

Army chief's tenure extended to 5 years

ISLAMABAD: (News Desk) The government on Monday extended the tenure of the army chief from three to five years through an amendment to the Pakistan Army Act of 1952, and did away with the retirement age of a four-star general, allowing the country's top soldier to remain in uniform beyond 64 years of age. The first working day of the week not only saw major changes in the Army Act but the government also succeeded in passing two other pieces

of legislations, one related to increasing the number of judges in the superior judiciary and the other amending the Practice and Procedure Act of the top court. As per the amendments to the Army Act, the retirement age and service limits will not be applicable on the chief of army staff (COAS) during his tenure of appointment, reappointment and/or extension. It says that the COAS "shall continue to serve as a General in the Pakistan Army".

Previously, Section 8C of the Army Act stated that the appointment, reappointment or extension was subject to a maximum age of 64 years. Now, not only the age bracket has been removed but the words "and/or" have been added between reappointment and extension, leaving the room for a longer stay in the office. Identical amendments have been made in the navy and air force laws. The changes in the tenure of the army chief are also being seen as an

attempt from the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)-led ruling coalition to end the guessing game if extension will be given or a new military chief will be chosen after every three years. Similar views were expressed by Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Political Affairs, Rana Sanaulah. While talking to a private TV channel, Rana said that almost a year was spent whenever the matter of services chiefs' appointment or extension surfaced.



Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar welcomes Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi on arrival at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

PTI's Azam Swati re-arrested moments after release from Attock jail

Islamabad (News Desk) Pakistan Tehreek Insaf (PTI) leader Azam Swati was re-arrested by Taxila police immediately after his release from Attock Jail. According to sources, he was taken to an undisclosed location. Swati's re-arrest comes in connection with a case filed at the Taxila police station, which includes 20 charges.

Notably, the Islamabad Anti-Terrorism Court had granted his bail just yesterday. On November 1, a division bench of the IHC invalidated the physical remand of PTI leader Azam Swati granted by the trial court in eight cases and sent him to jail on judicial remand.

The bench comprised Justice Miangul Hasan Aurangzeb and Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir, heard the petitions against Azam Swati's physical remand orders granted by Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Judge Abul Hastat Zulqarnain.

Justice Miangul Hasan Aurangzeb expressed regret over his strong remarks against Judge Zulqarnain during a hearing of the matter on Wednesday. He said that he should have refrained from such remarks because the judge was not present in the court.

During the hearing, Swati's lawyer Advocate Ali Bukhari, Islamabad Prosecutor General Ghulam Sarwar, Inspector General of Police Office Law Officer Tahir Kazim and Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Legal Sajid Cheema appeared before the court.

Pakistan's polio tally reaches 46 with latest case in Balochistan

Quetta (News Desk) Pakistan has confirmed its 46th case of wild poliovirus (WPV1) in 2024, with the latest case detected in a male child from the Killa Saifullah district of Balochistan.

The detection was confirmed by the Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health on 4 November.

This marks the second reported polio case from Killa Saifullah, where environmental samples had previously tested positive for the virus. To date, Balochistan has been the most affected province, with 23 cases reported. Other provinces have also seen a rise in cases, including 12 in Sindh, 9 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), and one each in Punjab and Islamabad. The continuing spread of the virus across 76 districts indicates the widespread circulation of WPV1, posing a serious and ongoing risk to children's health. The genetic sequencing of the sample collected from the child is currently underway.

Two Chinese nationals injured in Karachi shooting

Karachi (News Desk) Two Chinese nationals were injured in Karachi on Tuesday in a shooting by a security guard, a police officer said, as the Sindh government reported a "clash" at a police station.

Speaking to reporters at the site of the incident, Kemari Senior Superintendent of Police Faizan Ali said: "Two Chinese [nationals] have been injured due to a security guard's firing."

According to a statement by the Sindh home department, a clash broke

out between the foreigners and security guards at a police station in Karachi's Sindh Industrial Trading Estate (SITE) A area.

Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar instructed authorities to arrest the security guard involved in the incident, the statement said. Lanjar sought details from the South deputy inspector general, stating that facts of the incident must be confirmed with a comprehensive inquiry and said, "[He] must be informed of the inquiry

report and police action," it added.

The home minister was further quoted as saying that companies providing security to Chinese experts/residents and foreigners should be audited and the audit report must be sent for review.

Lanjar asserted that physical and mental fitness tests for the guards who were assigned to security duties must be ensured, adding that services should be taken from fully trained and fit security guards.

He also ordered a crackdown on unregistered and illegal security companies, according to the statement.

Reuters reported a Liaquat National Hospital spokesperson as saying it was treating the two Chinese citizens, one of whom was in serious condition.

Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori expressed concern over the injured foreigners and requested a report of the incident from Sindh Inspector General of Police Ghulam Nabi Memon.



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

New law will 'gag' democracy, says JUI-F on anti-terror tweaks

ISLAMABAD: (News Desk) Two major religio-political parties — the Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam (JUI-F) and Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) — on Monday took the coalition government to task for its recent legislation, with JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman saying that the ruling parties were "gagging

democracy by giving more powers to the establishment.

Speaking at a press conference in Islamabad after a three-day central executive committee meeting, the JUI-F chief said the new bill to amend the anti-terrorism law would be a blot on the face of democratic institutions. "It

is tantamount to civil martial law and a slap in the face of democracy."

"The new legislation is repugnant to the 26th Constitution Amendment," Maulana Fazl said, adding: "The coalition government is going to pass such a law that will gag democracy." He said earlier there were complaints

about the National Accountability Bureau and now the "defence establishment is being given powers that were not in its purview". He referred to the amendment being made in the anti-terrorism act, saying that the JUI-F would oppose the amendments and also hold protests.

PTI warns govt of karma over changes to army, SC laws

ISLAMABAD: (News Desk) The PTI has chastised the government over changes to laws regarding the judiciary and the army, saying these legislations would come back to bite the ruling coalition. Addressing the media after the two bills were passed on Monday, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Khan said his party rejected the legislation that hadn't even been sent to the respective committees for discussion. "I am sure that no federal minister, apart from the law minister, was aware of the content of the bills," claimed Mr Khan. He noted that the number of Supreme Court judges has been increased to 33, which is the same as the strength of judges in the apex court of India, which has a population of 1.4 billion.

Pakistan seeks UK probe into 'attack' on ex-CJP Isa's vehicle

LONDON: (News Desk) The Pakistan mission in the UK has forwarded a complaint regarding an incident involving protesters who heckled former chief justice Qazi Faez Isa, outside the Middle Temple Inn last week.

Sources told Dawn that a complaint was sent via diplomatic channels to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) by the Pakistan High Commission, a day after the incident.

Last Tuesday, PTI protesters heckled Isa as he left the Middle Temple in a diplomatic vehicle, with some banging on the windows of his car. After the incident, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said the perpetrators would be identified and action taken against them.

Sources confirmed to Dawn that a complaint was sent to the FCDO the following day, and claimed that it was being "actively investigated" by authorities in London, but there was no official confirmation from UK authorities.

Sources also said the complaint was escalated through diplomatic channels after Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar sought action against the perpetrators. The Middle Temple is located within the City of London, a borough within the Greater London area, and falls under the purview of City of London Police, rather than Met Police that is responsible for law and order elsewhere in the UK capital.

270 Get First Installment Under Punjab's 'Apni Chat, Apna Ghar' Scheme

MULTAN: (News Desk) Exactly 270 individuals filtered out in the wake of a draw were able to have their access to first installment of Punjab government's interest-free home loan scheme to build their own homes, at a ceremony chaired by Deputy Commissioner Waseem Hamid Sindhu, here Tuesday.

The DC said that the first draw, held in a transparent manner, delivered a list of 270 persons and they have been provided with the first installment today with official letters, says an official release issued here. Chairman Chief Minister Monitoring Committee Multan MPA Salman Naem, MPAs Muhammad Nazuk Karam, Malik Lal Muhammad Joiya, Muhammad Iqbal Siraj and Wasif Saeed Raan were present among other politicians - Rana Ijaz Noon, Sheikh Tariq Raheed, Babar Hussain, Shahzad Maqbool Bhutta, Haji Javed Akhtar Ansari and civil society representatives.

JCP convenes today to pick judges for constitutional bench

ISLAMABAD: (News Desk) The Judicial Commission of Pakistan is all set to meet today to consider the nomination of judges to constitutional benches in light of 26th Amendment approved by parliament last month amid opposition by the major opposition party, the PTI.

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi called the meeting, likely to commence at 2pm, last week after National

Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq sent the parliamentary nominations for the JCP following consultations with the Senate chairman and parliamentary leaders.

The 26th Amendment envisaged the formation of constitutional benches in the apex court to take up cases requiring interpretation of the Constitution. The JCP will discuss the judges' nomination for constitutional benches as well as the establish-

ment of the JCP secretariat.

The meeting will be attended by senior puisne judge Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Aminuddin Khan, Senator Farooq Hamid Naek, MNA Sheikh Aftab Ahmad, MNA Omar Ayub, Roshan Khursheed Bharucha, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, Senator Syed Shibli Faraz, Attorney General for Pakistan Mansoor Usman Awan,

and Pakistan Bar Council representative Akhtar Hussain.

Separately, a two-member bench comprising Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Aqeel Abbasi referred a matter pertaining to overbilling by the Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited to the constitutional bench after objections by the counsel. However, in a lighter vein, Justice Mansoor observed that at least some cases should also be left

with them to decide instead of taking all matters to the constitutional bench. The observation came during the hearing of a review petition relating to overbilling by the SNGPL when the counsel pleaded before the court that the review petition against the judgement was pending and therefore should be referred to the constitutional bench. At this, Justice Shah quipped at least some cases should be left with the

regular benches to adjudicate. Subsequently, the court disposed of the matter to be taken up by the constitutional bench. On the other hand, the Jamaat-i-Islami lodged a petition in the top court against the constitutional amendment on Monday. Moved through Advocate Imran Shafeeq, the petition requested the Supreme Court to declare the amendment repugnant to different provisions of the Constitution.