

# Independent

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

## 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.

During the participation in the Future Investment Initiative, he held detailed meeting with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, adding Saudi Arabia was a close friend and partner of Pakistan and its leadership had assured all kind of assistance to support economic stability and country's development. He said that volume of Saudi's investment would increase from \$2.2 billion to \$2.8 billion.

## 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.

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.

The changes also include amendments to the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act, 2023, to incorporate constitutional benches, expanding the scope and composition of judicial panels.

Proposed additions to Article 191A of the Constitution will enable these benches to address constitutional matters, with an administrative committee of senior judges responsible for allocating cases to either the Supreme Court or constitutional benches.

Despite the disruption, the minister briefed the assembly on the provisions of the bills, highlighting the backlog of thousands of

pending cases at the Supreme Court's registry, which necessitates the increase in judicial capacity.

Tarar highlighted the need for additional judges to manage case backlogs and facilitate the formation of constitutional benches.

He noted that various bar associations, including the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), had advocated for this increase to expedite cases across Pakistan's judicial centers in Karachi, Quetta, Peshawar, and Lahore.

Immediately after the law minister and the defence minister presented the bills, the National Assembly proceeded with voting despite ongoing noisy protests from the opposition and approved the amendments.

During the voting ses-

sion, opposition members disrupted proceedings, chanting slogans, surrounding the Speaker's dais, and tearing copies of the bill in protest. The uproar escalated, with some members engaging in physical altercations.

APP adds: The National Assembly on Monday passed six bills including "The Supreme Court Number of Judges (Amendment) Bill, 2024 with majority vote, following a detailed clause-by-clause review.

The bills include the "Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) (Amendment) Bill, 2024," the "Islamabad High Court (Amendment) Bill, 2024," Pak Army Amendment Bill, 2024," the Pakistan Air Force Amendment Bill, 2024," and the "Pakistan Navy Amendment Bill, 2024."

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## 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 Association 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 Nations 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.

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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.

## 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 resultantly 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## Six Khwarrij terrorists killed in 2 separate IBOs in KP

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Security Forces killed six Khwarrij 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 khwarrij's location, resultantly one khwarji Ahmed Shah alias Intizar was killed, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release.

In another incident, the movement of the Khwarrij group, who were trying to infiltrate through the Paki-

stan-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 infiltrate. Resultantly, five khwarrij were killed, while three khwarrij got injured, it further said.

Pakistan has consistently been asking Interim Afghan Government to ensure effective border management on their side of the border. Interim Afghan Government is expected to fulfil its obligations and deny the use of Afghan soil by Khwarrij for perpetuating acts of terrorism against Pakistan.

## 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.

## 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 therein.

Medical Board comprising 4 doctors conducted medical examination of Imran Khan.

The team declared him medically fit after one hour long medical check up.

## 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.

## 99 percent target of polio immunization campaign achieved in Balochistan

Independent Report QUETTA: At least 99 percent target of polio immunization campaign has been achieved as it came to an end in Balochistan on Monday.

According to the sources of Emergency Operation Center (EOC) for Polio Eradication, the seven day anti-polio campaign had commenced in the province on October 28, 2024.

It was targeted to vaccinate over 2.65 million children below five years of age during immunization campaign all over the province. The EOC sources said that one percent children who couldn't be administered anti polio vaccine were included those who were not at home or were sick when teams got to their homes for vaccination.



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

## Jl challenges 26th constitutional amendment in Supreme Court

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Jamat-e-Islami (JI) has challenged the 26th constitutional amendment in the Supreme Court of Pakistan on Monday.

Jl Chief Hafiz Naemur Rehman challenged the amended law.

all four provincial governments respondents, the party, in its petition, argued that the amendment was against fundamental human rights.

The petition contends that the amendment contradicts several constitutional provisions.

## 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.



## 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

reforms, Advisor Ihtisham Ali assessed the progress on a 30-point agenda with concerned officials. He issued instructions for implementing these reforms and evaluated the current progress. It was reported to the Advisor that the IT cell had mostly completed training of DHO and MS staff across districts as part of the health sector's digitization process. Measures have also been taken to enhance HRMIS, IT equipment availability, and staff capabilities. The Health Advisor directed that appointments and postings of DHOs and MS are now the responsibility of the Health Department's Placement Committee, which will appoint individuals from a pre-approved panel.

## 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.

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## 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

lives and destroyed countless homes and livelihoods also seared a scar of terror in many survivors.

Cuevas, a 48-year-old embryologist, is a resident of Chiva, a village perched on a hill about 30 kilometers (18 miles) from Valencia city, whose southern outskirts were likewise ravaged by the floods on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Chiva got more rain in eight hours than the town had experienced in the preceding 20 months. Cuevas was at home and saw how the gorge dividing her village suddenly overflowed with rushing water.

The tsunami-like wall of water claimed at least seven lives in Chiva, home to some 16,000 people, and the search goes on for more missing, either in collapsed houses or in the gorge.

## 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

India's Uttarakhand state. — Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Uttarakhand / AFP

Road accidents are common along the many mountainous roads in the Himalayan region, caused mostly by poor maintenance and reckless driving in the tortuous terrain.

"So far, 36 casualties have been confirmed," Deepak Rawat, a senior official from the northern state of Uttarakhand told reporters.

"Three critically injured have been sent to hospital using a helicopter."

## 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.

## 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 widened 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).

## 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-

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.

## 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-

field and another hard winter ahead after Russia relentlessly battered the Ukrainian power grid.

With his army under severe Russian pressure in the eastern Donetsk region, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Monday that Western military aid deliveries have accelerated, including for artillery.

Russia's torture of Ukrainian civilians, prisoners is a crime against humanity, UN expert panel says. The grinding attritional warfare being fought in Ukraine requires large amounts of ammunition, and Ukrainian officials have long grumbled that Western pledges of support take too long to arrive.

Ahead of the U.S. election, Zelenskyy attempted to lock Ukraine's Western supporters into a long-term "victory plan," including a formal invitation for Ukraine to join NATO and permission to use Western long-range missiles.

