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

Judges in SC increased from 17 to 34; tenures of all armed services chiefs extended from three to five years

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.



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

Sindh Assembly passes resolution for establishment of constitutional benches

Independent Report
KARACHI: The Sindh Assembly on Monday passed a resolution for setting up constitutional benches in the Sindh province.

The provincial lawmakers exercised their right to vote for the resolution by standing on their seats. A total of 123 members of the Provincial Assembly rose in favour of the resolution and four rose against it.

Earlier, the resolution was moved by the Sindh Minister for Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Criminal Prosecution and Home Ziaul Hasan Lanjar, which read as 'In pursuance of the sub-clause 7 of Article 202A of the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan ("Constitution") read with sub-rule 1A of rule 136 of the rules of procedure of the Provincial Assembly of Sindh, 2013, this house resolves to give effect to the

provisions of Article 202A of the constitution.'

While announcing the results of voting, the Deputy Speaker of the Sindh Assembly Anthony Naveed said that a total of 127 members rose to permit moving of the resolution out of which 123 voted in favour of the resolution and four went against it.

He said, 'As the total majority of the assembly rose in the favour of the resolution and the resolution is passed.' Leader of the House, the Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah speaking on the resolution said that PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari convinced all parties on the draft of constitutional amendment.

He said that the PTI President also agreed to the draft but only one person did not agree with that.

PTI had named its members for the Constitu-

tional Committee, the Chief Minister said adding that it was the honor for the Sindh government that it had tabled resolution in favor of the 26th Constitutional Amendment. Murad said that they yet had to increase the number of the Sindh High Court judges.

The Chief Minister was of the view that the benefits of the 26th constitutional amendment be given to the people as soon as possible.

He said that other provinces had not adopted the resolution so far and they must pass it to get the advantage from it. Speaking on a Call Attention Notice, the Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said that drugs were a major challenge for our society at present. He said that, unfortunately, drug trafficking was on the rise across the country, and drug use was becoming fashion-

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.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah speaks on the floor of the Sindh Assembly.

Drug use becoming fashionable: Sharjeel

Says actions against drugs are ongoing, and awareness efforts are also in progress

Independent Report
KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has said that drugs are a major challenge for our society at present. Unfortunately, drug trafficking is on the rise across the country, and drug use is becoming fashionable. Cocaine addiction is seen as a status symbol in elite society. Along with cocaine, marijuana, and heroin, the biggest challenges right now are ice and crystal.

While discussing the attention notice in the Sindh Assembly, Sindh Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon, stated that actions against drugs are ongoing, and awareness efforts are also in progress. It is encouraging that the Sindh Assembly passed the anti-narcotics bill by consensus. Whenever drug-related issues were discussed, both government and opposition benches demonstrated a serious commitment. We must

all work together to combat the scourge of drugs. He said that crime reporters and beat reporters from TV channels should also help identify drug-related issues, and we will take action, MPAs should do the same, and we will personally take action. We have developed an attitude of letting things pass. We must change this mindset and take a stand wherever there is wrongdoing. He said that parents play the most important role in preventing drug abuse among children. "Parents should not turn a blind eye. It is primarily the responsibility of parents, followed by schools and colleges, to immediately investigate any changes in a child's behavior."

Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that we all must work together in the fight against drugs. If the authorities, media, and members of this assembly unite in our efforts, we can bring an end to drug issues within a month.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb exchanges views with Emma Fan, the New Country Director of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Pakistan, during meeting held at the Finance Division in Islamabad.

Commissioner Karachi reviews prices of essential commodities

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Karachi, Syed Hassan Naqvi on Monday chaired a meeting at his office to review the prices of essential commodities.

The meeting discussed reducing prices of roti, naan, grocery items, and other essentials, based on reports from Deputy Commissioners West and Central.

The meeting was attended among others, by the Deputy Commissioner Keamari Tahir Cheema, Additional Deputy Commissioner South Samiullah

Pathan officers of Sindh Food Authority and Bureau of Supply.

The other all deputy commissioners and assistant commissioners attended via video link. The meeting also discussed beef and mutton prices.

Assistant Commissioner Hazim Bangwar informed that 474 complaints were resolved, 441 were being addressed, and 267 required action. Commissioner directed Deputy Commissioners to prioritize resolving citizen complaints, particularly regarding illegal parking, encroachments, and profiteering.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Muneer in a group photo during 28th Annual Conference of International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centre (IAPTC).

Global peace confronted with ever evolving threats, challenges: COAS

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Muneer 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 Interna-

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

The event officially commenced with the inauguration of new CIPS building by COAS General Syed Asim Muneer, 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.



KARACHI: Karachi Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab inaugurates Karachi Corner in Karachi Press Club library.

Karachi Corner at KPC library a commendable initiative: Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi, Barrister Murtaza Wahab Monday said that the Karachi Corner at the Karachi Press Club library was a commendable initiative.

These remarks were made during a media interaction following the inauguration of the Karachi Corner at the Karachi Press Club library. He offered the administration to establish similar libraries in places like Burns Garden, Bagh Ibne Qasim, Kidney Hill, and other locations in Karachi.

He announced a grant of ten million rupees for the Karachi Press Club, as well as plans to construct a garden and a Rokeri as a personal initiative in memory of

his parents. The Mayor expressed that the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) aims to work closely with the journalist community and will continue efforts for the development and prosperity of the city.

He believes that the Karachi Corner will prove effective for researchers studying the city, and it will help preserve the city's culture, literature, and knowledge more effectively.

Present at the occasion were the President of KPC, Saeed Sarbazi, Secretary Shoaib Ahmed, Library Secretary Abdul Razzak Abro, and other officials and members of the governing body.

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 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.

Civil Society celebrates Diwali at Korangi Fish Harbour

KARACHI (APP): Karachi's civil society marked the festival of Diwali with an evening filled with joy, cultural performances, and unity at Korangi Fish Harbour. Organized by health professional Suneel Raja and active civil society member Sain Bux Shaikh, the event brought together Muslim and Hindu friends who shared in the festivities on a boat near a sea island.

The celebration began with the lighting of lamps, followed by singing, cultural dances, and a feast of Sindhiri biryani and traditional sweets.

This unique gathering celebrated the cultural richness of Diwali, highlighting its values of light, friendship, and harmony.



Pakistan Navy conducts successful flight test of an indigenously developed Ship Launched Ballistic Missile.



KARACHI: Sindh Governor and Chancellor of Public Universities Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori addressing Gilgit-Baltistan Independence Day celebrations held at University of Karachi.

Governor joins Gilgit-Baltistan Independence Day celebrations

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor and Chancellor of Public Universities Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori on Monday attended Gilgit-Baltistan Independence Day celebrations held at University of Karachi.

The Governor also took part in the traditional dance with the students of Gilgit-Baltistan at the cultural show.

SHC dismisses petitions against Mayor's election

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Monday dismissed petitions of Hafiz Naem ur Rehman and others against the mayor's election.

The court will issue the reasons later, the bench said in its order.

"The issue before the court, has been the election of the mayor," the bench observed. "If the election for mayor has been a separate poll?" the court posed question.

"Your case has been that the law was amended after the electoral process began," the bench remarked.

"If a separate notification was issued for the mayor's election," the court asked.

On the occasion he said: 'From the bottom of my heart, I congratulate the residents of Gilgit-Baltistan on their independence.' Tessori also announced the allocation of quota for Gilgit-Baltistan in the ongoing IT courses under the Governor's Initiative.

He said that laptops would be given to the youth of Gilgit-Baltistan.

Governor, CM felicitate on successful flight test of ballistic missile

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori and Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah congratulated the nation on the successful flight test of ballistic missile on Monday. They also congratulated the scientists, experts and engineers, who took part in the process.

PCG seizes hashish worth millions

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Coast Guards (PCG) seized a huge quantity of hashish worth millions from Gwadar, Balochistan. According to a news release on Monday, the PCG acting on a tip off recovered 1292 kg hashish dumped in bushes in Kamb area of Gwadar. The seized drugs was suspected to be smuggled up country or abroad. The approximated value of the seized drugs is 21.6 million dollars. Further investigations are underway.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Disregarding CCI

The 18th Amendment reflected the collective commitment of the 2008 parliament to increased participatory federalism. Its authors were aware that devolving powers to the federating units would not be seamless, despite the tremendous support that political parties had extended to the changes in centre-province relations. That is why the Council of Common Interests was 'institutionalised' in the amendment, with its own separate secretariat. Its decisions can now be overturned only by a joint sitting of parliament. Unfortunately, some elements are trying their best to roll back the amendment to ensure the continuation of the centre's dominant position in the federal scheme. In fact, when in power, certain political parties, including some that had supported the amendment, too, look at it as an obstacle to their plans.

The CCI is the highest constitutional body empowered to decide, formulate and regulate policies concerning interprovincial and centre-province matters, as well as those enlisted in Part II of the Federal Legislative List. It also exercises supervision and control over related institutions such as Irsa. The idea is to strengthen the federal system by resolving policy disputes related to the devolved subjects at CCI meetings mandated to be held every 90 days. However, successive governments have been in breach of the Constitution by not convening these meetings, not even when the provinces have approached them with complaints or reservations. There have been at least 20 such violations in 14 years due to delays in CCI meetings. No CCI meeting has been held since the present government came to power. One scheduled in July was postponed twice. Only two CCI meetings have been held in 34 months. This shows the respect politicians have for the Constitution when in power. In February 2016, the then Senate chairman Raza Rabbani had noted that policy matters falling under the CCI's purview would cease to have legal effect without the council's approval. The failure to regularly convene CCI meetings means that the process of democratic decision-making is falling apart, with centrist forces dominating matters where the provinces feel that their interests are hurt. For example, the present Shehbaz Sharif government has twice bypassed the CCI in total disregard of Sindh's concerns. First, it ignored the province's reservations regarding undemocratic changes in the Irsa law. Now it is baulking at Sindh's request to discuss its objections on the Cholistan canal project at the CCI forum.

In both cases, unilateral decisions were taken to facilitate the military's Green Initiative for large-scale corporate farming. Sindh, being the lower riparian, has valid reasons to be upset over these decisions and for insisting on the CCI's intervention. The federal government is afraid that, if presented before the CCI, the project might be rejected or delayed. By breaching the Constitution to favour centrist forces, the government is harming participatory federalism.

**Roads to ruin:
The perils of drinking and driving**

By Zainab Ramzan

Drink-driving, which is also known very commonly in the present day as driving under the influence of alcohol, poses a serious threat to public health and carries deadly risks for the driver and other road users. Alcohol interferes with fundamental functions required for reaction time, coordination, and judgment of a driver, making the act extremely hazardous to drive a vehicle.

In Pakistan, the problem of drinks and driving is an issue that is extremely serious and multiproblem presenting traffic safety challenges. Even though there are laws prohibiting acts under the impact, the weakness of the legal system still relates to the police, and the police remain unrelated to weaknesses of frequent cases of corruption. The inadequacy is coupled with cultural attitudes that may normalize the risks associated with drinking and driving. As a consequence, road accidents and deaths associated with drink-driving in Pakistan are very high, generating considerable pressure on the health system with severe consequences on social and economic fronts for families concerned by such incidents. The solution to this problem involves stricter traffic laws enforcement, comprehensive public information campaigns and systematic improvements in the legal and health measures to better address consequences of alcohol consumption.

Pakistan needs to punish criminals strongly, although checking should be strict, through breath analyzer and stern penalty against violators, and the offenders may be treated impartially. In order to prevent drinking and driving properly, Pakistan must strengthen its law enforcement measures; such measures include strict checks, the use of breath analyzers, and treating the offenders impartially. It is equally possible for a change in attitude and action if there is a start towards a nationwide campaign educating the public on the dangers of drunk driving.

Education must start with the people, bringing home the effects of drinking and driving into real life and responsible conducts. These campaigns can be sustained through media entities like television, radio, and social networks. Introduction of information education in school and community sites on alcohol or driving risks would have a long-term impact. Strengthening the legal system so as to expedite the prosecution of offenders would also help deter potential criminals. Additional mitigations include equipping healthcare facilities with proper equipment in preparation for debris from accidents, as well as support to accident victims and their families. Collectively, these steps are more contributory to a holistic approach in reducing the incidence of driving under the influence activities.

Drinking and driving can be avoided by encouraging the use of other transport means, which may include assigned drivers or horse riding services. Activate local leaders and organizations to promote safe driving practices and encourage local efforts on reducing drunk driving. If you know where you are going and what you are drinking, plan for how you are getting there: ask for a designated driver; use public transportation; reserve a ride-sharing service. Have a designated driver stay sober and to ensure everyone gets home safely. You can find good ride-sharing services through apps like Uber or Careem, if you cannot drive yourself home. When visiting friends, you may party all night instead of driving home drunk. Make use of buses, trains as well as other public transport when possible. Involve or promote a community project designed to promote safe driving practices and offer options for continuing under the influence.

This means data collection and analysis on drunk driving cases are improved, which helps understand the magnitude and develops targeted interventions. Support services to alcoholics help address the causes of drink driving. By doing so, Paki-

stan can make very good progress in reducing drink driving and improving road safety.

More than 150 road accident deaths have occurred in the Karachi city over the last 10 months due to drunk," said the official. According to the data of traffic police, till October 31, 147 road accidents reports were received from different hospitals in the city. According to the reports, 154 people died in 147 accidents in the various parts of the city. In 41 negligence accidents, around 135 people were injured. Over the last few years, we have seen that driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs is responsible for many deaths.

An incident occurred in Karachi claiming a life and injuring several others when once again a speeding SUV driven by a woman went out of control near Karsaz and crashed into a motorcycle and another vehicle killing two and injuring four. A service road bore testimony to murder of the father and daughter killed on the spot after an SUV crashed into the motorcycle. A third person is under treatment who was left wounded in the accident according to other reports the third victim has died at the hospital. Another case arise in Just a few months ago, one man — driving allegedly while drunk — ran over and killed a man and a woman on Karachi's Korangi Road.

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

My enemy's enemy

Zarrar Khuhro

America has allies while its enemies have proxies; America's allies have governments that must be supported while its enemies have regimes that must be changed.

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

The plan for Gaza has been clear for some time: it involves starving and terrorising the remaining population of Gaza into fleeing their homes and making way for Jewish settlements and a permanent Israeli military evacuation.

But there are plans afoot for Lebanon, too, where both Israel and US feel that the Israeli attack is a perfect opportunity to degrade Hezbollah, while also changing the country's political landscape. They're not exactly making a secret of it: in October, State Department spokesman Vedant Patel took a break from his regular genocide apology to tell reporters that America's "goal is to get the government and country of Lebanon to a place where it is out of the stranglehold of Hezbollah".

To achieve that end, the US tasked Amos Hochstein, the US special envoy to the region and a former IDF soldier, to press Lebanon to immediately hold elections despite the Israeli onslaught. Lebanese officials protested that in order to do so, they would have to reconvene parliament and there was no guarantee that Israel would not target that parliament to eliminate politicians they find problematic, given that Hezbollah and its allies control more than half the seats. Would the US guarantee the safety of

Lebanon's parliament? Hochstein had no reply.

Reportedly, the US is pressing for the head of the Lebanese army, Joseph Aoun, to take charge as president, either through fiat or through an election in which pro-Hezbollah and pro-resistance voters will be disenfranchised thanks to Israel's forced evacuation of large parts of southern Lebanon where Hezbollah has its strongest support.

The Lebanese army, one should note, evacuated its positions before the Israeli assault, leaving Hezbollah to protest.

Some of Hezbollah's opponents in Lebanon are also sensing an opportunity: Samir Geagea, the leader of a right-wing Christian party, feels this is the perfect time to push for the disarming of Hezbollah, after which he feels an agreement could be reached with Israel. However, the indiscriminate nature of Israel's bombing, and the Lebanese people's own experience with Israeli atrocities mean that this is, for now, seemingly a minority view even in Geagea's own community.

That hasn't stopped Lisa Johnson, the US ambassador to Lebanon, from using her position to pursue the agenda of eliminating Hezbollah from the Lebanese political arena and thus providing a clear field for Israel to do as it wishes.

Lebanese media has reported her saying to Lebanese politicians that "Israel cannot achieve everything through war; it's time for you to do your part and launch an internal uprising under the banner of 'Enough'".

Chiding them for being "afraid" of Hezbollah, she reportedly said: "Hezbollah has been defeated, its leadership is destroyed, and we are with you, and the entire free world stands by your side."

The Arab states would back such a movement, she added.

Meanwhile there's Iran, the government of which has been in the target sights of successive US administrations from 1979 onwards. Thus far, all attempts at actual regime change have been unsuccessful but hope springs eternal, especially in the borderline psychopathic circles of US policymakers and think tanks.

As for who would lead Iran after the current regime is done and dusted, a very usual suspect has officially thrown his crown into the ring — His Royal Highness Reza Pahlavi, the son of the deposed Iranian Shah, who is going around marketing himself as the perfect ruler of Iran which would then become the most allied ally of Israel and the US in the region.

However, he only has the support of the monarchist elements of the Iranian diaspora and these worthies are, I can assure you, the most unhinged lot you will ever come across in this lifetime. In their hate for Iran's government, some of them have become the vocal allies of Zionism, going to the extent of calling for the mass killings of their own compatriots if it were to bring their Prince Charming one step closer to power.

Here's an example: 'journalist' Babak Eshagi, who is affiliated with a pro-monarchist Persian news outlet bedded with the Israeli army in Gaza, while recording a piece to camera in the ruins of a Palestinian home, inscribed the slogan of the 2022 Iranian protests 'women, life, freedom', on the remains of a wall. These then are the Ahmed Chalabisi of today, the genocidal court jesters who would be king. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday held a meeting with TPG Capital delegation led by Partner Jide Olanrewaju to explore investment opportunities, focusing on strengthening economic ties and boosting Pakistan growth.

The minister highlighted the positive trajectory of Pakistan's economic indicators and pointed out the notable

decline in the current account deficit, which reflects improved economic stability, said a news release.

He also emphasized the government's commitment to boosting exports through diversification strategies, adding that the recent efforts have resulted in a marked increase in export performance.

Furthermore, he announced that inflation has decreased to single-digit levels, a testament to

the government's effective economic management.

In line with the government's vision for sustainable economic growth, the minister discussed the ongoing structural reforms aimed at enhancing market conditions and creating a conducive environment for both domestic and foreign investments. These reforms are pivotal in attracting capital and fostering investor confidence in Pakistan's economic landscape.

CEO SMEDA Soerat Aman Rana, while giving a detailed presentation to the Board Members highlighted key features of the plan at a meeting held in chair with Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister Industries and Production, according to SMEDA spokesman here Monday.



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): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday assured the business community of his support in addressing their concerns, reinforcing the commitment of the Governor's Office to foster a business-friendly environment in KP.

He reaffirmed the government's commitment to increasing business activity and addressing security concerns facing the business community.

He remarked this during his meeting with the top brass of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce

(RCCI) during his visit to the chamber. He outlined the ongoing initiatives to improve infrastructure, enhance law enforcement capabilities, and promote economic growth in KP.

"The government is utilizing all available resources to tackle law and order and improve security across the province, along with upgrading roads, educational institutions, and medical facilities," he said.

The governor underscored the importance of fostering cooperation among institutions to activate

Central Asia's trade routes. He also emphasized that political stability and economic growth were essential goals that required the support of all political parties.

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

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

FPCCI proposes amendments in Petroleum Act 1934

INDEPENDENT REPORT KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has appreciated Senator Musadik Malik, Federal Petroleum Minister and the Director General of Explosives at Ministry of Petroleum for responding to the concerns of trade and industry vis-à-vis the definition, handling, storage and licensing requirements of liquid hydrocarbon, mixed hydrocarbons and any other material or mixture containing hydrocarbons.

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh apprised that FPCCI had officially written to the DG Explosives after receiving multiple complaints and queries from the sector to

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

Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magooni, SVP FPCCI, proposed that the Petroleum Act 1934 should be updated to remove irrelevant or obsolete items in it; and, reflect only the necessary precautionary or safety measures.

The petrochemical industry has evolved over the past many decades and we need to amend our laws accordingly, he added.



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, Pakistan's leading cellular and digital services provider, achieved the prestigious TIA-942-C Rated-3 certification for its Data Center located at Zong HQ, Islamabad.

According to a news release, this certification is a testament of Zong's unwavering commitment to be an excellent information services and technology innovation company of Pakistan. The TIA-942 is an internationally recognized standard for Data Center infrastructure, and the Rated-3 certification highlights

Zong's dedication to offering state-of-the-art solutions to its customers.

This achievement demonstrates that Zong's Data Center adheres to strict criteria for system redundancy, uptime, and disaster resilience, reinforcing the company's position as a leader in the telecommunications industry.

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

Economic indicators improving, says Punjab Finance Minister

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Finance Minister Mujtaba Shuja-ur-Rehman on Monday said that inspiring economic progress has been made by both the federal and Punjab governments during the past eight months with a good improvement in economic indicators.

He highlighted that the Punjab government has presented a tax-free budget of Rs 5.5 trillion aimed at facilitating businesses.

He was speaking here at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI). The LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad presented the address of welcome while Senior

Vice President Engineer Khalid Usman, former President Muhammad Ali Mian and Executive Committee Members also spoke on the occasion. The Minister congratulated the LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad for winning LCCI polls with thumping majority.

The Provincial Minister credited Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, along with their teams, for improving the overall economy. He mentioned that the stock market has set records, interest rate is stabilized around 17 percent and inflation.

SME dev. plan to revitalize SMEDA approved

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

CEO SMEDA Soerat Aman Rana, while giving a detailed presentation to the Board Members highlighted key features of the plan at a meeting held in chair with Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister Industries and Production, according to SMEDA spokesman here Monday.

SCCI, PSATAF agree for joint initiatives to attract foreign investment

PESHAWAR (APP): Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Pakistan South Africa Trade Federation (PSATF) have decided to launch joint initiatives to attract foreign investment in various potentials and sectors of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The decision came during a meeting of SCCI president Fazal Moqem Khan and PSATF Chairman Muhammad Rafiq Memon, who is currently leading a delegation of the PSATF to K-P, said SCCI spokesman here on Monday.

SCCI senior vice president Abdul Jalil Jan, vice president Shehryar Khan, former senior vice president of the chamber Shahid Hussain, Secretary General of the chamber Muqtasid Ahsan were present during the meeting.

The PSATF delegation consisted of general secretary of the federation Ikramullah Jan, President for the Middle East, KP, and Islamabad region Mumtaz Khan Yousafzai, Members Advisory Shahid Khattak, Naseer Khattak and Coordinator Hafiz Khalid Zaheer.

Gold prices increase by Rs.700 per tola

ISLAMABAD, Nov 4 (APP): The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased by Rs.700 and was sold at Rs.283,700 on Monday compared to its sale at Rs. 283,000 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs. 600 to Rs. 243,227 from Rs. 242,627 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs. 222,958 from Rs. 222,408, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

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



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

KP CM vows to promote education on modern lines

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

Under the ALP program, 1,267 centers

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

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

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

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

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



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

Punjab govt to present Rs630bn surplus budget next year: Azma

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

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

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

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

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



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.



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

CM's Advisor on Health chairs reforms review meeting

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

During the review meeting on departmental

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

CM Maryam hospitalised after throat infection

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

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

Lahore second most polluted city in the world

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

SU enter in final of Inter University cricket Championship

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

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

The Zone-K matches culminated in a triangular

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

earning them a spot in the national finals.

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

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

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

International News

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Putin greets North Korean foreign minister with long handshake in Kremlin

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jong Un.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Trudeau condemns violence at Hindu temple near Toronto

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

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

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

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

36 dead in bus crash in Indian Himalayas

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Iran executes Jewish Iranian man in murder case: NGO

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

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

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

Monitoring Desk MAUMERE: Indonesia's Disaster Management Agency said Monday that at least nine people have died as a series of volcanic eruptions 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 mea-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

'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 27th Sustainable Development Expo 2024.



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, academicians, environmental experts, think tanks and researchers that the promotion of sustainable practices necessitating 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.



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

SI Global Solutions becomes first Pakistani company to get membership of IALA

Independent Report
KARACHI: SI Global Solutions, a leading maritime and fastest-growing ICT system integrator and consultancy company, has become the first Pakistani company to receive a membership of the International Association of Lighthouse Authorities (IALA).

This prestigious recognition solidifies SI Global Solutions' commitment to excellence for the safety of our ports and harbors domain and positions Pakistan on the global maritime stage.

IALA, a renowned international organization, promotes the safe and efficient movement of vessels worldwide. To achieve Industrial Membership, SI Global Solutions successfully met IALA's stringent prerequisites, demonstrating its technical expertise, operational excellence, and dedication to maritime

safety. It is worth highlighting here that to meet the training certification requirements of IALA for industrial membership, SI Global Solutions (Pvt) Ltd, deputised his Director Projects (Cdr Retd Liaquat Ali PN) to China MSA Aids to Navigation Training Center (Shanghai, Xiamen Jimei University & Wenzhou) for one month to attend IALA's Aids to Navigation (AtoN) Model Course L1.1 Marine Aids to Navigation - Training. For the first time, the said officer from corporate world has represented Pakistan, successfully qualified the course with other multinational students from all over the world to gain IALA Certification. This is also a great honor for SI Global Solutions (Pvt) Ltd to achieve IALA's Aids to Navigation (AtoN) Model Course L1.1 Marine Aids

to Navigation - Certification for the first time from the civilian maritime sector of Pakistan.

"We are honored to join this esteemed international maritime community," said Dr Noman Said, CEO of M/S SI Global Solutions (Pvt) Ltd. "This achievement underscores our company's unwavering commitment to quality, innovation, standards, and global best safety practices. We look forward to collaborating with IALA's other international members and contributing to the advancement of maritime safety worldwide on behalf of Pakistan."

As the first Pakistani company to secure IALA Industrial Membership, SI Global Solutions sets a benchmark for the nation's maritime industry. This milestone reinforces Pakistan's growing presence in the global marine sector.



LARKANA: Residents of Ghulam Bhutto village are holding protest demonstration against the killing of 9th class student 16-years old Riaz Hussain Bhutto and demanding justice for him held at Jinnah Bagh in Larkana.

Khushhali Microfinance Bank hosts pivotal Breast Cancer awareness event for Pinktober

Independent Report
KARACHI: In a significant effort to combat breast cancer, Khushhali Microfinance Bank Limited (KMBL) hosted a comprehensive awareness event, marking Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The event, organized by the KMBL HR team in collaboration with Jubilee Insurance and Shifa International Hospital, aimed to enlighten attendees about the importance of early detection, prevention, and supportive care in the fight against breast cancer.

The session commenced with opening remarks from Ms. Saira Gabol, the Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO) of KMBL, who emphasized the bank's dedication to fostering a supportive work environment and promoting health awareness.

Dr. Arooj Akram, a prominent figure in women's health and the Women Health Awareness Lead at Shifa Inter-

national Hospital, delivered an educational presentation that covered crucial topics such as breast cancer prevention, early detection methods, and treatment options. The event also featured a Q&A session, where attendees engaged directly with health experts to gain deeper understanding of breast cancer-related issues.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Aameer Karachiwalla, President and CEO of KMBL, reiterated the bank's commitment to employee welfare and health-centric initiatives.

"Today's event is a testament to KMBL's unwavering commitment to not only the health of our employees but also to our role in the larger community. We stand in solidarity with all those affected by breast cancer and continue to advocate for education, early detection, and effective treatment," stated Mr. Karachiwalla.

No Cinema in city to attract audience

HYDERABAD (APP): Some decades ago, every city in Pakistan was familiar with the cinema culture. Cinema-goers could be found in metropolitan cities and small towns as well. Hyderabad was once famous for its cinema houses. There were more than 20 operational venues during its triumph.

Only a single cinema, Bambino, has survived the decline in cinema's popularity. Bambino Cinema was established in 1974 by the Syed family, who owned similar facilities in Karachi and other cities in Sindh. Bambino Cinema in Hyderabad used to be a famed venue for families to watch films in a community setting however going through a difficult time due to a lack of maintenance and declining revenue.

ATS conducts recruitment Test for Cadet Colleges

SUKKUR (APP): Aror Testing Services (ATS) of Aror University Sukkur conducted the recruitment test for various Cadet Colleges across Sindh.

The test was held on the university premises, where extensive arrangements were made to facilitate both candidates. According to the release on Monday, the university provided comprehensive safety measures, including the presence of Rescue 1122 teams, an Emergency Mobile Health unit, police security, and a general physician to ensure the health and safety of all participants.

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 Direc-

tor 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.

Expressing apprecia-

tion for the reforms undertaken in various sector of the economy, Ms. Emma Fan told the Minister the ADB was working on a new country partnership strategy for Pakistan, with focus on critical sectors such as climate change, economic growth and prosperity.

She briefed the Minister about ADB's portfolio investments, its ongoing and upcoming projects in Pakistan and the Bank's support for economic reforms, socio-economic development, poverty reduction, climate change as well as policy-based funding and budgetary support for the country.

ADC chairs meeting regarding municipal election

HYDERABAD (APP): Municipal elections will be held on November 14 on 4 vacant seats of Tehsil Nawabshah and Skarud District. Shaheed Benazirabad. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner and District Monitoring Officer Shaheed Benazirabad. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner and District Monitoring Officer Shaheed Benazirabad. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner and District Monitoring Officer Shaheed Benazirabad.

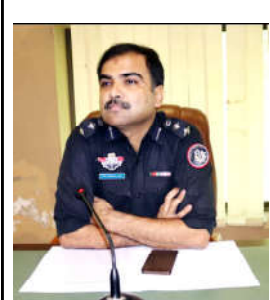
Assistant Commissioner Nawab Shah Iqbal Ahmed Tanyu, candidates participating in the elections and related officers

participated. On this occasion, Additional Deputy Commissioner and District Monitoring Officer Nawab Samir Laghari emphasized on the candidates participating in the municipal elections should be clean. In order to make it transparent and peaceful, the code of conduct issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan will be implemented in every case. Therefore, concerned officers, political parties and election candidates should ensure the implementation of the code.



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

Anti-social elements will not be forgiven under any circumstances: Soomro



Independent Report
MIRPUR MATHELO: Establishing law and order in Ghotki district is the first priority, anti-social elements will not be forgiven under any circumstances, police should monitor the entry and exit routes of the district, full action against the accused involved in social crimes.

Action should be taken, these were said by the newly appointed SSP of Ghotki district, Dr. Samiullah Soomro, in an introductory meeting with the police officers in Ghotki district. Keep a close eye on suspects and criminals, SHOs and DSPs listen to public issues and resolve them, increase snap checking to control crime, bring criminal elements as well as facilitators to book. Jai, he directed the officers to treat the policemen well as they are like our children, he directed that no innocent should be arrested, the problems of the cyllins should be heard and justice should be done to them.

SHRC holds seminar on HR awareness & law

LARKANA (APP): The Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) held a seminar about the awareness of human rights and law in a local Hotel on Monday.

Chairperson, Iqbal Ahmed Detho highlighted provisions of law which ensured protection of human rights and informed about the work of SHRC for safeguarding the human rights. In an interactive session the participants pointed out the issues of Human rights and stressed the need of legal remedy and stern action for the redressal of violations.

He said in the seminar said that Sindh is the only province which has enacted comprehensive legislation to protect human rights including child labour, early marriages, domestic violence.

Drug supplier arrested, marijuana recovered

HYDERABAD (APP): Police in its continued drive against narcotics and criminals on Monday arrested a drug supplier and recovered marijuana from his possession.

Station House officer (SHO) Cant police station Imran Rasheed Shaikh along with his staff acting on a tip-off conducted a raid near Tamboora Chowk and held an accused Pir Bux Gopang and recovered 2 kg marijuana from his possession.

Police have registered a case against the suspect under narcotics control act.

AIMS to hold Sindh Diabetes Conference on Nov 16

HYDERABAD (APP): The Asian Institute of Medical Sciences (AIMS) in collaboration with its Co-Partners would hold the Sindh Diabetes Conference at Indus Hotel on Saturday, 16th November 2024.

The Director clinical sciences Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sadique Memon informed here on Monday that in this insightful event health care professionals will discuss the latest advancements in diabetes management including Lifestyle Modification, Blood Sugar Control, Metabolism, Reducing risks and prevent Complication.

New term of Services Chiefs

The new tenure 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.

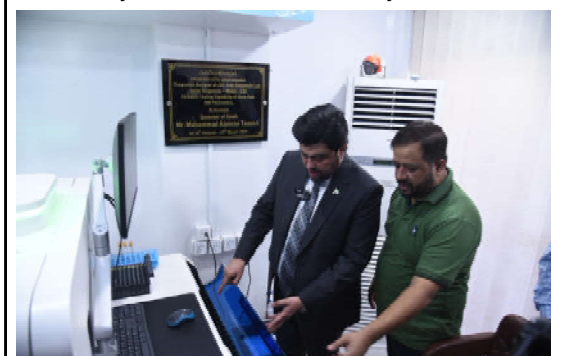
We will continue to support public welfare initiatives: Tessori

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori has said that they will continue supporting public welfare initiatives in the province.

He expressed these views talking to media persons, after attending the first anniversary of JDC Free Diagnostic Center here on Monday.

Tessori, on the occasion, also visited various departments of JDC Free Diagnostic Center.

Meanwhile Sindh Governor and Chancellor of Public Universities Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori on Monday attended Gilgit-Baltistan Independence Day celebrations held at University of Karachi.



While congratulating the JDC team, the Governor assured that public-related measures would also be supported.

The Governor also took part in the traditional dance with the students of Gilgit-Baltistan at the cultural show.

Commissioner meets traders

SARGODHA (APP): Commissioner Sargodha Division Jahanzeb Awan has said that restoration of industrial process and provision of all possible facilities to small and medium level businesses is a top priority of the government.

Promotion of industries will not only accelerate economic activities but also create employment opportunities for the youth.

He expressed this remarks in a meeting with the members of the Sargodha Chamber of Small Trades and Small Industries. He

said that urban development is not possible without the cooperation of businessmen and other stakeholders. He suggested that a forum should be formed with administrative officers, businessmen and other stakeholders headed by the Deputy Commissioner so that a comprehensive plan could be made and implemented to provide relief to the citizens. He said that funds have been allocated for the problems of sewage in the city and construction and repair of roads.



HYDERABAD: Women residents of Tando Jam are holding protest demonstration against high handedness of their area police department, at Hyderabad press club.

Saleem Memon for ensuring reliable, safe supply of gas during winter season

HYDERABAD (APP): President, Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry (HCSTSI) Muhammad Saleem Memon has formally written a letter to the Managing Director of Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGCL) to ensure a reliable and safe supply of gas during the winter season.

He pointed out that the demand for gas significantly rises in winter, which leads to the proliferation of unlicensed and substandard gas-filling centers in residential areas.

These unauthorized setups pose serious risks to human life and are in direct violation of regulatory

safety standards. Saleem Memon has proposed that SSGCL establish official and registered gas distribution points in Hyderabad and its surrounding areas, similar to Karachi, to provide safe and certified gas containers to the public. These points would allow citizens convenient access to high-quality gas containers through official channels and enable online registration and ordering services, ultimately discouraging illegal gas refilling operations. President HCSTSI further suggested implementing strict inspection and certification processes to ensure only high-quality gas cylinders are distributed.