

# Independent

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

## 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 Su-

preme 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

Continued on page 2

## 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.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir has emphasized that global peace today is confronted with ever evolving threats and challenges.

Addressing at the 28th Annual Conference of International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centre (IAPTC), the COAS said that despite the numerous peacekeeping endeavors underway by the UN and other organizations, the plight of innocent Kashmiris and Palestinians serve as a stark reminder that still a lot needs to be done, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release issued on Monday.

The 28th Annual Conference of International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centre (IAPTC) is being hosted for the first time in Pakistan at the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), NUST, Islamabad from November 4-8.

The event officially commenced with the inauguration of new CIPS building by COAS General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M).

Under Secretary General, Department of Peace Operations, Jean Pierre Lacroix, United 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.

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.



QUETTA: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti

## 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.

## Governor Punjab, CM Bugti agree on cooperation for viable public welfare projects

QUETTA: The Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan met the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti here at the CM's secretariat on Monday.

During the course of meeting, the Governor Punjab and Chief Minister discussed different matters of mutual interest.

Also present in the meeting were the Provincial Ministers Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani, Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Mir Asim Kurd and Mir Ali Madad Jatak.

The Chief Minister Balochistan apprised the Governor Punjab about the process of reforms contin-

ued in different sectors in the province besides the measures being taken for improvement there.

During the meeting, both the leaders were agreed on extending cooperation and continuous coordination for viable public welfare projects in their provinces. They also expressed best wishes for the President Asif Ali Zardari for early recovery from the health issue.

The Governor Punjab on the occasion appreciated the Chief Minister Balochistan for initiating certain public welfare projects in Balochistan.

He also formally invited Chief Minister Balochistan to visit Punjab.

## Governor vows to overcome challenges facing in promotion of higher education sector

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that no doubt, we have made remarkable progress with regard to promote higher education and create an educational environment in the province, but our journey has not ended yet, rather we have to do a lot in this regard.

The Governor said that our resolve is high despite the problems, adding firmly believe that he would succeed in overcoming all the challenges together with his team.

He stressed that our very objective is to prepare the people equipped with the scientific education and modern skills, who may play constructive and positive role in their respective areas. The Governor was speaking to the Member

Provincial Assembly, Mir Asadullah Baloch who called on him here at the Governor House on Monday.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor said that we have the dream of an educated Balochistan, and it's materialization needs wholehearted attention and long struggle. He said that all the public sector universities are producing best youth to benefit from the economic and trade changes taking place in the region.

Adding he believed that the educated youth of the province being produced by our public sector universities would lead to move on the process of sustainable development.

The Governor also said that it is our objective to prepare the educated and skilled youth who may contribute in development of their areas.



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

## 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.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Security Forces killed six Khwarj terrorists in two separate intelligence-based operations (IBOs) conducted in general areas of Dosali, North Waziristan District and Khamrang, South Waziristan District of Khyber-Pakhtunkwa (KP) on Sunday night.

During conduct of the operation, the Army troops effectively engaged the Khwarj's location, resultantly one Khwarj Ahmed Shah alias Intizar was killed, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release.

In another incident, the movement of the Khwarj group, who were trying to infiltrate through the Pakistan-Afghanistan international border, was picked up by the Security Forces in the general area of Khamrang, South Waziristan District.

The Army troops effectively engaged and thwarted their attempt to

infiltrate. Resultantly, five Khwarj were killed, while three Khwarj got injured, it further said.

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

Security Forces of Pakistan are determined and remain committed to secure its borders and eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday paid tribute to the security forces for conducting successful operations against Fitna al-Khwarj terrorists in Khamrang area of South Waziristan and the Dosali area of North Waziristan.

## 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. According to Dr Asim Yousuf medical board has recommended some tests of former chairman PTI and following these tests, report regarding medical check up will be evolved.

## AC Quetta city meets MD WASA over issue of employees strike

QUETTA: The Assistant Commissioner Quetta city met the Managing Director of WASA, Hamid Rana here on Monday.

During the course of meeting, the Assistant Commissioner talked about the issue of strike being observed by the employees of WASA in Quetta.

It was informed that a constitutional petition is being submitted against the employees of WASA staging dhama in the High Court under contempt of court.

It may be mentioned here that the WASA employees are observing strike and staging dhama for acceptance of their demands. Following strike, the water supply is badly affected in different areas of the metropolis.

## 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.

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

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

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

It was targeted to vac-

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

Over 11,000 mobile teams were engaged to administer the anti polio vaccine to the children.



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

## 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.

## 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.



## AJK President calls on Kashmiri expats to advocate for Kashmir settlement

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry on Monday urged Kashmiri expatriates in the UK to intensify their efforts for a swift and peaceful resolution to the Kashmir issue.

During a meeting with former Waltham Stow Mayor Shaikat Ali at Jammu Kashmir House in the federal capital, Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry praised the efforts of UK-based Kashmiris in raising awareness about the Kashmir situation in the British Parliament and other forums.

He emphasized that the UK as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council has a vital role to play in addressing the longstanding conflict which has led to significant human rights violations in the region.

President AJK condemned the Indian government's

actions in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, stating that the Modi administration has escalated violence and brutality against the Kashmiri people.

He highlighted the alarming reports of extrajudicial killings and the use of pellet guns that have severely injured civilians.

He called on the international community to exert pressure on India to halt the violence and facilitate a peaceful resolution to the conflict. Additionally, President Chaudhry condemned Israel's actions against Palestinians and stressed the importance of supporting the Palestinian cause alongside the struggle for Kashmir.

He expressed disappointment at the lack of response from powerful nations regarding the ongoing violence against Palestinian civilians.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, chaired the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) at the Finance Division.

## JJ 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.

JJ Chief Hafiz Naemur 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."

The JI prayed to the apex court to declare that the chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) would be appointed on the basis of seniority and also declare the appointment of a CJP by a parliamentary party null and void. It questions the role of the parliamentary committee in this process, supposing it unconstitutional.

The petition also calls for suspending any new judicial commission formed under this amendment, reinforcing the need to adhere to constitutional principles in judicial appointments.



QUETTA: Civil Hospital Medical Superintendent (MS), Dr. Noorullah Musa inquires about health of patients during his night visit to medical wards, at Civil Hospital in Quetta.

## Imran Khan's life in danger, no truth in deal rumors: Aleema Khan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's sister, Aleema Khan, has voiced serious concerns over her brother's safety, calling ongoing rumours of a deal baseless.

Speaking to the media in Islamabad, she stated that Imran Khan remains resolute in his pursuit of justice, stressing that the situation now demands resolution. Aleema pointed to the frequent threats faced by Imran Khan's family, with multiple FIRs filed against him, and highlighted recent incidents where young children in their family

were allegedly detained.

Appealing to the new chief justice, she urged intervention to curb rising lawlessness, warning of potential public backlash.

Meanwhile, PTI Secretary Salman Akram Raja announced a rally scheduled for Nov 9 in Swabi, calling it a critical step towards freedom. "This is not political gamesmanship but a fight for survival," he declared, rallying supporters to push for Imran Khan's release and vowing that their movement will persist until his freedom is achieved.

## Waziristan Grand Sports Gala concludes

PESHAWAR (APP): The Waziristan Grand Sports Gala, organized by the Tribal Youth Association with the support of the Pakistan Army and FC administration, successfully concluded in South Waziristan (Upper).

This mega sports event was held in collaboration with Frontier Corps South and took place across three tehsils in Upper South Waziristan, Sararogha, Sarwekai, and Makeen.

A total of 83 teams participated in cricket, football, and volleyball tournaments, generating great enthusiasm among the local community. The President of the Tribal Youth Association, Murtaza Mehsud, expressed his gratitude to the Pakistan Army and IG FC South for their significant role in making this event a success.

## Fazal cautions PML-N, PPP on legislative actions 'threatening' democracy

ISLAMABAD (INP): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman warned on Monday the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz against approving any legislation "undermining" the democratic principles.

Speaking to media, Rehman said: "We have differing opinions with other opposition groups, including the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), but there remain avenues for collaboration."

He criticized the government's approach, stating that the upcoming 27th constitutional amendment should be a focal point for discussions. Rehman indicated that the JUI-F plans to actively oppose the government's proposed changes, insisting that both the PPP and PML-N should refrain from endorsing any legislation that undermines democratic principles.

Rehman said: "Allowing such laws to pass would tarnish the image of democracy in the country. 'Democratic institutions cannot condone legislation that grants excessive powers to authorities.'"

He urged the incumbent government to reconsider the clauses it intends to retract from the 26th Amendment. The proposed anti-terrorism reforms would lead to further degradation of democratic traditions," Rehman added.

He reaffirmed his party's commitment to mobilizing public support against these measures, reinforcing the notion that legislation affecting civil liberties cannot be taken lightly in a democratic society.

"First, the government had complained from the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and the institutions are being given extraordinary powers," he maintained.

## Australia hold their nerves to beat Pakistan in first ODI

MELBOURNE (INP): Australia captain Pat Cummins held on to his nerves and steered his side to a thrilling two-wicket victory over Pakistan in the first ODI of the three-match series here at Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) on Monday.

Cummins remained unbeaten on 32 as Australia chased the 204-run target in 33.3 overs at the loss of eight wickets.

Pakistan's top order crumbled against the likes of Mitchell Starc's brilliant spell as Australia bundle Pakistan for a meagre 203 in the first ODI of the three-match series here at Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) on Monday.

Mitchell Starc gave Australia the desired start after they opted to field as he removed both openers inside seven overs with 24 runs on the board.

Babar Azam played a 37-run knock from 44 balls and added 39 runs for the third wicket with Mohammad Rizwan before

getting bowled by Adam Zampa.

Kamran Ghulam could add only runs with one boundary as he fell prey to Pat Cummins' well-directed bouncer in the next over.

Meanwhile, Sean Abbott removed Salman Ali (12) to leave Pakistan struggling at 101-5.

Mohammad Rizwan scored 44 runs from 71 balls before he top-edged off Marnus Labuschagne while attempting to sweep, only to get caught by wicket-keeper Josh Inglis.

Irfan Khan (22) and Shaheen Shah Afridi (24) added valuable runs before Naseem Shah played a gutsy cameo of 40, which featured four sixes and one four to help Pakistan cross the 200-run mark. Pat Cummins ended Naseem's cameo to bundle Pakistan for 203.

Starc led the bowling charts with figures of 3-33, while Cummins and Zampa claimed two wickets each.

The Greenshirts do not have a good track record at the Australian soil, winning only one ODI series.

Pakistan and Australia have contested in 104 ODIs and the Aussies have won overwhelming 70 matches.

After the first game on Monday, the two sides will face in the second game at Adelaide on November 8 while the third PAK v AUS game is scheduled for November 10 at Perth.

Rizwan, who will lead Pakistan in his maiden match, has said yesterday that Babar Azam, Shaheen and Naseem Shah have performed for Pakistan.

"All 15 members of the team are captain. Fakhar Zaman and Imam ul Haq have also given several match-winning performances," Rizwan said.

He said, "Offering chance to young players, we are creating back-up for the team," he added.

## AFP inks MoU with private housing society

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Athletics Federation of Pakistan (AFP) and a private housing society on Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), paving the way for enhanced collaboration and development in athletics.

Gen. @ Ehsan Ul Haq Bajwa was the chief guest at the ceremony, alongside notable figures and athletes, including former Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Gen @ Muhammad Akram Sahi, Chairman South Asian Athletics Federation, Zamaurd Khan, Shoaib Suddle, Qamar Zaman, Nooh Dastgir Butt, Shajar Abbas and Sajid Sadpara.

Bajwa expressed optimism about Pakistan's sports future, citing the country's athletics talent and the importance of merit-based selection.

He acknowledged the vital role of sponsors and media, in sports development, highlighting AFP's achievements, including Paris Olympics gold medalist Arshad Nadeem.

Earlier, Brig. @ Sultan Mahmood Satti announced Pakistan's hosting of the South Asian Cross Country Athletics Championship on November 24 here at the F-9 Park.

Seven countries, including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Bhutan, will participate in the 10km and 8km seniors and juniors categories.

## Pakistan AFL women's team trials held

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan women's team trials for the Australian Football League (AFL) Asia Cup, under the supervision of chief selector Abid Hussain were held here to finalize the names for the mega event. The finalized names include Chaman Mushtaq, Hina, Arooj, Tahmina, Salma Jabeen, Hajra Shakeel, Sayeda Tasneem, Mahnoor Alam, Maryam Mukhtar, Zubia Malik, Salisbeel, Hajra Bibi, Noor, Samina, Nadia Zafar, Umira Arshad, Asma Khan-Arooj Altaf, Sabina, Farzana Batool, Nazia Batool, Farhat, Asho Saeed, Ghazala Nelofer, Rabia, Kahkshan, Nazish, Noreen Baig and

Saba Yasin will be finalized. After the trial, the practice session for the 30-member squad of the Pakistan Women's team will begin from next week in Islamabad under the leadership of head coach Michael Gillis.

Out of which 15 women's team will participate in the Australian Football League Asia Cup in Vietnam to be held from December 6 to 8. Men and women teams of 16 countries will participate in the Asia Cup. Pakistan AFL Secretary General Chaudhry Zulfiqar, Director Women Irfan Khan and Chief Selector Abid Hussain Jameel Kamran and other officials took the trials.

## Indian team gets nod for T20 Blind Cricket WC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The India's Ministry of Sports has granted No Objection Certificate (NOC) to the Indian blind cricket team to feature in the 4th edition of T20 Blind Cricket World Cup, scheduled to be held in Pakistan from November 23.

In a letter sent by Shri Shailender Yadav, Secretary General of the Cricket Association for the Blind in India, the Indian Ministry of Sports has permitted the team's tour to Pakistan, advising them to seek further clearances from the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Home Affairs, said a press release issued here.

The Indian team is expected to arrive in Lahore on November 21 to participate in the World Cup. A high-stakes match between Pakistan and Indian teams is scheduled for November 25 in Lahore.



ISLAMABAD: Country Head Rudn-Enclave Mali Asad presenting a shield to Brigadier (R) Sultan Mahmood Satti during a MoU signing ceremony between South Asia Athletics Federation (SAAF) and at a local hotel, in the Federal Capital.

## NA, Senate pass bills to extend term of...

Continued from page 1  
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 session, 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.

These legislative moves reflect the government's focus on judicial reform and the standardisation of military leadership tenures, addressing institutional demands and fostering continuity.

APP adds: The National Assembly on Monday passed six bills including "The Supreme Court Number of Judges (Amendment) Bill, 2024," the "Pakistan Army (Amendment) Bill, 2024," and the "Pakistan Navy Amendment Bill, 2024."

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

The bills were presented by Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar and Minister of Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif in the House.

Highlighting the key features of the Supreme Court Number of Judges

(Amendment) Bill, 2024, law minister Tarar stated that the number of judges may be increased to as many as 34.

He explained that this measure was aimed at tackling the backlog of cases at the Supreme Court and emphasized that the number of judges would be adjusted over time-based requirements.

Furthermore, the number of judges in the Islamabad High Court has been increased from the current nine to twelve with the passage of the High Court (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

Meanwhile the Senate on Monday approved six crucial bills including the Supreme Court Number of Judges (Amendment) Bill, 2024, the Islamabad High Court (Amendment) Bill, 2024, the Pakistan Army (Amendment) Bill, 2024 as passed by the National Assembly, amid the opposition uproar.

The bills included the Supreme Court Number of Judges (Amendment) Bill, 2024, the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) (Amendment) Bill, 2024, the Islamabad High Court (Amendment) Bill, 2024, the Pakistan Army (Amendment) Bill, 2024 and the Pakistan Navy (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

Earlier, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar moved a motion to suspend the House business and take up the supplementary agenda which was adopted

by the House.

The three initial bills related to Supreme Court and Islamabad High Court were piloted by Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar in the House while the remaining three bills pertaining to Army, Navy and Air Force were moved by Minister of Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif.

The House passed all the bills through clause-by-clause readings.

The Supreme Court Number of Judges (Amendment) Bill, 2024 aimed at increasing number of SC judges to 34 which would help tackle the backlog of cases at the Supreme Court.

Similarly, under the Islamabad High Court (Amendment) Bill, 2024, the number of judges in the Islamabad High Court has also been increased from nine to twelve.

Furthermore, the Senate also passed amendments to the Pakistan (Army/Air Force/Navy) Act Amendment Bills 2024 to enhance the tenures of service chiefs.

In the said Act, in section 8A, in sub-section (1), for the expression "three (03)" the word "five (05)" shall be substituted," says the bill. Sub-section 1 of Section 8A states that "the President shall, on the advice of the Prime Minister, appoint a General as the Chief of the Army Staff, for a tenure of three (03) years," read the bill.

**CANCELLATION OF TENDER**

This office notice inviting Tenders vide by this TSE 242510568823 vide PRQ No1413/10-10-2024 &mp; TSE 242510572903 PRQ No 1527/17-10-2024 Tender were published on BPPRA Website, Tenders called by this office are her by canceled.

**Executive Engineer Building**  
CWPP&H Department District  
Musakhail

PRQ No.1769/04-11-2024

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**TENDER NOTICE**

TSE-242511584883 Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER/II PROVINCIAL B&R KOHLU invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates

Tender Fee Rs.2000/- and Bid Security 4%

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	Z2024-1796 CONSTRUCTION OF OFFICE BUILDINGS/RESIDENTIALACCOMMODATIONS FOR PROSECUTORS OF BALOCHISTAN (PHASE I)	64,443,800

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 4 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 45,110,660 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-5 and above (Upto 65 million)In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE10(i) (General Civil Engineering Works) , CE10(vii) (General Buildings and Maintenance), CE11(i) (General engineering Works only) . Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 4 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gov.pk Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gov.pk Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 25 November, 2024 till 11:00 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 12:00 PM on EPPS System Address: Office of Executive Engineer-II Provincial B&R, District Kohlu Phone no: 3458047098 Email: engr.naeemzmiri@gmail.com

**Executive Engineer- Building**  
CW PP&H Department  
District Kohlu

PRQ No.1767/04-11-2024

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**TENDER NOTICE**

The Executive Engineer (Road) CW PP&H Department Harnai invites sealed bids from eligible bidders who can prove their eligibility and qualification as mention in the bidding documents for the work mentioned below. The work estimated cost and other information of works as under percentage tender based on Composite Schedule of Rates 2023. Government of Balochistan amended up-to-date as required from interested contractors / firms for the work listed below under BPPRA Rules. Tender Fee Rs. 1000/- and Earnest Money 2%

S. No.	Name of Work	E/Cost
1	RENOVATION & MAINTENANCE OF GOVERNMENT ACCOMMODATION OF ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SUB DIVISION KHOSH DISTRICT HARNAI. TSE-242511585173	5.00 M

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan public Procurement Rules-2014. BASIC ELIGIBILITY: Eligibility Criteria & Evaluation Criteria for bidders may be seen in the Bidding Documents. METHOD OF PROCUREMENT: Single stage - Two Envelop Bidding Procedure. BIDDING / TENDER DOCUMENTS: the Bidding document can be downloaded from www.bppra.pk and the same can also be obtained from the office of the under signed upon payment of prescribed tender fee deposited in the head of account C-02716 NBP Bank green challan is verified by treasury. DEAD LINE OF SUBMISSION: Technical and financial proposals from intending contractors/ firms sealed in two separate envelopes clearly marked with work title & type of proposal must be delivered by hand or through registered mail to the address mentioned below on or before 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 11:30 Hrs. Opening: The envelope containing "Technical Bids" will be opened on the same day i.e. 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2024, at 12:00 Hrs before procurement committee in the presence of bides. Address: Office Of The Executive Engineer (Building) CWPP&H Department District Harnai

**Executive Engineer (Building)**  
CWPP&H Department District  
Harnai

PRQ No.1761/04-11-2024

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## 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.

Highlighting Pakistan's rich irrigation infrastructure, which spanned over approximately 17 million hectares, the minister acknowledged the system's pressures from population growth, industrialization and environmental degradation.

He revealed that while agriculture consumed over 90 percent of Pakistan's water resources, inefficient irrigation methods led to significant water losses, even up to 40% in some areas.

He cited climate-induced impacts, including floods, droughts and glacial melt that have disrupted the lives of over 40 million people and caused an economic loss surpassing \$30 billion.

To address these challenges, Pakistan has outlined strategic objectives through its National Water Policy, launched in 2018, and allocated 12.2% of its Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) budget to water resource management.



ISLAMABAD: MNA Mubarak Zeb calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at Parliament House.

## Pakistan most deserving country for climate grants': Justice Jawad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Justice Jawad Hassan of the Lahore High Court in a high-level plenary titled 'Legal Framework of Climate Finance' at the 27th Sustainable Development Conference (SDC) here on Monday said Pakistan was the most deserving country for climate grants.

He said it was important to know what climate financing law was in Pakistan and what the legal framework Pakistan had offered, said a press release.

Justice Jawad Hassan said local and international donors had raised three questions during the last COP28. The questions were whether there was any legal framework financing law in Pakistan, how cli-

## 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.

## 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 Shafqat Kakakhel highlighted global issues, including political conflicts like those taking place in Ukraine and Palestine, climate crises, as well as rising poverty, which had impacted 1.1 billion people worldwide.



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 Pakistan 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: 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.

## Major breakthrough by Islamabad Police in bank dacoity cases

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 said that Islamabad Police are responsible for the security of every citizen, home, and office.

## 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

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

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.

## Five-day 28th Annual Conference of IAPTC begins in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (INP): The five-day 28th Annual Conference of International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centre kicked off at Centre for International Peace and Stability, National University of Science and Technology in Islamabad on Monday.

The Conference, being hosted for the first time in Pakistan, officially commenced with the inauguration of new CIPS building by Chief of Army Staff, General Syed Asim Munir, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a press release today.



ISLAMABAD: Heavy machinery being used during extension work of Club Road during development work in Federal Capital.

## Capital gears up for Annual Lok Mela: A celebration of Pakistan's cultural tapestry

ISLAMABAD (APP): The capital is gearing up for the much-anticipated Lok Mela 2024 scheduled to be held from November 08-17 promising an exciting journey into Pakistan's rich cultural tapestry.

This year's festival promises to be bigger than ever, featuring a rich array of festivities such as musical nights, youth and international pavilion as it marks the golden jubilee celebrations of Lok Virsa.

Lok Mela, is an annual event that showcases the traditional colors of our country in collaboration with provinces, will bring together around five hundred artisans, musicians, and performers and entrepreneurs. According to an official, the visitors can enjoy a range of activities including traditional music and dance performances, craft workshops, delicious local cuisine, and much more, during the celebrations.

The objective of the Lok Mela is to promote Pakistan's indigenous folk heritage, strengthen national harmony and integration among all federating units through a cultural perspective and provide a much-needed platform to the master artisans, folk artists, folk musicians and folk dancers to demonstrate their skills at the national level.

The festival is being organized in close collaboration with all provincial culture departments. All provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir have confirmed to set their cultural pavilions at the festival grounds, the official informed. The main features of the Mela, as per the official, are provincial cultural pavilions, artisans at work, an exotic craft bazaar, international cultural pavilion, youth cultural pavilion, folk musical and folk-dance performances, puppet shows.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.



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



Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**  
Tuesday November 05, 2024

**Disregarding CCI**

The 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Maleeha Lodhi**

Pakistan's politics is still dominated by dynasties and family networks that manage to retain their grip over the country's top political offices and a significant number of seats in parliament.

Many lawmakers come from political dynasties and have inherited seats from their parent, spouse or other familial connections. Hereditary politics continues to hold sway, with power distributed among relatives by those who secure high office. The mould of dynastic politics was broken by the rise of PTI, but while its leader was not a dynast, the party included scions of influential political families.

Pakistan is no exception to a phenomenon witnessed across the world — of political families and dynasties dominating the political landscape. What are called political 'nepo-babies' are prominent almost everywhere. A political nepo-baby is generally defined as a beneficiary of nepotism — the offspring of someone who achieved high political office and ascends to power by virtue of

that. The phenomenon also includes spouses or siblings who succeed in politics due to family connections.

Many countries in Southeast Asia are governed by nepo-babies. Paetongtarn Shinawatra in Thailand, Bongbong Marcos in the Philippines, Hun Manet in Cambodia and Kim Jong Un in North Korea are all children of former rulers who now run their countries. Similarly, Indonesia's vice president Gibran Rakabuming Raka is the son of former president Joko Widodo. Singapore was ruled for two decades by Lee Hsien Loong, son of Lee Kuan Yew, the country's founder and first prime minister.

In South Asia, the recently ousted prime minister of Bangladesh, Hasina Wajid owed her political ascent to her father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. In India, three prime ministers came from the Nehru-Gandhi family; its scion Rahul Gandhi is now leader of the opposition. Latin America too has had its share of political families. Argentina has seen the Peróns and Kirchners. Former Uruguay president Jorge Luis Batlle came from a family of three

presidents. Honduran President Xiomara Castro de Zelaya is the spouse of an ex-president.

Political dynasties have also been a familiar phenomenon in the West. The Kennedys, Bushes and Clintons are prominent examples in the US. Then there is Justin Trudeau in Canada. In Europe, Estonia's premier is the daughter of a former prime minister. Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo and Marine Le Pen in France had politically famous parents.

The track record of nepo-babies has varied. Some have governed well, others not so. But there is no disagreement that however 'qualified' they may be, it is their family name that helped them attain power. Their privileged background gives them an advantage that runs counter to the very notion of a meritocracy. When the political playing field is skewed by their privileged DNA and offers unequal access to other political aspirants that doesn't make political competition fair or equitable. This has adverse implications for democracy.

A study of 'Hereditary

democracy' by an Australian scholar Dr James Loxton emphasised its harmful impact on the political system. It found that mediocre leaders are more likely to rise to power when political office is limited to those with family connections in politics. In some cases, they even lack formal qualifications. Voters are also let down because when they elect relatives of famous politicians, they usually assume and expect similarities in leadership qualities or policies.

However, elected progeny or relatives may differ substantially from their predecessors, leading to dashed voter expectations and poor representation. An article published earlier this year in *The Economist* subtitled 'Damaging dynasties', argued that in several Asian countries, dynasts impeded economic growth because their interests and those of their cronies collided with the need for reform. Moreover, dynastic rule inhibits the building of strong institutions as personalities assume an outsized role and seek to dominate institutions, showing impatience with institutional checks on their power. They also prevent

institutionalisation of their own political parties.

Why people vote for nepo-babies is an important question but has no uniform answer as political contexts and conditions vary from country to country. Generally speaking, name recognition and people's familiarity with a well-known personality are important reasons for their support. As also their perception that the parent or relative of the political leader had earlier lived up to their expectations and his/her heir would bring stability. Dynastic leaders are also more prevalent in developing countries which have a political culture where politics is organised around patron-client networks and patronage oils the working of the political system.

While every country with ruling dynasties has specific features, Pakistan's case is different from others in an important respect. As political interventions by the military have been pervasive throughout Pakistan's history, it has often chosen to ally with one or the other political dynasty to counter a common political foe.

This has helped to shore up their position and revive their political for-

tunes even when public support for them has waned. They have also been vehicles to preserve the status quo. The two major political parties headed by dynasties are today favoured and bolstered by the establishment, as they serve as a counterpoise to Imran Khan's PTI.

The two dynasty-led parties, PML-N and PPP have alternated in power for over four decades (when the military hasn't assumed overt power). An assessment of how they governed has to be undertaken separately. Noteworthy here is that while the country has moved on, politics is still stuck in the old hereditary mode. Representative politics and the governance system are increasingly misaligned with the social and economic changes that have been reshaping the country's landscape.

These changes include greater urbanisation, shift in economic power from the countryside to the cities, expansion of a more assertive middle class, emergence of a diverse civil society and a more 'connected' and informed citizenry, thanks to the spread of technology. - Courtesy Dawn

**Skardu's water crisis****Afzal Ali Shigri**

Skardu, nestled in the heart of Gilgit-Baltistan, has rapidly transformed from a small town into a popular tourist destination because of its modern international airport. However, despite this progress, the city's infrastructure has experienced little development, rendering it ill-equipped to meet the demands of an expanding population. For instance, chronic water shortage is one of Skardu's old challenges. The government tasked Wapda with the modernisation of Sadpara Dam, the city's sole water storage facility. The dam was built four centuries ago by Princess Gul Khatoon when her husband, Raja Ali Sher Khan Anchan of Skardu, was away in battle. Unfortunately, Wapda's construction was carried out without securing a reliable water source, which exacerbated the city's water crisis.

In parallel, extensive water channels were constructed by the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme with funding from USAID. Designed to procure water from the renovated Sadpara Dam, these channels were

to be replenished by the Shatung Nullah, a water source from a stream originating in the Deosai plateau. But due to a flawed bidding process, the construction of the diversion channel was abandoned, leading to severe water shortage and serious hardships for residents. Although Wapda attributed its cancellation to environmental concerns, specifically the protection of brown bears, there were allegations that the real motive was to shield the contractor from financial losses.

Wapda closed its eyes to the massive losses borne by the state as well as the difficulties faced by Skardu's people. Even drinking water became scarce, forcing residents living along the banks of the Indus to scramble for water from leaky water bowlers that serve hotels. The situation became so dire that a local cleric, Agha Baqir, witnessed a tragic scene where a child was chasing a water bowler with a plastic bottle. The incident reminded him of Karbala, where infants were denied water. Deeply moved and determined to provide abundant drinking

water to Skardu city, Agha Baqir resolved to take on the challenge of refilling the dam's water, bringing it to a suitable level.

Agha Baqir's strength lies in Baltistan's tight social fabric, where clerics are not only spiritual leaders but also active participants in community service. Their contributions, particularly the ones by late Sheikh Mohsin, are visible in the form of the region's high quality school system, shelters for widows and initiatives for the rehabilitation of the poor. Another cleric, Sheikh Ghulam Hussain, runs a network of orphanages which have transformed the lives of hundreds of children. Clerics from the rival sect are also a part of the cause through their profitable agricultural ventures and a tourist resort, generating resources for public service projects. When it comes to a common cause, clerics set their differences aside to collaborate for the greater good. Therefore, people were quick to support Agha Baqir with funds.

Skardu is not only peaceful, it is also remarkably self-reliant, to the extent that there are no beg-

gars on its streets and despite the region's weak economy, no one goes to bed hungry. In this spirit of solidarity, the community pursued arranging water for Skardu. While Agha Baqir spearheaded the fundraising efforts, a team of experts, led by Nazir, a social activist who is highly experienced in managing such projects, assessed the technical feasibility for the dam's water supply. They developed a feasibility plan with Phalang Stream as an alternative water source for potable water.

Despite the death of funds, a committed civil society, in partnership with technical experts, is determined to achieve the impossible. Acknowledging the initiative's significance, Chief Secretary Mohyuddin Wani initiated a project based on a public-private partnership model. A committee, which was formed to ensure its inclusion in the annual development plan, also endorsed the alternative water source. However, government processes move at a painfully slow pace. While Agha Baqir and his volunteers have nearly completed the excavation

of the Phalang Stream, considerable work, such as arrangements for finances, remains to be done.

Moreover, Gilgit-Baltistan's ambiguous political status has turned it into a region in limbo. Its people are not represented in parliament or in governance institutions where crucial development projects are approved. Pakistan's successive dispensations have failed to offer even provisional parliamentary representation to this hapless region. Thus, Gilgit-Baltistan continues to be governed by an unaccountable bureaucracy and a weak, deeply flawed political structure.

The consequences of a feeble governance arrangement are clear.

The local government is unable to hold Wapda accountable for such unimaginable neglect primarily because it is both colossal and influential. As a result, Skardu has a dam with an extensive irrigation network and a 10MW power addition, without any water. Despite years of protests, Wapda proved too apathetic to undertake corrective measures. Instead of taking up the matter with the federal govern-

ment, the local government has donated Rs15 million to the project and approved the creation of four new revenue districts, thereby burdening the region with the recurrent and wasteful liability of under-employed government employees.

The people of Skardu patiently await intervention from the ruling elite; testing their patience is far from advisable. The region's clerics, deeply engaged in social work, command significant influence. While many promote peace and development, some can mobilise large and protracted protests. Given the current toxic political environment in the country, it would be prudent for the government to avoid unnecessary conflict by acknowledging and addressing the genuine demands of Skardu's populace.

Immediate action is desperately required for the completion of the Phalang Stream project along with the resumption of work on the Shatung Nullah so that efficient and operational water infrastructure, vital for the entire territory, is ensured without further delay.

**Gamification of violence****Sohail Habib**

On Aug 28, police station Banr in Swat came under a militant attack in which one policeman lost his life and two others were wounded. Investigations revealed that a tech-savvy group of young militants had used an online video game 'Player Unknown's Battlegrounds', popularly known as PUBG, for this attack. The chat room of this gaming platform was adopted to dodge electronic surveillance and communicate with accomplices both in Pakistan and Afghanistan. In January 2022, militants had carried out a blast in Anarkali, Lahore, killing three persons and injuring dozens. One of the militants, involved in the blast, disclosed during investigations the use of PUBG for recruitment and coordination.

Today, more than three billion people play video games around the world and the global gaming industry is annually generating \$200bn in revenues. At the same time, the gamification of violence, where extremists use gaming to encourage violence in non-gaming contexts, is becoming more prevalent in digital playgrounds. For extremist actors, gamification is a gateway for recruitment, propaganda, radicalisation, fundraising and nexus formation. This weaponisation of gaming spaces has become an important concern for multiple reasons.

Firstly, due to a huge global audience, especially children, video games provide an excellent hunting arena for indoctrination. For example, the gaming platform Roblox alone hosts daily more than 26 million children under 13 years. Secondly, the ecosystem of gaming platforms offers complete anonymity, encryption and privacy. Thirdly,

these platforms are operating below the surveillance radar of law-enforcement agencies as compared to conventional communication systems. Fourthly, criminals and extremists use coded language to evade algorithms of technologies used for moderation. Fifthly, live-streaming used for instant broadcast to a wider audience is difficult to detect and discontinue. Sixthly, extremists have developed electronic marketplaces for generating funds. Finally, current online gaming is becoming a forerunner of 3D fully immersive futuristic 'metaverse' which will be an attractive virtual battlefield for extremists.

Popular video gaming platforms like Steam, DLive, Twitch and Discord have historically remained a strong force of white supremacists. Here, they share right-wing propaganda like, 'Your skin is your uniform in this battle for the survival'. Features of gaming platforms are exploited in mass shootings too. Anders Breivik, the Norwegian mass shooter who killed more than 77 people in 2011, used World of Warcraft Call of Duty for training purposes. In 2019, an Australian gym trainer killed more than 50 people in a crowded mosque of Christchurch, New Zealand. He used the video game Fortnite for training and got inspired by the video game Spyro.

In 2018, the British white supremacist David Parnham shared a gamified online reward system for violent acts against Muslims. For example, 25 points were to be awarded for pulling the head-scarf off a Muslim woman; 50 points for throwing acid and 1,000 points for burning a mosque. These online video games are exploited by other militant groups. In 2014, IS re-

leased custom-made military simulators (MILSIMs) known as Arma 3 so that gamers could play as virtual insurgents and shoot Westerners. It also introduced the Huroofapp used for teaching alphabets with militaristic vocabulary and illustrations of guns, bullets and rockets.

Although radicalisation is creeping into the digital playgrounds, counter-measures are still in their infancy due to the huge volume of players involved and under-sourced law-enforcement agencies. The latter deficit is both financial and technological. Not surprisingly, gaming spaces are under-governed. The way forward includes introducing more filters and moderation of gaming spaces to detect prohibited content and implement enforcement measures. Advanced AI technologies need to intercept violent inappropriate live-streaming. Capacity building of law enforcement in cyber-awareness training is warranted to identify malicious actors and detox the cyber-arena from extremist content. Furthermore, empirical studies are needed to understand the nature and magnitude of extremism in gaming sites.

Video-gaming platforms traditionally offer avenues for two 'E's: Entertainment and Education. However, the third 'E' of Extremism is encroaching into the digital gaming sphere.

This requires more intellectual investment and financial resources to demystify and detoxify this domain.

Nevertheless, securitising the gaming spaces is not advisable. Rather necessary steps are required to make these less amenable to manipulation by malicious actors. -- Courtesy Dawn

**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. Capacity building of law enforcement in cyber-awareness training is warranted to identify malicious actors and detox the cyber-arena from extremist content. Furthermore, empirical studies are needed to understand the nature and magnitude of extremism in gaming sites.

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 policy-makers 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 embedded 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 Chalabis of today, the genocidal court jesters who would be king. -- Courtesy Dawn



## Sindh Assembly passes resolution for establishment of constitutional benches

KARACHI (APP): 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 Constitutional Committee, the Chief Minister said adding that it was the honor for the Sindh government that it had tabled resolution in favor of the 26<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment be given to the people as soon as possible.

## 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

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



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

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

Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab also announced that KMC will award the Karachi Medal to writers, poets, and citizens who have made significant contributions in various fields, particularly those conducting PhDs on Karachi.

He shared that he has fond childhood memories associated with the KPC, which has played a crucial role in the restoration of democracy and the fight for the rights of the oppressed.

## Nowshera Police released monthly performance report of October 2024

By M.Ilyas

PESHAWAR: In light of the special orders of District Police Officer Mohammad Azhar Khan at the level of police stations across the district, 307 criminals, wanted in serious cases like murder, attempted murder, were arrested and 25 Kalashnikovs, 292 pistols, 12 guns and thousands of different bore cartridges were recovered from their possession.

In the operations against drug dealers, 171 drug dealers were arrested and 396 kg, 955 grams of hashish, 46 kg 94 grams of opium, 32 kg 383 grams of ice, and 03.782 kg of heroin were recovered from their possession.

While 71 illegal residents were

arrested for violating Tenancy Act.

Aerial firing is a heinous act, one innocent person can be killed by a stray bullet. In the light of the strict orders of the District Police Officer, police stations across the district cracked down on aerial firing and arrested 32 accused. Legal actions were taken against them.

On this occasion, the District Police Officer said in his message that the Nowshera Police is determined to take strong actions against those who create distortions in the society and especially those who darken the future of the builders of the nation and to punish them. Nothing will be compromised to fulfill the commitment.



LAHORE: Passengers boarding trains at railway station, Trains' movement delayed due to smog in provincial capital.

## 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.

She was scheduled to depart for London tonight, however, the trip is now conditional to her doctors' consent. Maryam Nawaz has been facing the infection for some time and she had planned a trip to London for treatment.

## 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, 16<sup>th</sup> 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, Prof Abdul Basit and Prof. Zaman Shaikh will be the chief guests on the occasion while Dr. Nadeem Naeem, Dr. Muhammad Saleem Khan, Dr. Sarwat Anjum and Miss Erum Ghafour will speak on the topic.

## 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.



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.

## 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

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.

## KP Govt enrolls 1.3m out of schools children during recent drive

Independent Report

PESHAWAR: KP Minister for Elementary & Secondary Education, Faisal Khan Tarakai has said that out of 4.7 million out of schools children in the province 1.3 million have been enrolled in schools during the recent enrolment drive. Addressing a graduation ceremony for the outgoing boys and girls students under Alternative Literacy Pathways (ALP) Centres here at Nishtar Hall on Monday that children deprived of education are being provided best educational facilities under the non-formal education systems in their respective areas. The ceremony was also addressed by the Chief Minister Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur and Special Secretary Elementary & Secondary Education, Asfanyar Khattak. Besides, the higher authorities of the Elementary & Secondary Education and ALP Programme, officers of the district education, boys & girls students and their parents attended the ceremony at large.

He said that under a condense course education up to middle standard level is imparted in a short period of time and them merged into the formal school system. He said that in the recent examinations held under the auspices of the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, the boys and girls students of the non-formal education system have passed with distinction.



PESHAWAR: Mayor Peshawar, Zubair Ali exchanges views with the newly elected President and cabinet members of Khyber Union of Journalists (KhUJ), during meeting held at Peshawar club.

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

Independent Report  
PESHAWAR: A high-level meeting of the Health Department was held under the chairmanship of Health Advisor Ihtisham Ali here on Monday.

The meeting was attended by Special Secretary Health Ghafoor Shah, Special Secretary Health Budget and Accounts Habibullah, Additional Secretary Fayaz Sherpao, Director General Health Services Dr. Muhammad Saleem, DG PHSA Dr. Abdul Waheed, Chief HSRU Dr. Khalil Iftikhar, Chief Planning Officer Qaiser Alam, 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. He stressed, "From now on, no one should bring recommendations to me."

The Health Advisor was informed that, to decentralize authority, RDGs have been empowered to grant essential leave permissions. He also instructed that all DHOs and MS should immediately install face recognition devices to ensure biometric.

## ANF arrests 11 drug dealers with 63 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 13 operations across the country managed to arrest 11 drug dealers and recovered over 63 kg drugs worth more than Rs 15 million, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday.

He informed that 500 grams ice was recovered from an accused arrested near a university in Multan. 500 grams hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused rounded up near Jhang Road, Faisalabad.

300 grams hashish and 100 grams ice were recovered from a drug dealer netted near a university in Sialkot.

The arrested accused confessed to selling drugs to the students of educational institutions.

He said, in another operation, 360 grams heroin was recovered from a passenger going to Bahrain at Islamabad Airport.

1530 grams hashish was recovered from a parcel sent to Australia at a courier office in Lahore.

## 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.

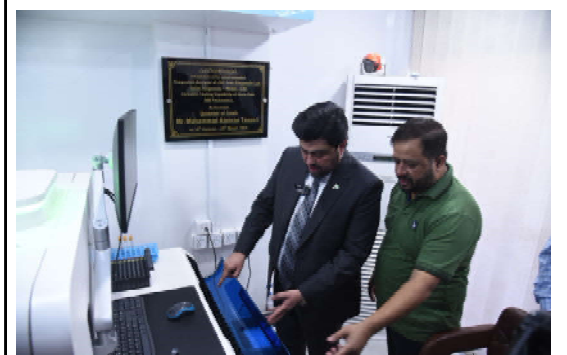
He expressed these views talking to media persons, after attending the first anniversary of JDC Free Diagnostic Center here on Monday.

While congratulating the JDC team, the Governor assured that public-related measures would also be supported. Tessori, on the occasion, also visited various departments of JDC Free

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.

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



Diagnostic Center. Meanwhile Sindh Governor and Chancellor of Public Universities

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

## 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.

She mentioned that a news was published yesterday, claiming that all provinces except Punjab were financially stable, which was far from reality. "In 2025, Punjab is set to present a surplus budget of Rs630 billion. Punjab has cleared all its wheat loans since 1952 and is now free from the burden of a 56% markup," she maintained.

## 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.



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.

## 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.

attended among others, by the Deputy Commissioner Keamari Tahir Cheema, Additional Deputy Commissioner South Samuillah 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.





**TASHKENT:** Pakistan's Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, engages in discussions with Uzbekistan's Minister of Investment, Industry and Trade, Laziz Kudratov.

## 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's 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.

Mr. Aurangzeb also expressed his confidence in Pakistan's economic growth and the government's commitment to creating a conducive environment for both domestic and foreign investments.



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

## 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, which had been around 30 percent for three years, has decreased to approximately 11 to 12 percent.

LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad congratulated the Provincial Finance Minister on the historic budget for Punjab. He emphasized that traffic, which accounts for 83 percent of the pollution, is responsible for smog, while industries contribute only 7 percent.



**FAISALABAD:** Vendors busy in packing vests at the hosiery market in Jinnah Colony.

## Export of sport goods increases 2.13% to US 93.087 mln

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). Among the sports products, the exports of footballs rose by 2.13 percent during the first three months of the current fiscal year (2024-25) as compared to the export of corresponding months of last year.

The country exported sport goods worth US\$ 93.087 million during July-September (2024-25) as opposed to the export of US\$ 91.148 million during July-September (2023-24), showing growth of 2.13 percent, according to the

Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). Among the sports products, the exports of footballs rose by 1.95 percent, surging from US\$ 55.260 million last year to US\$ 56.338 million during the current year. The gloves exports also increased by 7.92 percent by going up from US\$ 14.636 million last year to US\$ 15.795 million during the current year, the PBS data revealed.

Likewise, the exports of all other sports goods dipped by 1.40 percent to US\$ 21.252 million.

## 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.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$7 to \$2,742 from \$2,735, the Association reported.



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

## PSX stays bullish, gains 1,078 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Monday, gaining 1,078.15 points, a positive change of 1.19 percent, closing at 91,938.01 points as compared to 90,859.85 points on the last trading day.

A total of 589,546,678 shares were traded during the day as compared to 465,865,841 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 29,959 billion against Rs. 23,089 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 445 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 258 of them recorded gains and 140 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 47 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Power Cement with 56,698,604 shares at Rs 7.12 per share, K-Electric Limited with 38,931,623 shares at Rs 4.85 per share and Maple Leaf with 36,957,197 shares at Rs41.53 per share.

## 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 Magoon, SVP FPCCI, proposed that the Petroleum Act 1934 should be updated to remove irrelevant or obsolete items in it; and, reflect only the necessary precautionary or safety measures. The petrochemical industry has evolved over the past many decades and we need to amend our laws accordingly, he added.

Mr. Magoon highlighted that the products contained in Clause A, B and C of the Petroleum Act 1934 should be dealt separately in terms of licensing, handling, storage and transportation requirements.

## PCJCCI keen to transform Pakistan's industrial economy

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President Nazir Hussain Monday suggested transforming the industrial economy of Pakistan to the digital economy as per the Chinese model that has proved to be the best practice in this regard.

During a discussion on digitalization of the national economy here at PCJCCI think-tank meeting, he added, "We should set up integrated computing network hubs

across the country to boost the digital economy and provide new impetus for the sector's development."

The meeting was also attended by Brig. (Retd) Mansoor Saeed Sheikh, Senior Vice President PCJCCI, Zafar Iqbal, Vice President, Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General and the executive committee members of PCJCCI. The President PCJCCI said that data center computing equipment will be key accelerators for the development of new technologies and industries.

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 best to the chamber. He outlined

the ongoing initiatives to improve infrastructure, enhance law enforcement capabilities, and promote economic growth in KP.

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

The CEO informed that the Plan was based on the five points; Boosting Exports, Enhancing Access to Finance, Promoting Subcontracting, Fostering Women Development and Building Climate Resilience. The initiatives to be introduced under SMEDA Business Plan, he said, would be supporting SMEs to integrate into global value chains, enhancing their export capabilities, besides improving the bankability of SMEs to ensure better financial access and encouraging subcontracting to make SMEs an integral part of the global supply chain. The Plan also bears measures for protecting SMEs from the impacts of climate change.

## SCCI, PSATF agree for joint initiatives to attract foreign investment

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisory Shahid Khattak, Naseer Khattak and Coordinator Hafiz Khalid Zaheer. The meeting exchanged in depth about prospects of Pak-South Africa investment in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The participants highlighted KP's potentials and major sectors for foreign investment.

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 Ikrumullah Jan, President for the Middle East, KP, and Islamabad region Mumtaz Khan Yousafzai, Members

# SBP reduces policy rate by 250 bps to 15 %

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Monday slashed the policy rate by 250 basis points to 15 percent owing to faster than expected decline in inflation, expanding foreign reserves and better prospects of commodity-producing sectors.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the central bank, according to a statement issued here, reviewed key economic indicators and developments taken place during previous two month and decided to cut the policy rate for the fourth consecutive time since June 2024.

The Committee

noting fast declining inflation that has reached close to its medium-term target range in October and important role of tight monetary policy stance in it, assessed that sharp decline in food inflation, favourable global oil prices and absence of expected adjustments in gas tariffs and PDL rates have accelerated the pace of disinflation in recent months but due to associated risks the near-term inflation may remain volatile before stabilizing within the target range.

The MPC observed that approval of new EFF program for Pakistan by IMF Board has reduced uncertainty and improved

the prospects for realization of planned external inflows while the surveys conducted in October showed an improvement in confidence and a reduction in inflation expectations of both consumers and businesses.

The secondary market yields on government securities and KIBOR have declined substantially and tax collection during the first four months of FY25 fell short of target while on the global level oil prices have exhibited significant volatility amidst escalating geopolitical tensions and prices of metals and agricultural products have increased notably.

Considering the developments, the Committee viewed "the current monetary policy stance as appropriate to achieve the objective of price stability on a durable basis by maintaining inflation within the 5 – 7 percent target range." This will also support macroeconomic stability and help achieve economic growth on a sustainable basis, the committee noted.

The latest real sector data showed a gradual pick-up in economic activity as the initial estimates of major Kharif crops turned out better than the MPC's earlier expectations and higher-than-targeted estimates of rice.



**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 best 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. In his welcoming remarks, president RCCI Usman Shaukatt presented an overview of the Chamber's current activities and initiatives.

## 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."

## Services' trade up by 5.77% in 1st Quarter, deficit narrows by 21.77%

ISLAMABAD (APP): The export of various services witnessed a 5.77 percent increase during the first quarter of the current fiscal year compared to the corresponding months of last year.

According to the latest PBS data, Pakistan earned \$1.906 billion from the export of services during July-September FY2024-25 as compared to services' export of \$1.802 billion in July-September FY2023-24, the Pakistan

Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. On the other hand, the services' imports witnessed a decline of 3.35 percent during the months under review and were recorded at \$2.605 billion as compared to the import of \$2.695 billion in July-September FY2023-24.

Based on the figures, the services trade deficit shrank by 21.77 percent during the first quarter as compared to the corresponding months of the previous year.



**LARKANA:** Farmers threshing rice crop at their field near Mashori Sharif Road



## 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 Jong 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. North Korea has also pushed to sever relations and abandon its long-standing goal of reconciliation with South Korea.

In a background briefing with local media Monday, South Korea's military said North Korea has built anti-tank, trench-like structures at two sites near the heavily armed border, where it blew up northern parts of unused cross-border road and rail routes last month in a display of anger toward South Korea.



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

## 36 dead in bus crash in Indian Himalayas

### Monitoring Desk

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." A human chain of volunteers lined the steep slopes, and across a rushing river, helping pull out the wounded from the remains of the bus.

## 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. Israel is also fighting a seemingly endless war against Hamas in northern Gaza.

## 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.

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

### Monitoring Desk

KYIV: Germany's top diplomat arrived Monday in the Ukrainian capital Kyiv on an unannounced visit, in what appeared to be a show of European support for Ukraine on the eve of a U.S. presidential election that could bring far-reaching changes in Washington's policy toward Russia's 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 battlefield and another hard winter ahead after Russia re-

lentlessly 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 to strike military targets in Russia, but the response was disappointing for Kyiv officials.

## 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.

## Nevada lithium mine will crush rare plant habitat US said is critical to its survival, lawsuit says

### Monitoring Desk

RENO: Conservationists and a Native American tribe are suing the U.S. to try to block a Nevada lithium mine they say will drive an endangered desert wildflower to extinction, disrupt groundwater flows and threaten cultural resources.

The Center for Biological Diversity promised the court battle a week ago when the U.S. Interior Department approved Inoeer Ltd.'s Rhyolite Ridge lithium-boron mine at the only place Tihm's buckwheat is known to exist in the world, near the California line halfway between Reno and Las Vegas.

It is the latest in a series of legal fights over projects President Joe Biden's administration is pushing under his clean energy agenda intended to cut reliance on fossil fuels, in part by increasing the production of lithium to make electric vehicle batteries and solar panels.

The new lawsuit says the Interior Department's approval of the mine marks a dramatic about-face by U.S. wildlife experts who warned nearly two years

ago that Tihm's buckwheat was "in danger of extinction now" when they listed it as an endangered species in December 2022.

"One cannot save the planet from climate change while simultaneously destroying biodiversity," said Fernina Stevens, director of the Western Shoshone Defense Project, which joined the center in the lawsuit filed Thursday in federal court in Reno.

"The use of minerals, whether for EVs or solar panels, does not justify this disregard for Indigenous cultural areas and keystone environmental laws," said John Hadder, director of the Great Basin Resource Watch, another co-plaintiff.

Rita Henderson, spokeswoman for Interior's Bureau of Land Management in Reno, said Friday the agency had no immediate comment. Inoeer Vice President Chad Yeflich said the Australia-based mining company intends to intervene on behalf of the U.S. and "vigorously defend" approval of the project, "which was based on its careful and thorough permitting process."



Democratic presidential nominee US Vice President Kamala Harris speaks during a campaign rally at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan, U.S.

## Harris appeals to Christians and Arab Americans; Trump embraces violent rhetoric

### Monitoring Desk

MICHIGAN: Democrat Kamala Harris made her closing pitch for the US presidency at a historically Black church and to Arab Americans in battleground Michigan on Sunday, while her Republican rival Donald Trump embraced violent rhetoric at a rally in Pennsylvania. Opinion polls show the pair locked in a tight race, with Vice President Harris, 60, bolstered by strong support among female voters while former President Trump, 78, gains ground with Hispanic voters, especially men.

Voters overall view both candidates unfavorably, ac-

ording to Reuters/Ipsos polling, but that has not dissuaded them from casting ballots.

More than 78 million Americans have already done so ahead of Tuesday's Election Day, according to the University of Florida's Election Lab, approaching half the total 160m votes cast in 2020, in which US voter turnout was the highest in more than a century. Control of Congress is also up for grabs on Tuesday, with Republicans favored to capture a majority in the Senate while Democrats are seen as having an even chance of flipping Republicans' narrow majority in the House of Representatives.

## 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."

## UK's Prince William arrives in South Africa for climate-focused trip

### Monitoring Desk

CAPE TOWN: Britain's Prince William landed in Cape Town on Monday for a four-day trip to South Africa centred on his annual Earthshot Prize for environmental innovators.

The heir to the British throne will attend a global wildlife summit and meet with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa during the trip, which is his first to South Africa since 2010. On Wednesday he will participate in the awards ceremony for the Earthshot Prize, which gives five winners 1 million pounds (\$1.3 million) each to pursue projects addressing climate change and other environmental issues.

## US flies long-range bomber in drill with South Korea, Japan in reaction to the North's missile test

### Monitoring Desk

SEOUL: The United States flew a long-range bomber in a trilateral drill with South Korea and Japan on Sunday in response to North Korea's recent test-firing of a new intercontinental ballistic missile designed to strike the U.S. mainland, South Korea's military said.

North Korea on Thursday tested the newly developed Hwasong-19 ICBM, which flew higher and stayed in the air longer than any other missile it has fired. North Korean leader

Kim Jong Un called it "an appropriate military action" to cope with external security threats posed by its rivals.

On Sunday, the U.S. flew the B-1B bomber to train with South Korean and Japanese fighter jets near the Korean Peninsula, demonstrating the three countries' firm resolve and readiness to respond to North Korea's advancing nuclear and missile programs, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.

## Austrian president recovering after spinal surgery

### Monitoring Desk

VIENNA: Austria's 80-year-old President Alexander Van der Bellen, who is overseeing coalition talks following September's parliamentary election, is expected to recover by next week after undergoing spinal surgery, his team wrote on social media on Monday.

Chancellor Karl Nehammer will continue to deputise for Van der Bellen until then, his team said in a post on the president's X account. Van der Bellen's office said on Saturday he would undergo a routine spinal-disc surgery as a problem in that area he had been suffering from since the start of the year had worsened recently.

## Activists rally in Belgrade to protest railway station disaster

### Monitoring Desk

BELGRADE: Hundreds of opposition activists rallied in Belgrade on Sunday to protest over a deadly accident at a railway station in Serbia's north, for which they blame negligence and corruption by the authorities.

The disaster on Friday in the city of Novi Sad, about 70 km (40 miles) northwest of Belgrade, happened when roofing along the entrance to the station suddenly collapsed, killing 14 people and severely injuring three.

Protesters carrying banners reading "The blood is on your hands," and "Corruption kills," and chanting "Arrest (President

Aleksandar) Vucic", marched by government buildings in the center of the Serbian capital. "We are all shaken and furious... the state is directly responsible for this," said Djordje Dimitrijevic, a protester.

Serbia's opposition politicians, activists and rights groups accuse authorities loyal to Vucic and his Serbian Progressive Party of rampant corruption, ties with organized crime, nepotism and excessive red tape. Vucic and his allies deny such allegations.

Serbia's Prime Minister Milos Vucic said on Sunday authorities were investigating who is responsible for the disaster.



Moldova's incumbent President and presidential candidate Maia Sandu celebrates with supporters following the announcement of the preliminary results of the second round of the presidential election, at her campaign headquarters in Chisinau, Moldova.





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

## 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.



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

## 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.

Amir 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.



QUETTA: Supreme Court Bar Association Balochistan Professional Panel Presidential Candidate, Munir Ahmad Khan Kakar along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at the High Court Bar Room in Quetta.

## Balochistan takes major step toward sustainable agriculture with organic farming policy

QUETTA (APP): The Government of Balochistan has approved the Balochistan Organic Agriculture Policy 2024, signaling a transformative shift in the province's agricultural sector.

This policy focuses on environmental sustainability, economic growth, and strengthening farmers' resilience to climate change. The move is expected to boost local biodiversity and food security and reduce Pakistan's reliance on imported organic cotton, saving millions of dollars in foreign exchange.

In collaboration with W F F - P a k i s t a n, Balochistan's Agriculture Extension Department is working with 12,000 farmers across the province on 95,000 acres of land to ad-

vance organic farming practices. In 2023-24, as many as 67,067 acres of organic cotton have been globally certified in key districts, including Barkhan, Lasbela, Kohlu, and Khuzdar, said a news release.

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

Commenting on the policy, Muhammad Jahangir Kakar, Special Secretary Agriculture and Cooperative Department, the provincial said that the policy represents a transformative shift from the province's current agricultural practices to a more sustainable, ecological and economically viable model for Pakistan.

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

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

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

He told the gathering of cabinet members, academicians, 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.

Matters of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting. Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti briefed the Punjab Governor on ongoing initiatives for reforms and improvements in various sectors, including good governance, health, and education in the



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

## Punjab govt has no plan to buy PIA: Azma Bokhari

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari said on Monday that the Punjab government had no plan to buy the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA).

She said the matter of launching a separate airline for Punjab was discussed but buying the national flag carrier wasn't on the table. "Pakistan needs a good airline. The overseas Pakistanis complain Muhammad Nawaz Sharif about the problems faced by them by travelling

through the PIA. The provinces have the right to start their own airlines," she added.

Speaking about the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's interest in purchasing the PIA, the Information Minister wondered that it was strange that "a debt-stressed provincial government" was talking about purchasing the PIA.

"The KP government should clear other debts before showing interest in buying the PIA", she added.

## Roll number slips of BPS exams to be available Online

Independent Report The Balochistan Public Service Commission (BPS) has informed candidates for the upcoming exams for Tehsildar (B-16), Naib Tehsildar (B-14) in the Board of Revenue, Development Officer (B-16) in Local Government, and Assistant (B-16) positions across various departments that roll number slips will

not be sent via postal addresses. Instead, candidates are advised to obtain their roll number slips from the BPS's official website.

To further assist candidates, BPS has also introduced official social media platforms on Facebook, WhatsApp, and X (formerly Twitter) to provide essential updates and information.



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

## CM Bugti expresses concerns over surge in polio cases, orders plan for eradication

Independent Report

QUETTA: Expressing concern over the surge in polio cases in Balochistan, the Chief Minister, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has directed to the concerned high ups to prepare comprehensive roadmap for eradication of the virus from the province within 10 days.

He also directed to increase the outreach of anti-polio campaign from 38 percent to 60 percent in the province and complete the registration of national electronic immunization in all districts of the province at the earliest. In addition to this, he also directed to make the anti-polio campaign more effective adding

asserted that no negligence or lenience is tolerable in this regard.

These directives were issued by the Chief Minister while chairing a meeting on the situation of polio

and measures for its eradication in the province, here at the CM's secretariat on Monday.

The Provincial Minister for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Imran Zarkoon, Inspector General of Police, Moazzam Jan Ansari, Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat, Coordinator Emergency Operation Center for Polio Eradication, Inamul Haq and other concerned high ups were in attendance at the meeting.

The Chief Minister expressed concern over the rise in cases of polio virus in the province and stressed that there is a dire need to make the anti-polio measures fruitful in the province. He asserted that the anti-polio campaign should be made fruitful and result-

oriented and no negligence and lenience would be tolerated in this regard.

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

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

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

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



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

## Pakistan launches 'National Sex Offenders Register'

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

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

Under Section 24 of the Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Act, 2021, NADRA was responsible for preparing a register of sex offenders.

The Ministry of Law and Justice, in partnership with the Special Committee established under the law, notified rules for the register in September 2023.

## SC disposes of over-billing case against SNGPL

ISLAMABAD (APP): A division bench of the Supreme Court of Pakistan on Monday disposed of the case regarding the over-billing of Sui Northern Gas Pipeline Limited (SNGPL).

A two-judge bench, comprising Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Aqeel Abbasi, heard the case related to over-billing of SNGPL.

## 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 were suspected to be smuggled up country or abroad. The approximated value of the seized drugs is 21.6 million dollars. Further investigations are underway.

## 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.

He said that according

## Jackob Linulf calls on Minister for Maritime Affairs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Denmark in Pakistan Jakob Linulf on Monday called on Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh to discuss the practical implications of memorandum of understanding (MoU) in maritime sector ahead of Danish Foreign Minister visit.

During the meeting, the Minister said that MoU with Maersk Line (Danish company) through Danish Government was a landmark achievement for Pakistan's maritime sector.

First time in the history, a company was ready to invest USD 2 Billion in maritime sector, said a press release.

He assured full support and provide conducive environment to Denmark's Government and investors to invest in maritime sector.

Qaiser Shaikh expressed the hope that MoU with Maersk Line turn into agreement on the arrival of Danish Foreign Minister H.E. Lars Lokke Rasmussen. He added the government was ready to welcome him because both countries have a long history of brotherly relationship.



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

## Thanks to Buledi P&D Dept. approves MGFMH project costing Rs. 2.5 billion for Buleda Zamran

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Planning and Development Department, Government of Balochistan has approved the Mir Ghulam Ferooz Memorial Hospital costing Rs. 2.5 billion for Buleda Zamran.

The people of the area have thanked the Provincial Minister for Planning and Development Department, Mir Zahoore Buledi for the

great initiative. They said that the Mir Ghulam Ferooz Memorial Hospital is no less than a gift for the people after the Shaheed Ayub Buledi Secondary School project launched under the Public-Private Partnership.

With establishment of the modern hospital, the people would have the best public healthcare facilities at their doorstep. It may be mentioned here that the Mir Ghulam Ferooz Memorial Hospital would be consisted of 50 beds. The hospital would be run under supervision of the Board of Directors, and that under the Act of Assembly. The design and drawing infrastructure of the Hospital has been prepared by the Development Authority Punjab.