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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

Prime 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 addressed letter to Internasaid that due to government's efforts, the inflation rate was also re- nancial programme. duced from 38 percent to

Minister that all the global and na-Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif tional 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 wrote about those who worked for the sake of the country and those elements who tional Monetary Fund

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 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 cial programme. would increase from \$2.2 The prime minister billion to \$2.8 billion.

Terrorist killed,

weapon,

ammunition

recovered

'Own troops effec-

tively engaged terrorists

location, and resultantly

one terrorist was killed.

said an Inter Services Pub-

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): five years. The amendments re-

The National Assembly on Monday approved a legismove previous age limits lative amendment to extend and extend tenure options, enabling the Chief of Army the tenures of all armed services chiefs from three to Staff and other military five years. Hours later, the leaders to continue serving Senate approved the same as generals beyond the earset of bills, sending them to President Asif Ali Zardari lier prescribed 64 years, should national security or critical needs arise. for final approval.

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif presented amendments to the Pakistan Moreover, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar also presented proposals to in-crease the number of judges Army, Navy, and Air Force Acts, which were passed in the Supreme Court and by majority vote amidst intense protests from op-Islamabad High Court, which were subsequently approved by the House. position members. This amendment will extend the Tarar presented the Su-

preme Court Number of Judges (Amendment) Bill 2024 for parliamentary approval, proposing an in-crease 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 with ever evolving threats, challenges: COAS

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed sociation of Peacekeeping Training Centre (IAPTC) is being hosted for the first Asim Munir has emphatime in Pakistan at the sized that global peace to-Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), NUST, Islamabad from day is confronted with ever evolving threats and chal-November 4-8.

Addressing at the 28th The event officially commenced with the inau-guration of new CIPS building by COAS Gen-Annual Conference of International Association of Peacekeeping Training building by COAS Gen-Centre (IAPTC), the eral Syed Asim Munir, COAS said that despite the NI (M).

Under Secretary Gennumerous peacekeeping endeavors underway by 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

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.

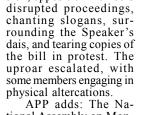
Despite the disruption. the minister briefed the assembly on the provisions of the bills, highlighting the backlog of thousands of

pending cases at the Su- sion, opposition members 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 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- Bill, 2024



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, 2024,³ 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)

These children are reg-

policy. Such children are

required to belong to an or-

phanage or child protection

unit registered with

NADRA. He was speaking

The Federal Minister

place of paternity.

on the resolution of Sena-

Iranian FM in **Islamabad** for consultations

NADRA has policy regarding children deprived of parental

reappointment regulations across the armed forces, giving the president authority,

lenges

upon the prime minister's advice, to appoint, reappoint, or extend terms for these positions for up to

tenure of all military chiefs from three to five years. The proposed changes will align the retirement and



(IMF) to halt country's fi-

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

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

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

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, academi-

cians, environmental ex-RAWALPINDI (APP): A perts, think tanks and reterrorist was killed on searchers that the promo-Monday by Security tion of sustainable practices Forces during a fire exnecessitated fostering a culchange took place between ture of responsible citizenown troops and the terrorship and environmental ists in Nushki District of awareness. Balochistan.

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

lic Relations news release Weapon and ammunition tracting investment. were also recovered from He said the theme of the the killed terrorist, it furconference "From Fragility ther said. to Resilience: Enhancing 'Sanitization opera-Sustainable Development' tion is being conducted to was a reminder of the critieliminate any other terrorcal importance of transist found in the area. Secuforming and turning vulnerrity forces of Pakistan, in abilities into strengths, bestep with the nation, remain sides innovation and adaptdetermined to thwart at-

ability. He said the delibtempts at sabotaging peace, erations at the conference stability and progress of would be a clarion call for Balochistan," further said the survival and prosperity as news release

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

inauguration and opening The 28th Annual Conceremony of the conferference of International Asence

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.

on ME situation ISLAMABAD (APP): Ira-ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Infor-

nian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi on mation, Broadcasting, Na-Monday arrived here on a tional Heritage and Culture two-day official visit to Attaullah Tarar has said hold consultations with that there is a policy in Pakistan's leadership on the NADRA regarding children situation in the Middle deprived of parental iden-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.

tor Samina Mumtaz Zehri This visit provides an in the Upper House on important opportunity to Monday. advance cooperation and dialogue between Pakistan of Information said that and Iran on a wide range of when ID cards are made for areas including trade, enchildren without parents, ergy and security. names are put randomly in

Medical board declares Imran medically fit

RAWALPINDI (Önline): 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

identity: Attaullah Tarar

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

If anonymous genealogy is written or ID cards are issued without parents, it will be difficult for these children to live in the society, he mentioned.

He said that orphanages and child protection units must be registered with NADRA and an effective system for identifying such children needs to be introduced in NADRA so that registration of such children could be possible.

He said that if ID cards He said that the Minisare issued without parents, try of Information is ready they will be discriminated to conduct an awareness and there will be difficulcampaign in this regard.

JI challenges 26th constitutional amendment in Supreme Court ISLAMABAD (INP): The

rights 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 mended law. Making the federal and

all four provincial governments respondents, the

party, in its petition, argued against fundamental human clared null and void."

The petition contends that the amendment contradicts several constitutional provisions. The petitioner maintains that the amendment disrupts the established constitutional framework and calls for it to be nullified. "It also contravenes basic constitutional structure and several constitutional provisions. So, that the amendment was therefore, it should be de-

New term of Services Chiefs

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

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

Continuity and Stability:

A longer tenure ensures continuity in handling multilateral challenges in economic and security domains, allowing for sustained leadership and stability.

In addition to this, it would surely ensure to build the Investor Confidence. For instance, this change will enhance confidence among nvestors looking to invest in Pakistan under the Security and Investment Framework Committee (SIFC), fostering a favorable busines 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 ersonalities, ensuring consistency and stability.

In terms of specific benefits to government institutions:

Pakistan be

Yet another remarkable benefit of this is the Improved Joint Planning and Operations.

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

Similarly, it would boost the Enhanced Civilian-Military Coordination.

The CDS promotes better civilian-military coordination in national security matters.

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

The CDS helps reduce wasteful expenditure and enhances combat capabilities.

So, by extending the tenure of Services Chiefs, Pakistan can strengthen its institutions, bolster national security, and attract investment ltimately serving the country's best interests.

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

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.

Page 02

Tuesday November 05, 2024

OPINION

Daily **Independent**

Daily A oice 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 CCI forum.

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: The perils of drinking and driving

Education must start with **By Zainab Ramzan** the people, bringing home the effects of drinking and

Drink-driving, which is also known very commonly in sponsible conducts. These the present day as driving campaigns can be sustained under the influence of alcothrough media entities like hol, poses a serious threat television, radio, and social to public health and carries networks. Introduction of deadly risks for the driver information education in and other road users. Alcoschool and community sites hol interferes with fundaon alcohol or driving risks mental functions required would have a long-term imfor reaction time, coordinapact. Strengthening the legal tion, and judgment of a system so as to expedite the driver, making the act exprosecution of offenders tremely hazardous to drive would also help deter potenvehicle

tial criminals. Additional miti-In Pakistan, the probgations include equipping lem of drinks and driving is healthcare facilities with an issue that is extremely seproper equipment in preparious and multiproblem preration for debris from accisenting traffic safety chaldents, as well as support to lenges. Even though there are accident victims and their laws prohibiting acts under families. Collectively, these the impact, the weakness of steps are more contributory the legal system still relates to a holistic approach in re-

ducing the incidence of drivto the police, and the police remain unrelated to weaking under the Influence acesses of frequent cases of tivities Drinking and driving can be avoided by encouragcorruption. The inadequacy is coupled with cultural attitudes that may normalize the ing the use of other transport risks associated with drinkmeans, which may include ing and driving. As a conseassigned drivers or horse riding services. Activate louence, road accidents and leaths associated with drinkcal leaders and organizations driving in Pakistan are very to promote safe driving practices and encourage local efhigh, generating considerable pressure on the health sysforts on reducing drunk drivtem with severe conseing. If you know where you quences on social and ecoare going and what you are nomic fronts for families drinking, plan for how you concerned by such incidents. are getting there: ask for a The solution to this problem designated driver; use public involves stricter traffic laws transportation; reserve a enforcement, comprehensive ride-sharing service. Have a public information campaigns designated driver stay sober and systematic improveand to ensure everyone gets ments in the legal and health home safely. You can find measures to better address good ride-sharing services consequences of alcohol conthrough apps like Uber or Careem, if you cannot drive sumption

Pakistan needs to punyourself home. When ish criminals strongly, alvisitingfriends, you may though checking should be party all night instead of strict, through breath anadriving home drunk. Make lyzer and stern penalty use of buses, trains as well against violators, and the ofas other public transport fenders may be treated imwhen possible. Involve or partially. In order to prevent promote a community drinking and driving propproject designed to promote Pakistan safe driving practices and oferly, must strengthen its law enforce-

fer options for continuing ment measures; such meaunder the influence. This means data collecsures include strict checks, the use of breath analyzers, tion and analysis on drunk and treating the offenders driving cases are improved, impartially. It is equally poswhich helps understand the sible for a change in attitude magnitude and develops targeted interventions. Support and action if there is a start towards a nationwide camservices to alcoholics help address the causes of drink paign educating the public on the dangers of drunk driving. driving. By doing so, Paki-

stan can make very good progress in reducing drink driving and improving road driving into real life and re-

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 ser-

vice 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 eventu-

ally settled after paying 'blood money' under the country's Qisas and Diyat laws. Therefore, this is the only cure that can help Pakistan successfully battle this threat of drinking and driving: concerted effort that comprises tougher law enforcement, more public awareness, and some structural changes in the legal and healthcare sectors. As these elements are streamlined effectively, Pakistan will be able to have far less tremendous road accidents with alcohol, thereby bringing overall road safety. "Drinking alcohol is harmless but carries a risk when driving. Every choice matters. Choose life, choose safety. Remember, a

moment's temptation can lead to a lifetime of regret".

My enemy's enemy

gest support.

The Lebanese army,

Some of Hezbollah's

n community.

Lebanese media has

banner

Zarrar Khuhro

America has allies while pressing for the head of its enemies have proxies; America's allies have governments that must be supported while its enemies have regimes that must be changed.

And right now, in the midst of their jointly conducted genocide, America and Israel have decided, in their infinite tion of large parts of wisdom, that this is a ripe time to change the face Hezbollah has its stronof the Middle East. Again.

The plan for Gaza one should note, evacuhas been clear for some ated its positions before time: it involves starving the Israeli assault, leavand terrorising the reing Hezbollah to protest. maining population of Gaza into fleeing their opponents in Lebanon homes and making way are also sensing an opfor Jewish settlements portunity: Samir Geagea, and a permanent Israeli the leader of a right-wing military evacuation. Christian party, feels this

But there are plans is the perfect time to push afoot for Lebanon, too, for the disarming of where both Israel and US Hezbollah, after which he feel that the Israeli attack feels an agreement could is a perfect opportunity be reached with Israel. to degrade Hezbollah, However, the indiscrimiwhile also changing the nate nature of Israel's country's political landbombing, and the Lebascape. They're not exnese people's own expeactly making a secret of rience with Israeli atrociit: in October, State Department spokesman Vedant Patel took a break ity view even in Geagea's from his regular genocide apologia to tell reporters that America's "goal is to Lisa Johnson, the US amget the government and bassador to Lebanon, from using her position to country of Lebanon to a place where it is out of the pursue the agenda of stranglehold of eliminating Hezbollah from the Lebanese politi-Hezbollah'

To achieve that end, cal arena and thus prothe US tasked Amos viding a clear field for Is-Hochstein, the US special rael to do as it wishes. envoy to the region and a former IDF soldier, to reported her saying to press Lebanon to imme-Lebanese politicians that diately hold elections de-"Israel cannot achieve spite the Israeli oneverything through war; slaught. Lebanese offiit's time for you to do cials protested that in oryour part and launch an der to do so, they would have to reconvene parliathe ment and there was no 'Enough guarantee that Israel would not target that being Hezbollah, she report-edly said: "Hezbollah parliament to eliminate politicians they find problematic, given that has been defeated, its Hezbollah and its allies leadership is destroyed, control more than half the and we are with you, and seats. Would the US the entire free world guarantee the safety of stands by your side."

Lebanon's parliament? The Arab states would Hochstein had no reply. back such a movement, Reportedly, the US is

she added Meanwhile there's Iran, the government of the Lebanese army, Joseph Aoun, to take charge which has been in the as president, either target sights of successive US administrations through fiat or through an election in which profrom 1979 onwards. Hezbollah and pro-resis-Thus far, all attempts at tance voters will be disactual regime change enfranchised thanks to have been unsuccessful Israel's forced evacuabut hope springs eternal, especially in the southern Lebanon where borderline psychopathic 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 That hasn't stopped Iran's government, some of them have become the vocal allies of Zionism, going to the extent of calling for the mass killings of their own compatriots if it were to bring their Prince Charming one step closer to power.

Here's an example: journalist' Babak Eshagi, who is affiliated with a pro-monarchist Persian news outlet embedded with the Israeli army in Gaza, while reinternal uprising under cording a piece to camera in the ruins of a Palestinian home, inscribed Chiding them for ng "afraid" of 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 Partner Jide Olanrewaju to commitment to boosting structural reforms aimed at explore investment exports opportunities, focusing on diversification strategies, strengthening economic adding that the recent ties and boosting Pakistan efforts have resulted in a growth.

minister performance. The highlighted the positive trajectory of Pakistan's

stability, said a news

He also emphasized through marked increase in export investments.

Furthermore. 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.

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

Mujtaba Shuja-ur-Rehman on Monday said that inspiring economic Committee Members also 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.

He was speaking here with their teams, for at the Lahore Chamber of improving the overall Commerce and Industry (LCCI). The LCCI President Mian Abuzar set records, interest rate is Shad presented the address stabilized around 17 of welcome while Senior percent and inflation.

LAHORE (APP): Vice President Engineer Provincial Finance Minister Khalid Usman former Muitaba Shuig yr Pul President Muhammad Ali Mian and Executive Minister congratulated the LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad for winning LCCI polls with thumping majority.

The

Provincial Minister credited Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, along economy. He mentioned Federal that the stock market has Industries

In line with the government's vision for

sustainable economic also emphasized growth, the minister government's discussed the ongoing enhancing market conditions and creating a conducive environment for both domestic and foreign These reforms are pivotal in he attracting capital and investor

> SME dev. plan Governor

to revitalize **SMEDA** approved

LAHORE (APP): The Business Plan 2024-27, developed by the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) in compliance with the directions of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, has been approved by SMEDA Board.

CEO SMEDA 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, Minister and Production, according to SMEDA spokesman here Monday.

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. **K**hyber the chamber. He outlined 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

business-friendly environment in KP. He reaffirmed the government's commitment with upgrading roads, to increasing business security concerns facing the said.

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

to prepare proposals for the upcoming fiscal budget to ensure the needs and priorities of the business community are addressed. He noted the shared responsibility of enhancing Pakistan's image internationally, stating.

He also emphasized that

'All institutions must work collaboratively to promote Pakistan in a positive image', he added

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 an and ten gram silver Data Center infrastructure, and the Rated-3 remained unchanged at Rs. 3,430 and Rs. 2,940.67, and respectively.

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

Independent Report acknowledge their reply; ARAĈHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, nevertheless, we, at FPCCI, feel that the has appreciated Senator Musadik Malik, Federal country needs amendments and updates in the Petroleum Act of 1934 – Petroleum Minister and the Director General of to create enabling environment for the sector Explosives at Ministry of Petroleum for responding to the concerns of trade and to flourish. industry vis-à-vis the definition, handling, storage and licensing

Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, SVP FPCCI, proposed that the requirements of liquid Petroleum Act 1934 should hydrocarbon, mixed be updated to remove hydrocarbons and any irrelevant or obsolete items other material or mixture in it; and, reflect only the necessary precautionary containing hydrocarbons. Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh or safety measures.

The petrochemical apprised that FPCCI had industry has evolved over officially written to the DG the past many decades and Explosives after receiving multiple complaints and we need to amend our laws accordingly, he added



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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Zong's dedication to Zong, Pakistan's leading offering state-of-the-art cellular and digital services solutions to its customers. provider, achieved the prestigious TIA-942-C Rated-3 certification for its demonstrates that Zong's Data Center adheres to Data Center located at strict criteria for system

Zong HQ, Islamabad. redundancy, uptime, and According to a news disaster release, this certification is reinforcing the company's a testament of Zong's position as a leader in the unwavering commitment to telecommunications be an excellent information industry services and technology innovation company of Pakistan. The TIA-942 is internationally

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.

This achievement

resilience.



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

business community. The He remarked this underscored top brass of Rawalpindi joint initiatives to attract

PESHAWAR

here on Monday.

The decision came

SCCI senior vice

foreign investment

governor the cooperation among

educational institutions, activity and addressing and medical facilities," he

during his meeting with the importance of fostering Chamber of Commerce institutions to activate SCCI, PSATAF agree for

(APP): president Abdul Jalil Jan,

meeting.

Tĥe

Advisory

Khalid Zaheer.

vice president Shehryar

Khan, former senior vice

president of the chamber

Shahid Hussain, Secretary

General of the chamber

Muqtasid Ahsan were

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

Khattak, Naseer Khattak

and Coordinator Hafiz

PSATF

Shahid

improve infrastructure, enhance law enforcement capabilities, and promote economic growth in KP. 'The government is utilizing all available resources to tackle law and order and improve security across the province, along

Independent

Card.

National News

Page 03

Punjab govt to present

Rs630bn surplus budget

next year: Azma

LAHORE (APP): Punjab "When there was a forest

Information Minister fire in KP, their so-called Azma Bokhari has that revolutionary fire brigade

the KP government didn't even have money

doesn't even have funds

to pay employee salaries

but still dreams of buying

at DGPR, she said the

Punjab government was

At a press conference

PIA.

KP CM vows to promote education on modern lines

PESHAWAR (APP): The have been established in 27 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 under the program. 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) out of school and cannot program is an integral part be enrolled in formal

the main objective behind quality launching the ALP program was to provide educational opportunities

of that strategy. schools for being over age. Under the ALP He mentioned that the program, 1,267 centers Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

government had been districts of the province, working on introducing an presently imparting formal and informal Education prioritizing the merged education to 42,644 districts and backward students, while 62,000 areas of the province. students have completed The Chief Minister

added that female students in the schools of merged He further said that districts were being provided with a monthly stipend to improve literacy rates in those districts.

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

CM Maryam hospitalised after throat infection

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

(APNS) Committee. The changes are seen as a covert attempt to ban tender notices advertisements in national and regional newspapers, potentially strangling the already vulnerable newspaper industry APNS

most polluted city in the world LAHORE (APP): The

recent amendments to the conspiracy' to Procurement Rules economically strangle (PPRA) have been met newspapers.

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister KPAli Amin Gandapur giving degree and trophy

to graduate student during the graduation ceremony under Alternate

He urged Punjab Chief Minister Maryam with fierce criticism from Pakistan Society Sharif Nawaz to immediately revoke the Punjab amendments and save the industry from collapse. committee The emphasized that these

that the

government

would

and changes would not only harm newspapers but also render thousands of financially journalists and media workers jobless. They stressed Punjab amendments

Committee Chairman undermine transparency Jamil Athar Qazi in expressed grave concerns procurement processes.

to procurement rules spark outrage LAHORE (PR): The over the amendments. Punjab government's labeling them a "sinister

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.

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 Abdul Latif University final of the Inter-University Khairpur, and Shaheed Cricket Championship, set Benazir Bhutto University Nawabshah. In the decisive

The championship, The Zone-K matches

Sindh University Jamshoro

International News

series featuring Sindh Uniearning them a spot in the versity Jamshoro, Shah national finals.

The Zone-K matches were held across various venues, including the grounds of SAU Tandojam, match, Sindh University Larkana, Sukkur, Jamshoro showcased an Nawabshah, and Jamshoro. impressive performance, The championship conposting a score of 276 runs cluded with a prize distriin the allotted overs. Shah bution ceremony where the President of the Regional Abdul Latif University Khairpur, despite their ef-Cricket Association Hyderabad, Mir Suleman forts, managed to score only 160 runs, declaring Khan Talpur, and the President of the District Cricket culminated in a triangular the Zone-K champions and Association Hyderabad, Nawabshah, Shah Latif Uni- cricket fans and spectators.

Shakeel Ahmed Khan, pre-versity Khairpur, Sheikh 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

President Vladimir

in Moscow on Monday

with North Korean

Foreign Minister Choe

Son Hui, at a time of

Video of the meet-

Putin noted that

Monitoring Desk

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 all-

out invasion of its neighbor.

second biggest weapons

supplier after the U.S., and

Foreign Minister Annalena

Baerbock vowed that

Berlin's backing would re-

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

moment for Ukraine, with

the Russian army making

creeping gains on the battle-

The war is at a critical

"Together with many

main steadfast.

to a just peace.'

Germany is Ukraine's

shaking hands for a

tries

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

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 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 relevant officials.

During the review meeting on departmental approved panel.

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 preto November 9.

Department at Nishtar hall. **Punjab govt's amendments**

AHORE (APP): Punjab

A11 the Newspapers 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

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. to be held in Peshawar. The average rate of smog in the city was less than hosted by Sindh Agriculthe previous day, but the ture University (SAU) situation is still alarming. Tandojam, was conducted with the support of the In order to protect children from the polluted Pakistan Cricket Board atmosphere, holidays (PCB) and the Higher Education Commission (HEC) have been announced in Islamabad. the primary schools of

Lahore from November 4

Learning Pathways Initiative of Elementary and Secondary Education government was planning to purchase PIA. All Pakistanis want the national airline to improve, and if investors from Karachi are One killed, other injured from Karachi are interested in investing in in Korangi traffic accident

PIA, it's a positive development," she added. She said that KP KARACHI (APP): A man needs jail reforms more

set to present a surplus budget of Rs630 billion in When the wind from India blows towards 2025. "It's a joke that Pakistan, Lahore's air becomes more polluted. Maryam Nawaz is We are aware that efforts following Gandapur. Mian Nawaz Sharif never 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

to refuel their vehicles

Tackling smog is not easy;

China has been fighting it

for 26 years," she added.

has become one of the

biggest issues currently.

She noted that smog

due to the smog. The Chief Minister of Punjab will soon write a letter to urgently, as prisoners can the CM of Indian break out of jails there. Punjab," she added.



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

Korea's reported troop dis- troops to Russia. If they start fighting against patch and "strongly con-Ukraine forces, it would demned" it, according to a statement from the South mark North Korea's first Korean Defense Ministry. participation in a large-scale The two agreed to conflict since the end of the work together with the international community to

said.

1950-53 Korean War. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has used the try to obstruct Russian-North Korean security co-Russia-Ukraine war as a way to expand defense and operation, the statement economic cooperation with

Russia in the face of an in-The U.S. government said Thursday that about tensifying U.S.-led pressure 8,000 North Korean solcampaign against his advancing nuclear program. The U.S., South Korea and diers were in Russia near Ukraine's border and preothers accuse North Korea paring to join Russia's fight against Ukraine in the comof having already exported ing days. Ukraine's Presiartillery shells, missiles and dent Volodymyr Zelenskyy other conventional arms to on Friday urged allies to Russia.

stop just "watching" and In the past two years, take steps before North Kim has also ramped up Korean troops deployed in tests of nuclear-capable missile systems, as Russia Russia reach the battlefield. According to U.S., and China have repeatedly South Korean and Ukraiblocked U.S.-led attempts to toughen international nian intelligence assessments, North Korea was sanctions on North Korea over its testing activities in defiance of U.N. bans.

Crashing waves in a hilltop Trudeau condemns violence at Hindu village, a night of terror temple near Toronto from Spain's floods **Monitoring Desk**

TORONTO: Canada's

Local police in the city

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, cur-

rents 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 or in the gorge

lives and destroyed count-Prime Minister Justin Trudeau condemned as less homes and livelihoods "unacceptable" violence at also seared a scar of terror a Hindu temple near in many survivors Toronto on Sunday, follow-Cuevas, a 48-year-old ing skirmishes blamed by

embryologist, is a resident some leaders on Sikh activof Chiva, a village perched ists. on a hill about 30 kilometers (18 miles) from of Brampton, roughly 50 Valencia city, whose southkilometres northwest of ern outskirts were likewise Toronto, said they had deravaged by the floods on

with rushing water.

ployed heavily outside the Tuesday and Wednesday. Hindu Sabha Mandir in or-Chiva got more rain in der to maintain calm during eight hours than the town a protest. had experienced in the pre-A spokesman for the ceding 20 months. Cuevas was at home and saw how

Peel Regional Police told AFP that no arrests had the gorge dividing her vilbeen made. Police have also lage suddenly overflowed declined to assign blame for the reported violence. The tsunami-like

The acts of violence wall of water claimed at at the Hindu Sabha least seven lives in Chiva, Mandir in Brampton tohome to some 16,000 day are unacceptable. Evpeople, and the search ery Canadian has the right goes on for more missing, to practice their faith either in collapsed houses freely and safely.

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

This handout photoreporters.

jured have been sent to hosgorge at Almora district in pital using a helicopter."

Israel ends agreement with UN agency providing aid in Gaza sures to ensure its neutral-

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.

squashed nearly flat.

Gaza and Lebanon, intensi-Israel says the agency, known as UNRWA, has been infiltrated by Hamas. UNRWA denies the allega-Hezbollah militant group are expanding beyond Lebanon's border areas tions and savs it takes mea-

India's Uttarakhand state. - Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Uttarakhand / AFP Road accidents are

mountainous roads in the

western

victed of murder, an NGO said, at a time of rising tensions with Israel. Arvin Ghahremani was hanged in prison in the city 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

of

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-kilo-meter (4.3-mile).

Putin greets North Korean foreign minister with long handshake in Kremlin

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russian

Jong Un. The United States says North Korea has Putin held a meeting sent thousands of troops to Russia and is poised to join the war in Ukraine on Moscow's side. Russia mounting concern in the West about growhas neither confirmed nor denied their presence.

ing military ties be-tween the two coun-Choe, making her second trip to Russia in six weeks, told Rusing showed the pair sian 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 warm, comradely said last week tha greetings" from North there were no plans fo Korean leader Kim Putin to meet Choe. 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

field and another hard winter ahead after Russia re-KYIV: Germany's top diplentlessly battered the lomat arrived Monday in the Ukrainian capital Kyiv 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 artillery

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.

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 **Monitoring Desk** TEHRAN: Iran on Monday executed a member of common along the many

the country's Jewish mi-nority who had been con-

state of Uttarakhand told "Three critically in-

ity. 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 ter-

ritory. Despite growing pres-

sure from the United States

and others in the international

community for a cease-fire in

fied Israeli strikes against the

"So far, 36 casualties Deepak Rawat, a senior

graph taken on November 4 Uttarakhand shows people at the site of a bus accident, after it fell into a

Himalayan region, caused mostly by poor maintenance and reckless driving in the tortuous terrain. have been confirmed,'

official from the northern

greeted Choe in the Kremlin. Iran executes **Jewish Iranian** they were meeting on Russia's National man in murder Unity Day, a public holiday, and Choe conveyed "sincere, case: NGO

Ahsan seeks global support to combat Pakistan's climate-related challenges

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Monday highlighted Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change-related disasters, calling for global support to combat the challenges confronted by the country on this front.

He sought the international assistance while addressing the opening session of 4th Pakistan Water Week 2024, hosted by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), which focused on "Building a Climate-Resilient Future: Pathways for Water and Food Security in Pakistan.3

The minister emphasized the nation's proactive role in addressing global water and food security issues, highlighting the urgency for collaborative global action.

He spoke candidly on Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change, despite its minimal contribution to global carbon emissions. Pakistan stands on the

frontlines of a crisis caused largely by others, and the poorest among us are paying the highest price," he remarked, recalling the dev-astating floods of 2022, which left millions of Pakistanis suffering

country.

He stressed that interindustrialization and env national cooperation was essential in supporting Pakistan's adaptation efforts, which have already

impacted millions across the Acknowledging global efforts to address water crises, Ahsan Iqbal praised international initiatives such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Decade of Action for Water

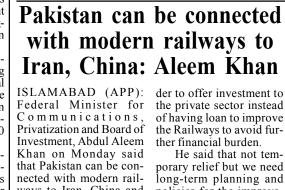
(2018 - 2028).He commended plat-forms like the UN Water Conbillion. ference, Stockholm World Water Week, and Africa Water Week for promoting knowledge sharing and innovation. "Pakistan is an active participant in this global movement, striving to lead in

Highlighting Pakistan's rich irrigation infrastructure, which spanned over approximately 17 million hectares The minister acknowledged the system's pressures from population growth,

ronmental degradation. He revealed that while agriculture consumed over 90 percent of Pakistan' water resources, inefficient irrigation methods led to sig-

nificant water losses, even up to 40% in some areas. He cited climate-induced impacts, including floods, droughts and glacia melt that have disrupted the lives of over 40 million people and caused an economic loss surpassing \$30

To address these challenges, Pakistan has outlined strategic objectives through its National Water Policy, launched in 2018, and allocated 12.2% of its Public Sector Development water conservation and cli-Program (PSDP) budget to mate adaptation despite our water resource manage vulnerabilities," he affirmed. ment



eral Cabinet Meeting.

ways to Iran, China and Central Asian countries through trade corridors

long-term planning and policies for the improvement of the Pakistan Railways as in fact that for the for ensuring low cost and up-gradation of the railfastest cargo service to way system, the train tracks have to be safer,

stronger and faster.

Aleem Khan said that

in developed countries.

people take train travel as

tourism and entertainment

while our railway system

is far behind that. He di-

rected the pending issues

between the National

Highway Authorities

(NHA) and Pakistan Rail-

way should be dealt with

make the Pakistan railway profitable.

Presiding over a highlevel meeting of the Focal Group to review the current status of track of Pakistan Railways and other important issues related to this department, the minister emphasized that China and Russia can invest in improving the present infrastructure of Pakistan Railways in or- quickly.

MoFEPT recognizes contributions of sponsors, attached departments

Dr.

The event was chaired by Secretary Education Mr.

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani and Higher Education Comand Higher Education Com-mission (HEC) Chairman Mukhtar Ahmed. Prominent attendees included Additional Secretary Hassan Saqlain, Senior Joint Secretary Junaid Akhlaq, and PSO to Parlia-

mentary Secretary Madam Faiza Fatima

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs the Fed-**MNAs Mubarak** Zeb, Aurangzeb Khichi call on **PM** Shehbaz

> ISLAMABAD (APP) Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday held separate meetings with members of the National Assembly Mubarak Zeb and Aurangzeb Khichi at

the Parliament House. During the meetings, both the members expressed their trust in the government policies.

They also reaffirmed their commitment to continue supporting the government.

Tarar felicitates newly elected office bearers of PA Press Committee

ISLAMABAD (APP) Minister for Information Broadcasting, National Heri tage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Monday extended congratulations to newly elected office bearers of the Press Committee of the Punjab Assembly. The minister, in a news statement, felicitated Khawaja Naseer and Adnan Sheikh on being elected unopposed as President and General Secretary, respectively. The Punjab Assembly Press Committee always has a strong relationship with journalists, he said while expressing the hope that the newly elected officials would live up to the expectations of their fellow reporters.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and State of Qatar, terming these as 'successful and productive'. The prime minister, while addressing the cabinet's meeting, said that he held very productive and useful consultations with the leadership of KSA and Qatar wherein different subjects like solar energy, mines, minerals and IT sectors were thoroughly discussed during the bilateral meetings. He said a delegation of Qatar Investment Authority would soon visit Pakistan as Qatar had announced to invest \$3 billion in Pakistan, adding Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, during a meeting,

Tuesday November 05, 2024

PM apprises cabinet

of his recent successful visits to KSA, Qatar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad

Shehbaz Sharif on Monday apprised the cabinet mem-

bers of the outcome of his recent successful visits to

had told him that there was immense potential of II trained people and asked him to send the skilled people from Pakistan to the Kingdom since they required it. Amir of Qatar also hinted at setting up an IT

vark in Pakistan, he added.

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

He said the understanding between the two countries was reached during a visit of Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev in the shape of signing of agreements and memorandums of understanding (MoUs).



ISLAMABAD: Mr. Faisal Karim Kundi, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), called on the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, at the Finance Division.

'Pollution serial killer in Pakistan': Sherry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Sherry Rehman on Monday said pollution was a serial killer in Pakistan.

She was speaking at the 'Pioneering Solutions for Climate Resilience' session at 27th Sustainable Development Conference (SDC) organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in collaboration with the Min- an even higher risk because istry of Climate Change, our population is not said a press release.

Sherry Rehman said emergency," she added. mall as tuning our engines were needed to said Pakistanis had one of the highest per capita wahelp control smog. She commended the ter usage which means we SDPI taking are wasting water which is for sustainability beyond a a "finite, precious" resource which would not last forcliché and making it applicable and congratulated the ever. She deplored that a winners of the Sustainability Awards. large amount of unfiltered sewage was being dumped Senator Sherry Rehman deplored lack of into Rawal Dam on a daily coverage by the mainstream basis, which was the main media on climate emersource of water for gency, stating that "media Rawalpindi and Islamabad. is treating climate as a di-

when a disaster occurs, primarily holding print media responsible because "they know better" Therefore, SDP

should have a "journalist category" for the awards to reward those who focus on climate change as a priority, she added.

Sherry Rehman said according to data, Pakistan was the fifth country on the list of countries vulnerable to climate change. "However. I think that we are at trained to deal with climate

On water the Sena

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (EoFEPT) organized an Appreciation meeting to recognize the invaluable contributions of its sponsors and attached department. The event chaired by Secretary Education Mr. Mohyuddin Ahmad Ŵani and Higher Education Commission (HEC) Chairman Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed.

Governor KP meets Federal Minister Finance to discuss financial challenges

CDA steps up fumigation

efforts to combat dengue

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a ceived positive feedback

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor **K**hyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, called on Federal Fi-Minister nance Muhammad Aurangzeb here on Monday to discuss financial challenges in the province. The Governor

phasized the need for financial support in the areas of education, health, and infrastructure to enhance the living standards of the province's residents. He said that federal

Governor Kundi em-

government collaboration is crucial for the economic

Major breakthrough by sponsors and attached departments.

Independent Report

Raza, announced the developuungapi

tion and Professional Train-ing (MoFEPT) Monday organized an Appreciation Meeting to recognize the invaluable contributions of its

Islamabad **Police in bank** dacoity cases

SLAMABAD: Islamabad Police achieved significant success in a recent bank dacoity case with the arrest of a suspect involved in the crime. DIG Islamabad, Syed Ali

was accompanied by the Parliamentary leader of Pakistan Peoples Party in KP assembly, Ahmad Karim Kundi.

They discussed financial challenges facing Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the provision of federal funds for development projects, and strategies to improve the province's economic situation

proactive effort to protect public health, the Capital

Development Authority

(CDA) has intensified its

citywide fumigation cam-

paign to curb the spread of

of CDA's commitment to

ensuring a safer, healthier

Islamabad, as dengue cases

torate has deployed teams

to target mosquito breeding

grounds in both residential

parks, markets, and water

reservoirs are being fumi-

gated regularly to eliminate

create a healthier environ-

ment for all residents," said

a CDA representative.

"Dengue is a serious threat,

and our goal is to minimize

its impact by taking pre-

ventive measures early on."

The initiative has re-

potential dengue carriers.

and commercial areas.

typically rise during this

This initiative is part

CDA's Health Direc-

Key public spaces,

"We're determined to

dengue fever.

season

development of the province and expressed hope that joint efforts would lead to tangible improvements in the lives of the people.

In response, Finance Minister Aurangzeb assured the Governor of the federal government's commitment to supporting the province's development Suliman. Utilizing human and prosperity.

from Islamabad residents

who appreciate the

authority's focus on health

and safety.

a resident of F-7.

#CDAcares,

awareness

resident.

gue season.

at the Rescue-15 office. The suspect was ap prehended along with the stolen cash, weapons with ammunition, and the motorcycle used in the dacoity. Islamabad Police CIA and CTD teams worked tirelessly for five days to track down the accused namely

> resources, Safe City cameras, digital surveillance and data analysis, they successfully located and arrested the suspect. The DIG further said that the suspect had

previously been charged in Punjab for similar offences. DIG Syed Ali Raza emphasized that Islamabad Police are responsible for the security of every citi-

zen, home, and office. "It's reassuring to see the authorities taking den-**IHC disposes** gue prevention seriously. This fumigation drive brings of Shibli peace of mind to families **Faraz's plea** like mine," said Naila Khan,

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday dis-Social media has been buzzing with support for the campaign, with citizens posed of the petition of Senator Shibli Faraz seeksharing the hashtags #CDAHealthInitiative, ing provision of cases deand tails against him. #StopDengue to spread The court was told

that six cases have been reg-"CDA's efforts to istered against the peticombat dengue are comtioner while no new case has mendable. Every city been filed.

should prioritize public Justice Tario health this way," wrote a Mehmood Jahangiri heard the petition of Shibli Faraz. CDA urged the resi-DSP Legal Sajid Cheema of dents to contribute by re-Islamabad Police submitmoving stagnant water ted a report before the from their homes and garcourt.

dens and staying vigilant After the police stateduring the high-risk denment, the court disposed of the case.



ISLAMABAD: Blossoming Yellow and Orange Marigold flowers in Argentina Park of Sector G-6 in the Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: A view of massive traffic jam at Islamabad Highway, in the Federal Capital.

Edu. Ministry formally recognises donors, attached departments

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training On Monday orga-Addressing the gather-ing, Secretary Wani exnized an Appreciation Meeting to recognize the invaluable contributions of its

tion sector. The Appreciation Meeting acknowledged the dedication of our amazing sponsors including, Savour Foods, OGDCL, Adam and E-Travels, ARG Personal C Foundation, PICE Cheezious, Pinhah Personal Care, Cancer Foundation, PTCL/ UFONE, Cheezious, Crunches, TDPC, Riphah International University, J-7 Emporium, Fauji Ghee.

The Chief Justice

The Chief Justice

said that "I saw on TV

about Intizar Panjutha and

felt very bad. What hap-

pened to Intizar Panjutha

is not something that can

Aamer

be tolerated.'

Justice

IHC asks police to proceed as per law in **Intizar Panjutha case**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court said that his mental and (IHC) on Monday ordered physical condition was s the police to proceed as not such that he could be per the law after the takasked anything. The poing the statement of PTI lice should record his lawyer Intizar Panjutha statement after a few days and take action according who was recently recovto the law, he added.

Chief Justice Aamer Farooq, hearing the case, remarked that the law and order situation in the capital was not satisfactory and added the things that used to happen in Karachi, had now started happening here as well.

sponsors and attached de-

Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani

and Higher Education Com-

mission (HEC) Chairman

ties included Additional Sec-

retary Hassan Saqlain, Se-

nior Joint Secretary Junaid

Akhlaq, and PSO to Parlia-

mentary Secretary Madam

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed.

Faiza Fatima

ered.

The event was chaired

Secretary Education

Prominent personali-

partments.

Farooq said that this did Ali Bukhari Advonot happen in civilized cate said that Intizar societies. He addressed the Additional Attorney Panjutha has been recov-General and said "why the ered but his health condition was not good and he incidents of missing perwas in Lahore. sons are happening here.

founder Imran Khan's sister, Aleema Khan, has voiced sepressed gratitude to the rious concerns over her sponsors and attached debrother's safety, calling onpartments for their unwavering support. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed going rumours of a deal baseless. Speaking to the media in Islamabad, she emphasized the significance stated that Imran Khan reof collaborative efforts in mains resolute in his puradvancing country's educa-

suit of justice, stressing that the situation now demands resolution. Aleema pointed to the frequent threats faced by Imran Khan's family, with multiple FIRs filed against him, and highlighted recent incidents where young children in their family were allegedly detained.

Iqbal echoes highlighted in New **Zealand Literary Conference 2024** ISLAMABAD (APP): Speakers at Literary Confer-ence 2024 organized by Charity NZ, took place at Victoria University's Campus in Kelburn

Wellington, New Zealand emphasized Allama Muhammad Iqbal's vision and thinking. This year's event featured distinguished speakers from Pakistan, celebrating Eastern philosophy and thought in the Western landscape. academic Pakistan's High Commissioner to New Zealand, Dr. Faisal Aziz Ahmed, attended the conference, highlighting the importance of fostering cross-cultural ex-

change In his opening remarks, Mr. Athar Awan emphasized the need to responsibly introduce Eastern thinkers like Allama Iqbal and Moulana Jalal ud din Rumi

In the end, Sherry Rehman inaugurated the 2nd Sustainability Invest-She said media only ment Expo 2024.



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

Impacts of climate change on ecosystem devastating beyond repair: Romina

ister on Climate Change government's efforts to Monday said the impacts of climate change were devastating the ecosystems bethe lives of millions of

people. She was speaking at the 27th Sustainable Development Conference (SDC) organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in collaboration with the Ministry of rupted energy supplies, rais-Climate Change here, said a press release. The theme of this

year's conference is 'From Fragility to Resilience: Enhancing Sustainable Development'. Ms Alam said smog across the border was causing loss of lives and spreading diseases, especially in Lahore. She affirmed the government's commitment to building resilience under the guidance worldwide.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Co- of Prime Minister Shehbaz ordinator to the Prime Min- Sharif, highlighting the Romina Khurshid Alam on combat plastic pollution as part of its broader waste management strategy.

SDPI Executive Direcyond repair, with extreme tor Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri weather events and slow- said the world, and Pakistan onset disasters disrupting in particular, stood at a crossroads.

He said: "In recent years, we've endured immense trials: the Covid-19 pandemic halted global life, testing even the most advanced health systems. Then, the Ukraine war dising costs and impacting economies worldwide, including Pakistan's.

In his opening remarks, SDPI Chairperson Shafqat Kakakhel highlighted global issues, including political conflicts like those taking place in Ukraine and Palestine, climate crises, as well as rising poverty, which had impacted 1.1 billion people

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