

# Independent

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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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday expressed his satisfaction over the economic stability in the country and the inflow of foreign investment. He said that the State Bank of Pakistan had reduced the policy rate by 250 basis points and with its reduction, the interest rate had been brought down to 15 percent from 17 percent, adding that it would increase the business activities, boost exports and generate employment opportunities. Addressing a meeting of PML-N parliamentary party at the Parliament House, the prime minister said that due to government's efforts, the inflation rate was also reduced from 38 percent to

7 percent and observed that all the global and national institutions were projecting economic stability in the country. "The evil machinations of those who were out to create chaos and those who pushed the country to verge of default have been foiled," PM Office Media Wing, in a press release quoted the prime minister as saying. He further said that the history would always remember those who had staked their politics for the sake of country's survival, adding the historians would always write about those who worked for the sake of the country and those elements who addressed letter to International Monetary Fund (IMF) to halt country's financial programme. The prime minister

also lauded the members of parliament belonging to PML-N for sacrificing their politics for the sake of country and said that they had thought about 240 million people. He said that during his recent visits to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, a new chapter of economic partnership between the two countries had been added. During the participation in the Future Investment Initiative, he held detailed meeting with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, adding Saudi Arabia was a close friend and partner of Pakistan and its leadership had assured all kind of assistance to support economic stability and country's development. He said that volume of Saudi's investment would increase from \$2.2 billion to \$2.8 billion.



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 Yousaf Raza Gillani on Monday highlighting the country's multiple initiatives to achieve resilience and a sustainable future, called for relentless efforts, massive awareness, and an innovative approach to meet the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. 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 experts, think tanks and researchers that the promotion of sustainable practices necessitated fostering a culture of responsible citizenship and environmental awareness. He commended the second edition of the Sustainability Investment Expo 2024 held alongside the moot to showcase cutting-edge technology, fostering collaboration and attracting investment. He said the theme of the conference "From Fragility to Resilience: Enhancing Sustainable Development" was a reminder of the critical importance of transforming and turning vulnerabilities into strengths, besides innovation and adaptability. He said the deliberations at the conference would be a clarion call for survival and prosperity as Pakistan be

## Terrorist killed, weapon, ammunition recovered

RAWALPINDI (APP): A terrorist was killed on Monday by Security Forces during a fire exchange took place between own troops and the terrorists in Nushki District of Balochistan. "Own troops effectively engaged terrorists' location, and resultantly one terrorist was killed," said an Inter Services Public Relations news release. Weapon and ammunition were also recovered from the killed terrorist, it further said. "Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area. Security forces of Pakistan, in step with the nation, remain determined to thwart attempts at sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan," further said the news release.

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

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

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The National Assembly on Monday approved a legislative amendment to extend the tenures of all armed services chiefs from three to five years. Hours later, the Senate approved the same set of bills, sending them to President Asif Ali Zardari for final approval. Defence Minister Khawaja Asif presented amendments to the Pakistan Army, Navy, and Air Force Acts, which were passed by majority vote amidst intense protests from opposition members. This amendment will extend the tenure of all military chiefs from three to five years. The proposed changes will align the retirement and reappointment regulations across the armed forces, giving the president authority, upon the prime minister's advice, to appoint, reappoint, or extend terms for these positions for up to

five years. The amendments remove previous age limits and extend tenure options, enabling the Chief of Army Staff and other military leaders to continue serving as generals beyond the earlier prescribed 64 years, should national security or critical needs arise. Moreover, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar also presented proposals to increase the number of judges in the Supreme Court and Islamabad High Court, which were subsequently approved by the House. Tarar presented the Supreme Court Number of Judges (Amendment) Bill 2024 for parliamentary approval, proposing an increase in the number of Supreme Court judges to 34. As the bill was introduced, the opposition erupted into chaos, raising slogans and protesting. Additionally, the law

minister introduced the Islamabad High Court Amendment Bill 2024, explaining that the number of judges in the High Court would be raised from nine to 12. The changes also include amendments to the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act, 2023, to incorporate constitutional benches, expanding the scope and composition of judicial panels. Proposed additions to Article 191A of the Constitution will enable these benches to address constitutional matters, with an administrative committee of senior judges responsible for allocating cases to either the Supreme Court or constitutional benches. Despite the disruption, the minister briefed the assembly on the provisions of the bills, highlighting the backlog of thousands of

pending cases at the Supreme Court's registry, which necessitates the increase in judicial capacity. Tarar highlighted the need for additional judges to manage case backlogs and facilitate the formation of constitutional benches. He noted that various bar associations, including the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), had advocated for this increase to expedite cases across Pakistan's judicial centers in Karachi, Quetta, Peshawar, and Lahore. Immediately after the law minister and the defence minister presented the bills, the National Assembly proceeded with voting despite ongoing noisy protests from the opposition and approved the amendments. During the voting ses-

sion, opposition members disrupted proceedings, chanting slogans, surrounding the Speaker's dais, and tearing copies of the bill in protest. The uproar escalated, with some members engaging in physical altercations. APP adds: The National Assembly on Monday passed six bills including "The Supreme Court Number of Judges (Amendment) Bill, 2024 with majority vote, following a detailed clause-by-clause review. The bills include the "Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) (Amendment) Bill, 2024," the "Islamabad High Court (Amendment) Bill, 2024," Pak Army Amendment Bill, 2024," the Pakistan Air Force Amendment Bill, 2024," and the "Pakistan Navy Amendment Bill, 2024."

## Global peace confronted with ever evolving threats, challenges: COAS

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir has emphasized that global peace today is confronted with ever evolving threats and challenges. Addressing at the 28th Annual Conference of International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centre (IAPTC), the COAS said that despite the numerous peacekeeping endeavors underway by the UN and other organizations, the plight of innocent Kashmiris and Palestinians serve as a stark reminder that still a lot needs to be done, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release issued on Monday. The 28th Annual Conference of International As-

sociation of Peacekeeping Training Centre (IAPTC) is being hosted for the first time in Pakistan at the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), NUST, Islamabad from November 4-8. The event officially commenced with the inauguration of new CIPS building by COAS General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M). Under Secretary General, Department of Peace Operations, Jean Pierre Lacroix, United Nation's Police Advisor, Acting Deputy Military Advisor, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan and Rector NUST, also accompanied the Chief Guest during inauguration and opening ceremony of the conference.



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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar has said that there is a policy in NADRA regarding children deprived of parental identity. These children are registered under this existing policy. Such children are required to belong to an orphanage or child protection unit registered with NADRA. He was speaking on the resolution of Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri in the Upper House on Monday. The Federal Minister of Information said that when ID cards are made for children without parents, names are put randomly in place of paternity. He said that if ID cards are issued without parents, they will be discriminated and there will be difficulties for them in the society. He said that instead of sending this matter to the committee, the house should allow to have a meeting with the chairman NADRA. He said that under the current policy, 280 children have already been registered while it can be further improved. 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 the Ministry of Information is ready to conduct an awareness campaign in this regard.

rights. 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, therefore, it should be declared null and void."

## 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.



Medical board declares Imran medically fit RAWALPINDI (Online): A 4-member medical board of senior doctors including Dr Asim Yousuf personal physician of PTI founder conducted medical check up and declared Imran Khan medically fit. Dr Asim Yousuf met Imran Khan in Adiala jail on Monday. A 3-member team of doctors from PIMS hospital was also present therein. Medical Board comprising 4 doctors conducted medical examination of Imran Khan. The team declared him medically fit after one hour long medical check up.

## Ji challenges 26th constitutional amendment in Supreme Court

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Jamat-e-Islami (JI) has challenged the 26th constitutional amendment in the Supreme Court of Pakistan on Monday. JI Chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman challenged the amended law. Making the federal and all four provincial governments respondents, the party, in its petition, argued that the amendment was against fundamental human

rights. The petition contends that the amendment contradicts several constitutional provisions. 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, therefore, it should be declared null and void."

## New term of Services Chiefs

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

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

**Continuity and Stability:**

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

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

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

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

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

In terms of specific benefits to government institutions:

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

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

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

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

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

The CDS helps reduce wasteful expenditure and enhances combat capabilities.

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

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

## Pak Navy conducts successful flight test of indigenously developed ballistic missile

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



The weapon system with 350 KM range is capable of engaging land and sea targets with high precision, said a Pakistan Navy News release issued here Monday.

The weapon system is equipped with state of the art navigation system and maneuverability features. Flight test was witnessed by Chief of the Naval Staff and Senior Officers from Pakistan Navy and dedicated scientists and engineers, it further said. The President, Prime Minister, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and Services Chiefs congratulated participating Naval Units and Scientists on this excellent achievement.



## KP CM vows to promote education on modern lines

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

Under the ALP program, 1,267 centers

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

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

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

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

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



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

## Punjab govt to present Rs630bn surplus budget next year: Azma

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

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

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

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

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



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.

## Punjab govt's amendments to procurement rules spark outrage

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

APNS Punjab Committee Chairman Jamil Athar Qazi expressed grave concerns over the amendments, labeling them a "sinister conspiracy" to economically strangle newspapers.

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

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

## One killed, other injured in Korangi traffic accident

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

According to details, a rashly driven trailer hit the two-wheeler coming from opposite direction near Korangi Godam Chorangi area. As a result of accident, a motorcyclist died on the spot. One person was also injured in the same incident. Rescue team rushed to the site and shifted the dead and injured to nearby hospital. Police also reached the spot and started search for the heavy vehicle.

## CM Maryam hospitalised after throat infection

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

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

## Lahore second most polluted city in the world

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



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

## CM's Advisor on Health chairs reforms review meeting

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

During the review meeting on departmental

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

## SU enter in final of Inter University cricket Championship

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

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

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

earning them a spot in the national finals.

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

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

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

## International News

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

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

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

In a meeting in Seoul, South Korean Defense Minister Kim Yong Hyun and the EU's visiting foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, expressed "serious concerns" about North

Korea's reported troop dispatch and "strongly condemned" it, according to a statement from the South Korean Defense Ministry.

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

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

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



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

## Putin greets North Korean foreign minister with long handshake in Kremlin

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Trudeau condemns violence at Hindu temple near Toronto

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

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

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

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

## 36 dead in bus crash in Indian Himalayas

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

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

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

## Iran executes Jewish Iranian man in murder case: NGO

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

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

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

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

## Israel ends agreement with UN agency providing aid in Gaza

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# 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."

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 devastating floods of 2022, which left millions of Pakistanis suffering.

He stressed that international cooperation was essential in supporting Pakistan's adaptation efforts, which have already impacted millions across the country.

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 platforms like the UN Water Conference, 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 water conservation and climate adaptation despite our vulnerabilities," he affirmed.



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 Wani and Higher Education Commission (HEC) Chairman Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed.

## Governor KP meets Federal Minister Finance to discuss financial challenges

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, called on Federal Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb here on Monday to discuss financial challenges in the province. The Governor 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.

Governor Kundi emphasized 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 government collaboration is crucial for the economic 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 and prosperity.

## Major breakthrough by Islamabad Police in bank dacoity case

ISLAMABAD: 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 Raza, announced the development during a press conference at the Rescue-15 office.

The suspect was apprehended 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 Suliman. Utilizing human 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 citizen, home, and office.

## IHC disposes of Shibli Faraz's plea

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday disposed of the petition of Senator Shibli Faraz seeking provision of cases details against him.

The court was told that six cases have been registered against the petitioner while no new case has been filed.

Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri heard the petition of Shibli Faraz. DSP Legal Sajid Cheema of Islamabad Police submitted a report before the court.

After the police statement, the court disposed of the case.

## CDA steps up fumigation efforts to combat dengue

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a proactive effort to protect public health, the Capital Development Authority (CDA) has intensified its citywide fumigation campaign to curb the spread of dengue fever.

This initiative is part of CDA's commitment to ensuring a safer, healthier Islamabad, as dengue cases typically rise during this season.

CDA's Health Directorate has deployed teams to target mosquito breeding grounds in both residential and commercial areas.

Key public spaces, parks, markets, and water reservoirs are being fumigated regularly to eliminate potential dengue carriers.

"We're determined to create a healthier environment for all residents," said a CDA representative. "Dengue is a serious threat, and our goal is to minimize its impact by taking preventive measures early on."

The initiative has received positive feedback from Islamabad residents, who appreciate the authority's focus on health and safety.

"It's reassuring to see the authorities taking dengue prevention seriously. This fumigation drive brings peace of mind to families like mine," said Naila Khan, a resident of F-7.

Social media has been buzzing with support for the campaign, with citizens sharing the hashtags #CDAHealthInitiative, #CDAcares, and #StopDengue to spread awareness.

"CDA's efforts to combat dengue are commendable. Every city should prioritize public health this way," wrote a resident.

CDA urged the residents to contribute by removing stagnant water from their homes and gardens and staying vigilant during the high-risk dengue season.



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

## 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 Heritage 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.

## MoFEPT recognizes contributions of sponsors, attached departments

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (MoFEPT) Monday organized an Appreciation Meeting to recognize the invaluable contributions of its sponsors and attached departments.

The event was chaired by Secretary Education Mr. Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani and Higher Education Commission (HEC) Chairman Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed. Prominent attendees included Additional Secretary Hassan Saqlain, Senior Joint Secretary Junaid Akhlaq, and PSO to Parliamentary Secretary Madam Faiza Fatima.



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

## Edu. Ministry formally recognises donors, attached departments

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The event was chaired by Secretary Education Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani and Higher Education Commission (HEC) Chairman Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed.

Prominent personalities included Additional Secretary Hassan Saqlain, Senior Joint Secretary Junaid Akhlaq, and PSO to Parliamentary Secretary Madam Faiza Fatima.

Addressing the gathering, Secretary Wani expressed gratitude to the sponsors and attached departments for their unwavering support.

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed emphasized the significance of collaborative efforts in advancing country's education sector. The Appreciation Meeting acknowledged the dedication of our amazing sponsors including, Savour Foods, OGDCL, Adam and E-Travel, ARG Personal Care, Cancer Foundation, PTCL/UFONE, Cheezious, Crunches, TDPC, Riphah International University, J-7 Emporium, Fauji Ghee.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday ordered the police to proceed as per the law after the taking the statement of PTI lawyer Intizar Panjutha who was recently recovered.

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.

Ali Bukhari Advocate said that Intizar Panjutha has been recovered but his health condition was not good and he was in Lahore.

The Chief Justice said that his mental and physical condition was not such that he could be asked anything. The police should record his statement after a few days and take action according to the law, he added.

The Chief Justice said that "I saw on TV about Intizar Panjutha and felt very bad. What happened to Intizar Panjutha is not something that can be tolerated."

Justice Aamer Farooq said that this did not happen in civilized societies. He addressed the Additional Attorney General and said "why the incidents of missing persons are happening here.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 Ministry of Climate Change, said a press release.

Sherry Rehman said measures as small as tuning our engines were needed to help control smog.

She commended the SDPI for taking sustainability beyond a cliché and making it applicable and congratulated the winners of the Sustainability Awards.

Senator Sherry Rehman deplored lack of coverage by the mainstream media on climate emergency, stating that "media is treating climate as a disaster tool".

She said media only focuses on climate change when a disaster occurs, primarily holding print media responsible because "they know better".

Therefore, SDPI 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 an even higher risk because our population is not trained to deal with climate emergency," she added.

On water, the Senator said Pakistanis had one of the highest per capita water usage which means we are wasting water which is a "finite, precious" resource which would not last forever.

She deplored that a large amount of unfiltered sewage was being dumped into Rawal Dam on a daily basis, which was the main source of water for Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

In the end, Sherry Rehman inaugurated the 2nd Sustainability Investment 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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam on Monday said the impacts of climate change were devastating the ecosystems beyond repair, with extreme weather events and slow-onset disasters disrupting the 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 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 of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, highlighting the government's efforts to combat plastic pollution as part of its broader waste management strategy.

SDPI Executive Director Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri said the world, and Pakistan 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 disrupted energy supplies, raising costs and impacting economies worldwide, including Pakistan's."

In his opening remarks, SDPI Chairperson Shafiq 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 worldwide.