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VOICE OF MASSES

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

PM expresses satisfaction at economic stability, inflow of foreign investment

Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif tional institutions were on Monday expressed his satisfaction over the economic stability in the country and the inflow of for- of those who were out to eign 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 addressed letter to Internasaid that due to tional Monetary Fund government's efforts, the (IMF) to halt country's fiinflation rate was also re- nancial programme.

Minister that all the global and naprojecting economic stability in the country. "The evil machinations

> create chaos and those who pushed the country to verge of default have been foiled," PM Office Media 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 wrote about those who worked for the sake of the country and those elements who

ISLAMABAD (APP): 7 percent and observed 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 part-Wing, in a press release nership 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 develop-ment. He said that volume of Saudi's investment would increase from \$2.2

Terrorist killed.

weapon,

ammunition

recovered

RAWALPINDI (APP): A

terrorist was killed on

Monday by Security

Forces during a fire ex-

change took place between

own troops and the terror-

ists in Nushki District of

tively engaged terrorists

location, and resultantly

one terrorist was killed,

said an Inter Services Pub-

lic Relations news release

Weapon and ammunition

were also recovered from

the killed terrorist, it fur-

tion is being conducted to

eliminate any other terror-

ist found in the area. Secu-

rity forces of Pakistan, in

step with the nation, re-

main determined to thwart

attempts at sabotaging

peace, stability and

progress of Balochistan,'

further said the news re-

AC Quetta city

'Sanitization opera-

'Own troops effec-

Balochistan.

ther said.

lease.



OUETTA: 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 Sarfraz Bugti here at the CM's secretariat on Mon-

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

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



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

JI challenges 26th constitutional amendment in Supreme Court

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

JI Chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman challenged the amended law

Making the federal and

ments respondents, the party, in its petition, argued that the amendment was against fundamental human

The petition contends that the amendment contradicts several constitutional provisions

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 constitutional petition being submitted against the employees of WASA staging dharna in the High Court under contempt of court

vices 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

ISLAMABAD (Agencies):

The National Assembly on

Monday approved a legis-

lative amendment to extend

the tenures of all armed ser-

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

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed

Asim Munir has empha-

sized that global peace to-

day is confronted with ever

evolving threats and chal-

Annual Conference of In-

ternational Association of

Peacekeeping Training Centre (IAPTC), the

COAS said that despite the

numerous peacekeeping

endeavors underway by the UN and other organi-

zations, the plight of innocent Kashmiris and Pales-

tinians serve as a stark re-

minder that still a lot needs

to be done, said an Inter

Services Public Relations

(ISPR) news release issued

ference of International As-

The 28th Annual Con-

on Monday

Addressing at the 28th

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.

in the Supreme Court and which were subsequently approved by the House.

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 Global peace confronted

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

commenced with the inau-

guration of new CIPS

building by COAS General Syed Asim Munir,

eral, Department of Peace

Operations, Jean Pierre

Lacroix, United Nation's

Police Advisor, Acting

Deputy Military Advi-

sor, Foreign Secretary of

Pakistan and Rector

NUST, also accompanied

the Chief Guest during

inauguration and opening

ceremony of the confer-

The event officially

Under Secretary Gen-

November 4-8.

NI (M).

Finance Minister hopes for

stronger Pak-ADB partnership

ISLAMABAD (INP): Finance Minister Muhammad

Aurangzeb has expressed the hope that long-term part-

pivotal role in supporting Pakistan's development agenda.

Development Bank in Pakistan, Emma Fan, who called

stan was also accompanied the Country Director ADB,

Fan on her posting in Pakistan, and hoped the long-term

partnership between Pakistan and ADB would grow fur-

ther during her tenure and the Bank would continue to

play a pivotal role in supporting Pakistan's development

state of the economy and ongoing reforms in SOEs, taxa-

tion and energy and other sectors for improving gover-

Six Khwarij terrorists killed

in 2 separate IBOs in KP

stan-Afghanistan interna-

tional 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

khwarij were killed, while

three khwarij got injured, it

tently been asking Interim

Afghan Government to en-

sure effective border man-

agement on their side of the

border. Interim Afghan

Government is expected to

fulfil its obligations and

deny the use of Afghan soil

by Khwarij for perpetuat-

ing acts of terrorism against

Pakistan has consis-

further said.

nance, efficiency and sustainability of these sectors.

The Minister also shared with her an update on the

him in Islamabad Monday.

the press statement said.

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

operation, the Army troops

effectively engaged the

resultantly one kharji

Ahmed Shah alias Intizar

was killed, said an Inter

Services Public Relations

movement of the Khwarij

group, who were trying to

infiltrate through the Paki-

In another incident, the

(ISPR) news release.

During conduct of the

location,

(KP) on Sunday night.

khwarij's

He was talking to new Country Director of the Asian

Asad Aleem, Deputy Country Director-ADB Paki-

Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb welcomed Ms Emma

with ever evolving threats,

challenges: COAS

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

minister introduced the Islamabad High Court Amendment Bill 2024, explaining that the number of judges in the High Court would be raised from nine The changes also include amendments to the

Moreover, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar also presented proposals to increase the number of judges Islamabad High Court,

Tarar presented the Supreme Court Number of Judges (Amendment) Bill

backlog of thousands of

Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act, 2023, to incorporate constitu-

tional 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 Immediately after the senior judges responsible for allocating cases to either

stitutional benches. Despite the disruption, the minister briefed the assembly on the provisions of the bills, highlighting the

the Supreme Court or con-

preme 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

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

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-Bill, 2024

pending cases at the Su-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 Na-He noted that various tional Assembly on Monday passed six bills including "The Supreme Court Number of Judges (Amendment) Bill, 2024 with majority vote, following a detailed clauseby-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



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir addressing 28th Annual Conference of International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centre (IAPTC)

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 nership between Pakistan and Asian Development Bank Dar, according to a Foreign will grow further, with the Bank continuing to play a 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

Governor vows to overcome challenges facing in promotion of higher education sector Provincial Assembly, Mir **Independent Report**

JETTA: 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 re-

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

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

Asadullah Baloch who called on him here at the Governor House on Mon-

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 conomic 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

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

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 fro 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.

Daily Aoice of Masse 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

In both cases, unilateral decisions were taken to facilitate the military's Green Initiative for largescale 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:

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 In Pakistan, the prob-

lem 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 weakesses of frequent cases of corruption. The inadequacy is coupled with cultural attitudes that may normalize the risks associated with drinking and driving. As a conseuence, road accidents and leaths associated with drinkdriving 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 con-Pakistan needs to pun-

ish 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 prop-Pakistan 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.

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 re-

ducing the incidence of driv-

ing under the Influence ac-

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 visitingfriends, 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, Pakiprogress 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 arise 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 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 wisdom, that this is a ripe time to change the face of the Middle East.

has been clear for some time: it involves starving the Israeli assault, leavand 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 apologia 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 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 has been defeated, its Hezbollah and its allies control more than half the and we are with you, and seats. Would the US the entire free world

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 evacuadecided, in their infinite tion of large parts of southern Lebanon where borderline psychopathic Hezbollah has its stron-

gest support. The Lebanese army, The plan for Gaza one should note, evacuated its positions before ing 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 atrociity view even in Geagea's n 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 cording a piece to cam-

Chiding them for ng "afraid" of Hezbollah, she report-edly said: "Hezbollah leadership is destroyed, guarantee the safety of stands by your side."

Lebanon's parliament? 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 circles of US policymakers and think tanks.

As for who wou-ld lead Iran after the current regi--me 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 ties mean that this is, for assure you, the most now, seemingly a minor- unhinged lot you will ever come across in this lifetime. In their hate for 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 embedded with the Israeli army in Gaza, while reera in the ruins of a Palestinian home, inscribed the slogan of the 2022 protests Iranian 'women, life, freedom' on the remains of a wall These then are the Ahmed Chalabis 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): decline in the current the government's effective Federal Minister for account deficit, which economic management. Finance and Revenue, reflects improved economic Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday release. held a meeting with TPG Capital delegation led by the investment exports opportunities, focusing on diversification strategies, strengthening economic adding that the recent ties and boosting Pakistan efforts have resulted in a

highlighted the positive trajectory of Pakistan's

stability, said a news

He also emphasized through marked increase in export

Furthermore.

In line with the government's vision for sustainable economic also emphasized growth, the minister government's discussed the ongoing Partner Jide Olanrewaju to commitment to boosting structural reforms aimed at enhancing market conditions and creating a conducive environment for both domestic and foreign investments. reforms are pivotal in he attracting capital and investor

minister performance. announced that inflation fostering economic indicators and has decreased to single- confidence in Pakistan's pointed out the notable digit levels, a testament to economic landscape.

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.

Kundi assures support to foster

a business-friendly environment

RAWALPINDI (APP): (RCCI) during his best to Central Asia's trade routes.

the chamber. He outlined

improve infrastructure,

enhance law enforcement

capabilities, and promote

resources to tackle law and

order and improve security

across the province, along

with upgrading roads,

educational institutions,

'The government is

economic growth in KP.

Economic indicators improving, says Punjab **Finance Minister**

LAHORE (APP): Vice President Engineer
Provincial Finance Minister Khalid Usman former
Muitaba Shuig are P. Mujtaba Shuja-ur-Rehman on Monday said that inspiring economic progress has been made by spoke on the occasion. The 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.

Commerce and Industry (LCCI). The LCCI Shad presented the address stabilized around 17 of welcome while Senior percent and inflation.

President Muhammad Ali Mian and Executive Minister congratulated the LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad for winning LCCI polls with thumping

The Provincial Minister credited Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, along He was speaking here with their teams, for at the Lahore Chamber of improving the overall economy. He mentioned that the stock market has President Mian Abuzar set records, interest rate is

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 Socrat 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 Industries Production, according to

SMEDA spokesman here

Monday.



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

SME dev. plan to revitalize

Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Pakistan South Africa Trade Federation (PSATF) have decided to launch joint

Governor

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

government's commitment

to increasing business

security concerns facing the

top brass of Rawalpindi

business community.

environment in KP.

business-friendly

He reaffirmed the

Khyber

activity and addressing and medical facilities," he

during his meeting with the importance of fostering

Chamber of Commerce institutions to activate

He remarked this underscored

said.

cooperation

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

(APP): 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

Advisory

the ongoing initiatives to political stability and economic growth were essential goals that required the support of all political parties. He encouraged RCCI utilizing all available to prepare proposals for

He also emphasized that

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

SCCI, PSATAF agree for joint initiatives to attract foreign investment

initiatives to attract foreign investment in various potentials and sectors of

The decision came during a meeting of SCCI president Fazal Moqeem 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

present during the

delegation consisted of general secretary of the federation Ikramullah Jan, President for the Middle East, KP, and Islamabad region Mumtaz Khan Yousafzai, Members 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 Jewellers Sarafa Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs. 3,430 and Rs. 2,940.67, respectively.

FPCCI proposes amendments in Petroleum Act 1934 seek clarification. While we

Independent Report ARACHI: 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 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

acknowledge their reply; nevertheless, we, at FPCCI, feel that the country needs amendments and updates in the Petroleum Act of 1934 – to create enabling environment for the sector to flourish.

Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, 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



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

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

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 a testament of Zong's unwavering commitment to be an excellent information industry services and technology innovation company of Pakistan. The TIA-942 is internationally Data Center infrastructure, and the Rated-3

ISLAMABAD (APP): Zong's dedication to Zong, Pakistan's leading 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. release, this certification is reinforcing the company's position as a leader in the telecommunications

While congratulating the Network team Zong's Chief Technical Officer Lu Jianhui said, "Achieving recognized standard for this certification reflects our ongoing investment in the latest technologies and certification highlights infrastructure.

KP CM vows to promote education on modern lines

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa districts of the province. Chief Minister, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has said that the incumbent provincial government is working under a welldevised strategy to their education so far promote the education sector on modern lines with a special focus on imparting education to students, especially to females adding that Alternate to those children who are Learning Pathways (ALP) program is an integral part be enrolled in formal

program, 1,267 centers Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

HYDERABAD: An electric pole has fallen due to a

CM's Advisor on

Health chairs reforms

review meeting

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-

truck collision at Tando Yousuf Road.

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

Sherpao, Director General

Health Services Dr. Muhammad Saleem, DG

PHSA Dr. Abdul Waheed,

Chief HSRU Dr. Khalil

Iftikhar, Chief Planning

Officer Qaiser Alam, ADĞ Public Health Dr. Shahid

Younis, Deputy Director

IT Zakrullah, Deputy Chief

HSRU Dr. Majid, and other

During the review

meeting on departmental approved panel.

relevant officials.

districts of the province, presently imparting formal and informal education to 42,644 students, while 62,000 students have completed under the program.

He further said that the main objective behind quality launching the ALP program was to provide educational opportunities out of school and cannot schools for being over age. Under the ALP He mentioned that the

government had been working on introducing an Education 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 Elementary and Secondary Education Department here on Monday at Nishtar Hall, Peshawar.



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

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.



to graduate student during the graduation ceremony under Alternate Learning Pathways Initiative of Elementary and Secondary Education Department at Nishtar hall.

Punjab govt's amendments to procurement rules spark outrage

LAHORE (PR): The over the amendments. Punjab government's labeling them a "sinister recent amendments to the conspiracy' Procurement Rules (PPRA) have been met with fierce criticism from Pakistan Newspapers Society Punjab Committee. The changes are seen as a covert attempt to ban tender

notices advertisements in national and regional newspapers, potentially strangling the already financially vulnerable newspaper industry

APNS Punjab Committee Chairman Jamil Athar Qazi expressed grave concerns

economically strangle newspapers.

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

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 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 Chorani 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.

Punjab govt to present Rs630bn surplus budget next year: Azma

Information Minister fire in KP, their so-called Azma Bokhari has that revolutionary fire brigade doesn't even have funds to pay employee salaries but still dreams of buying

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 government was planning to purchase PIA. All Pakistanis want the national airline to improve, and if investors from Karachi are 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 the CM of Indian break out of jails there. Punjab," she added.

LAHORE (APP): Punjab "When there was a forest the KP government 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 said that the Punjab 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



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.

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

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

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 con-

cluded 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

sented 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 University Sakrand, Quaide-Awam University

Shakeel Ahmed Khan, pre-versity Khairpur, Sheikh Ayaz University Shikarpur, IBA University Sukkur, Shaheed Mohtarma 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 culminated in a triangular the Zone-K champions and Association Hyderabad, Nawabshah, Shah Latif Unicricket 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 3year-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

In a meeting in Seoul, South Korean Defense Minister Kim Yong Hyun and the EU's visiting foreign policy chief, Josep patch 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 The U.S. government

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 Borrell, expressed "serious concerns" about North estimated to have moved about 10,000-12,000

Korea's reported troop dis- troops to Russia. If they start fighting against Ukraine forces, it would 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 insaid Thursday that about tensifying 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

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.

36 dead in bus crash in Indian Himalayas

with UN agency

providing aid in Gaza

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 pital using a helicopter."

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 in-

jured have been sent to hos-Israel ends agreement

Jewish Iranian man in murder case: NGO **Monitoring Desk**

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

western Rights group.

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

Iran executes

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

MAUMERE: Indonesia's Disaster Management Agency said Monday that at least nine people have died as a series of volcanic eruptions wid ens 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).

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 be-tween the two coun-

Video of the meeting showed the pair shaking hands for a 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 said last week tha greetings" from North Korean leader Kim Putin to meet Choe.

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 pres-

Choe, making her second trip to Russia in six weeks, told Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Friday full minute as Putin 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

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 a U.S. presidential election that could bring far-reaching changes in Washington's policy toward Russia's allout 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, President Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Monday that Western military aid deliveries have accelerated, including for ar-

Russia's torture of Ukrainian civilians, prisoners is a crime against hu-manity, 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.

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

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

"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

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 activ-

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.

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 allega-

tions 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

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

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.

The acting president, addressing the inaugural plenary of the 27th Sustainable Development Conference organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), highlighted the transformative role of technology and said that by harnessing advancement in artificial intelligence and blockchain, the social protection and inclusive growth could be achieved through innovative methods.

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

second edition of the Sustainability Investment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Expo 2024 held alongside Acting President Syed the moot to showcase cut-yousuf Raza Gilani on ting-edge technology, fos-Expo 2024 held alongside the moot to showcase cuttering 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 adapt-

He said the deliberations at the conference would be a clarion call for survival and prosperity as Pakistan being the fifth most vulnerable country, had been faced with the impacts of climate

However, he said the country had made commendable strides towards climate governance and sustainable development as the national climate and sustainable development policy outlined a comprehensive strategy to address resilience, mitigation, poverty alleviation, social equity, women empowerment, agriculture, water resources and energy effi-He commended the ciency, women empowerment, water resources, and energy efficiencies.



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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan, adding Saudi Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday apprised the cabinet members of the outcome of his recent mense potential of IT successful visits to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and State of Qatar, terming these kistan to the Kingdom as 'successful and since they required it.

ter, while addressing an IT park in Pakithe 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 bi-

lateral meetings. He said a delegation of Qatar Investment Authority would soon visit Pakistan as Qatar had announced Mohammed

Salman, during a meeting, had told him that there was imtrained people and asked him to send the skilled people from Pastan, he added.

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

He said the understanding between the two countries was reached during a visit of Azerbaijan Presiagreements



Sustainable Development Conference at Pak-China Friendship Centre.

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 Sarfraz 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 ncrease 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 more effective adding asserted that no negligence or lenience is tolerable in

SC disposes of

over-billing case against SNGPL

ISLAMABAD (APP): A

division bench of the Su-

preme Court of Pakistan

on Monday disposed of

the case regarding the over-billing of Sui North-ern Gas Pipeline Limited

A two-judge bench, comprising Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and

Justice Aqeel Abbasi,

heard the case related to over-billing of SNGPL.

(SNGPL).

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 Minis-

ter 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 Shafqaat, Coordinator Emergency Operation Center for Polio Eradication, Inamul Haq and other concerned high ups were in attendance at the meeting.

The Chief Minister campaign. 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

He said that we would provide the required resources for eradication of the polio, however, he directed to the concerned quarters to give results in this regard.

and result-oriented and no

negligence and lenience

would be tolerated in this

He on the occasion announced to introduce the impartial monitoring system for inspection of the polio immunization

The Chief Minister on the occasion also issued certain directives for eradication of polio. He directed to reach out each and every child through

He also directed to complete the national electronic immunization in all districts of the province In this regard, he directed to all the commissioners to extend assistance to the Health department.

He also directed to mobilize all work force of the Health department for eradication of polio virus in the province.

In addition to this, he directed to seek services of around 6,000 LHVs and LHWs for the immunization campaign



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

Governor Punjab calls on CM Balochistan

Punjab govt has no

plan to buy PIA:

Azma Bokhari

QUETTA (APP): Gover- the public welfare projects nor Puniab 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 ex-

LAHORE (APP): Punjab

Information Minister Azma

Bokhari said on Monday

that the Punjab government

had no plan to buy the Pa-

kistan International Airlines

launching a separate airline

for Punjab was discussed

but buying the national flag

carrier wasn't on the table.

'Pakistan needs a good air-

complain

She said the matter of

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 be-

tween the two provinces for the benefit of public welfare. Balochistan provincial

through the PIA. The prov-

inces have the right to start

their own airlines," she

Speaking about the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's in-

terest in purchasing the

PIA, the Information Min-

ister wondered that it was

strange that "a debt-

stressed provincial govern-

ment" was talking about purchasing the PIA.

should clear other debts

before showing interest in buying the PIA", she

'The KP government

ministers Mir Sadiq Umrani, Mir Asim Kurd Gailo, Haji Ali Madad Jattak, and Bakht Muhammad Kakar were pressed satisfaction with also present at the meeting.

management plan, **POL** supply agreement ISLAMABAD (APP) The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet on Monday

ECC approves

circular debt

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 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.

The committee approved the signing of the

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 stirke, said a statement issued here.

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 stabil-

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, ensur-

ing consistency and stability.
In terms of specific benefits to government insti-

Yet another remarkable benefit of this is the Im-oved 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 coor-

dination 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 na-

tional security, and attract investment, ultimately serv-ing 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.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): munications, 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

Presiding over a nigh-level meeting of the Focal Group to review track of Pakistan Rail-

fer investment to the prihaving 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 ways and other impor- while our railway system tant issues related to this is far behind that. He didepartment, the minister rected the pending issues hasized that China between the National H and Russia can invest in way Authorities (NHA) improving the present and Pakistan Railway infrastructure of Pakistan should be dealt with Railways in order to of- quickly.



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

Jackob Linulf calls on Minister for **Maritime Affairs**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Denmark in Pakistan Jackob 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 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 sup-

port and provide conducive environment to Denmark's Government and investors to invest in maritime sector.

Qaiser Shaikh ex-

pressed 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.

Moreover, the minister directed all ports and relevant authorities of maritime ministry to develop a comprehensive framework for the support of Danish investor (Maersk).

The minster further said that he chaired performance review meeting of port authorities to address the problems before this huge expected foreign investment. He told that the management of all port authorities were working effectively and sincerely to facilitate the foreign investors because our ports had potential to contribute 8-10 percent of GDP.



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

PCG seizes hashish worth millions

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Coast Pakistan Pakistan Coast Guards (PCG) seized ductive'. Amir of Qatar also a huge quantity of hashish worth milhashish worth millions from Gwadar, Balochistan.

According to a news release on Monday, the PCG acting on a tip off recovered 1292 kg hashish dumped in bushes in Kamb area of Gwadar.

The seized drugs was suspected to be smuggled up country or abroad. The ap-proximated value of the seized drugs is 21.6 million dollars. Further investigations are underway.

dent Ilham Aliyev in the shape of signing of memorandums of unto invest \$3 billion in derstanding (MoUs).

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

Balochistan takes major step toward sustainable agriculture with organic farming policy

QUETTA (APP): The Gov- Kohlu, and Khuzdar, said a ernment of Balochistan has approved the Balochistan Organic Agriculture Policy 2024, signaling a transformative shift in the province's agricultural sector.

This policy focuses on en viron mental 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 WWF-Pakistan, 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,

news release.

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

Commenting on the licy, Muhammad policy, 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.

He shared that WWF-Pakistan in collaboration with the Agriculture Extension Department, Government of Balochistan launched a project in 2016 which led to the production of Pakistan's first ever organic cotton bale, placing the country on the global map for organic ag-

riculture.

Pakistan launches ' **National Sex Offenders** Register'

SLAMABAD (APP) The Ministry of Law and Justice, in collaboration with NADRA and the National Police Bureau, officially launched Pakistan's first National Sex Offenders Register at

This landmark initiative aims to reduce sexual violence and abuse by creating a more proactive and effective system for institutions and the public, said in a press reease issued here on Monday.

for preparing a register of sex offenders. The Ministry of Law and Justice, in partnership with the Special Committee established under the law, notified rules for the register in

line. The overseas Pakistanis Muhammad Nawaz Sharif about the problems faced

a ceremony.

Under Section 24 of the Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Act, 2021 NADRA was responsible

September 2023.

by them by travelling 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 (for-merly Twitter) to provide essential updates and infor-

Links to these platforms include:

F a c e b o o k : bpscofficialquetta X: officialbpsc WhatsApp: "BPSC OFFICIAL QUETTA" Candidates must carry their roll number slip, na-

tional ID card, and examination board to the exam centers. BPSC also emphasized that mobile phones. smartwatches, tablets, and other electronic devices are strictly prohibited at the centers. If a candidate is found with any prohibited device during the exam, strict action will be taken. including the immediate cancellation of their paper and a three-year ban from all BPSC exams