial Hospital costing Rs. 2.5 billion for Buleda Zamran.

The people of the area have thanked the Provincial Minister for Planning and Development Department, Mir Zahoor Buledi for the great initiative.

They said that the Mir Ghulam Farooq Memorial Hospital is no less than a gift for the people after the Shaheed Ayub Buledi Secondary School project launched under the Public-Private Partnership.

With establishment of the modern hospital, the people would have the best public healthcare facilities at their doorstep.



ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani addressing the inaugural plenary of the 27th Sustainable Development Conference at Pak-China Friendship Centre.

Gilani for relentless efforts, innovative approach to achieve sustainable development goals

ISLAMABAD (APP): Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani on Monday highlighting the country's multiple initiatives to achieve resilience and a sustainable future, called for relentless efforts, massive awareness, and an innovative approach to meet the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

He told the gathering of cabinet members, academicians, environmental experts, think tanks and researchers that the promotion of sustainable practices necessitated fostering a culture of responsible citizenship and environmental awareness.

He commended the second edition of the Sustainability Investment Expo 2024 held alongside the moot to showcase cutting-edge technology, fostering collaboration and attracting investment.

He said the theme of the conference "From Fragility to Resilience: Enhancing Sustainable Development" was a reminder of the critical importance of transforming and turning vulnerabilities into strengths, besides innovation and adaptability.

Governor Punjab calls on CM Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): Governor Punjab calls on CM Balochistan Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider met with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti on Monday at the Chief Minister's Secretariat in Quetta.

Matters of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting. Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti briefed the Punjab Governor on ongoing initiatives for reforms and improvements in various sectors, including good governance, health, and education in the province.

Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan expressed satisfaction with the public welfare projects underway in Balochistan, commending Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti's vision and lauding the efforts for public welfare projects.

Both leaders prayed for the swift recovery of President Asif Ali Zardari and conveyed their best wishes.

They also agreed on enhancing cooperation and effective communication between the two provinces for the benefit of public welfare.



QUETTA: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan and Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail attending luncheon hosted by Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti

Punjab govt has no plan to buy PIA: Azma Bokhari

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari said on Monday that the Punjab government had no plan to buy the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA).

She said the matter of launching a separate airline for Punjab was discussed but buying the national flag carrier was not on the table. "Pakistan needs a good airline. The overseas Pakistanis complain Muhammad Nawaz Sharif about the problems faced by them by travelling through the PIA. The provinces have the right to start their own airlines," she added.

Speaking about the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's interest in purchasing the PIA, the Information Minister wondered that it was strange that "a debt-stressed provincial government" was talking about purchasing the PIA.

"The KP government should clear other debts before showing interest in buying the PIA", she added.

Roll number slips of Bpsc exams to be available Online

Independent Report
 The Balochistan Public Service Commission (Bpsc) has informed candidates for the upcoming exams for Tehsildar (B-16), Naib Tehsildar (B-14) in the Board of Revenue, Development Officer (B-16) in Local Government, and Assistant (B-16) positions across various departments that roll number slips will not be sent via postal addresses. Instead, candidates are advised to obtain their roll number slips from the Bpsc's official website.

To further assist candidates, Bpsc has also introduced official social media platforms on Facebook, WhatsApp, and X (formerly Twitter) to provide essential updates and information.



QUETTA: Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar listening to problems of people at his office

New term of Services Chiefs

The new term of Services Chiefs from three to five years brings numerous benefits to government institutions and serves Pakistan's best interests.

Some advantages of the very initiative of extension in the tenure of the Services Chiefs are included:

Continuity and Stability:
 A longer tenure ensures continuity in handling multilateral challenges in economic and security domains, allowing for sustained leadership and stability. In addition to this, it would surely ensure to build the Investor Confidence. For instance, this change will enhance confidence among investors looking to invest in Pakistan under the Security and Investment Framework Committee (SIFC), fostering a favorable business environment.

And what's most important advantage of the initiative would be the Institutional Continuity.

This means steady progress in combating terrorism is maintained, ensuring seamless transition and minimizing disruption.

And then comes the Institution-Over-Individual Approach. This policy shift focuses on institutional benefits rather than individual personalities, ensuring consistency and stability.

In terms of specific benefits to government institutions:
 Yet another remarkable benefit of this is the Improved Joint Planning and Operations.

A Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) facilitates joint planning, operations, and procurement, making the armed forces more effective.

Similarly, it would boost the Enhanced Civilian-Military Coordination. The CDS promotes better civilian-military coordination in national security matters.

And last but not the least, one of the major benefits of this move would be the ultimate Optimized Resource Utilization.

The CDS helps reduce wasteful expenditure and enhances combat capabilities. So, by extending the tenure of Services Chiefs, Pakistan can strengthen its institutions, bolster national security, and attract investment, ultimately serving the country's best interests.

Matter of fact remains that those elements opposing the move are exactly not known to the benefits and advantages, the beloved country is going to have in the long run. Or at least these elements don't want to see Pakistan progressing.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs the Federal Cabinet Meeting.

ECC approves circular debt management plan, POL supply agreement

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet on Monday approved the Circular Debt Management Plan for FY 2024-25, and sale purchase agreement for supply of POL products between Pakistan State Oil (PSO) and SOCAR Azerbaijan.

The committee met under the chairmanships of Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, said a news release.

During the meeting, several key agenda items were discussed and decisions were made.

Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division) presented a summary, seeking approval for the Sale Purchase Agreement (SPA) for the supply of POL products between Pakistan State Oil (PSO) and SOCAR Azerbaijan.

WASA lodges petition against employees on strike

QUETTA (APP): Water and Sanitation Authority (WASA) on Monday lodged a petition against its employees on strike in the High Court of Balochistan.

It may be recalled that on directions of DC Quetta, AC City met with MD WASA to end strike of WASA labour employees.

An application under CP of High Court is being submitted by WASA on contempt of court orders against employees on strike, said a statement issued here.

PM apprises cabinet of his recent successful visits to KSA, Qatar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday apprised the cabinet members of the outcome of his recent successful visits to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and State of Qatar, terming these as 'successful and productive'.

The prime minister, while addressing the cabinet's meeting, said that he held very productive and useful consultations with the leadership of KSA and Qatar wherein different subjects like solar energy, mines, minerals and IT sectors were thoroughly discussed during the bilateral meetings.

He said a delegation of Qatar Investment Authority would soon visit Pakistan as Qatar had announced to invest \$3 billion in Pakistan, adding Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, during a meeting, had told him that there was immense potential of IT trained people and asked him to send the skilled people from Pakistan to the Kingdom since they required it.

Amir of Qatar also hinted at setting up an IT park in Pakistan, he added.

The prime minister said whereas Pakistan and Azerbaijan had also agreed to enhance the bilateral investment to \$2 billion in diverse areas.



QUETTA: Supreme Court Bar Association Balochistan Professional Panel Presidential Candidate, Munir Ahmad Khan Kakar along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at the High Court Bar Room in Quetta.

Balochistan takes major step toward sustainable agriculture with organic farming policy

QUETTA (APP): The Government of Balochistan has approved the Balochistan Organic Agriculture Policy 2024, signaling a transformative shift in the province's agricultural sector.

This policy focuses on environmental sustainability, economic growth, and strengthening farmers' resilience to climate change. The move is expected to boost local biodiversity and food security and reduce Pakistan's reliance on imported organic cotton, saving millions of dollars in foreign exchange.

In collaboration with W F F - P a k i s t a n, Balochistan's Agriculture Extension Department is working with 12,000 farmers across the province on 95,000 acres of land to advance organic farming practices. In 2023-24, as many as 67,067 acres of organic cotton have been globally certified in key districts, including Barkhan, Lasbela, Kohlu, and Khuzdar, said a news release.

This milestone reflects the province's growing role in sustainable cotton production.

Commenting on the policy, Muhammad Jahangir Kakar, Special Secretary Agriculture and Cooperative Department, the provincial said that the policy represents a transformative shift from the province's current agricultural practices to a more sustainable, ecological and economically viable model for Pakistan.