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Constitutional amendments package deferred 'indefinitely'

Irfan Siddiqui says houses next to be called when we're prepared from all angles; Constitutional amendments to be tabled in house after complete consensus: Khawaja Asif

ISLAMABAD (INP): The introduction of constitutional amendments package in both houses of the Parliament was deferred "indefinitely" after the government failed to muster enough support.

Accordingly, the Senate session which was scheduled to start at 12:30 pm on Monday was adjourned sine die.

Talking to the media men in Islamabad, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senator Irfan Siddiqui confirmed that the tabling of the constitutional package has been postponed indefinitely. "It may take eight to 10 days to present the constitutional package in the parliament," he added.

Speaking outside the Parliament House, Irfan Siddiqui insisted that it was not government's failure. "There is no obstacle to the constitutional amendments, but the exact timing has not been decided yet," he added.

Senator Siddiqui mentioned that the law requires a specific majority for constitutional amendments, and if this majority is not achieved, it is not a cause for concern, adding after consultations, including with Maulana Fazlur Rehman, it was agreed to wait for a few more days before proceeding with the amendments package.

He praised Maulana Fazlur Rehman's positive response, stating there was no disagreement on any matter, and discussions took place in a constructive environment. "This dialogue will continue to move forward," he added.

In response to a query regarding the opposition's claim of not receiving the draft of the amendments, he clarified that constitutional drafts are never made public, rather these are presented in the Parliament.

Earlier, the federal government was set to make another attempt today to pass its proposed 22 constitutional amendments package in the Senate and National Assembly (NA).

After a series of meetings in Islamabad centred around JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman last night, the National Assembly session was delayed and finally convened just before midnight. However, it was immediately adjourned until 12:30 PM on Monday.

Contrary to what was expected, the passage of any bill is not on the agenda of the National Assembly (NA) session to be held later today.

It has been learnt that today Atai Shehriyat Amendment Bill will be tabled in the assembly. Similarly, a debate on President Asif Ali Zardari's address to a joint session of the parliament is also included in the agenda.

Mian Nawaz Sharif, the ruling Nawaz League's President and elder brother of the sitting Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has returned to Lahore from Islamabad, where he was staying to attend the National Assembly's crucial session.

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has emphasised the ongoing efforts to reach a consensus on the constitutional amendments, noting that Maulana Sahib has agreed on many points.

Bilawal expressed the desire for this amendment to be as unanimous as the eighteenth amendment, highlighting the need for broad majority support.

He mentioned that Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haidari insists on a complete consensus for the amendment. However, recent tensions arose when the leader of a political party criticised the army chief and the judiciary, casting a shadow over the efforts to unify the amendment.

APP adds: Federal Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, informed the National Assembly on Monday that a Constitutional amendment package would be tabled in the house after achieving complete consensus.

Speaking on the floor of the house, he said, "A draft has been prepared to address constitutional imbalances, especially those related to the parliament. This also aims to undo the 19th Amendment."

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ISLAMABAD: President of Asian Development Bank Mr. Masatsugu Asakawa calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Provincial Minister for LG&RD Sarfraz Domki passes away

Governor, CM, Speaker & Dy Speaker BA condole death; pay rich tributes to Domki on tribal & political services

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Local Government and Rural Development, Sardar Sarfraz Chakar Khan Domki died after protracted illness in Karachi on Monday morning.

According to the family sources, Sardar Sarfraz Chakar Domki was admitted for treatment of lungs and kidney diseases in a private hospital in Karachi for last 10 days.

However, he died on Monday morning.

Confirming death of Sardar Sarfraz Chakar Domki, his younger brother Hairbiyar Khan Domki told the media that body of his brother would be taken to the native area, Lehri for burial.

He said that his elder brother would be laid to rest in the ancestral graveyard today. It may be mentioned here that Sardar Sarfraz Chakar Domki was elected



re-elected in 2024. Prior to joining the practical politics, the late tribal chieftain of Domkis had also served as the Assistant Commissioner and Additional Deputy Commissioner after passing the provincial civil service competition examination.

Meanwhile the Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, Speaker Provincial Assembly, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Khan Achakzai, Deputy Speaker, Ms. Ghazala Gola and other provincial ministers and parliamentarians have expressed deep grief and sorrow over death of Sardar Sarfraz Chakar Domki.

In their separate condolence messages, the Governor, Chief Minister, Speaker and others expressed condolence with the bereaved family of Sardar Sarfraz Domki.

US Under Secretary of State calls on DPM Pakistan seeks stronger US cooperation amid economic, security challenges



ISLAMABAD (APP): US Under Secretary of State John Bass and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Elizabeth Horst Monday called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Mohammad Ishaq Dar in his office.

In the meeting, they discussed Pakistan-US bilateral relations and ongoing collaboration projects, a Foreign Office statement said. The Deputy PM underlined the importance of positive and productive engagement between Pakistan and the United States.

Meanwhile, according to a press release issued on Monday by the US Embassy, U.S. Acting Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs John Bass met with DPM Ishaq Dar and Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir.

They discussed approaches to expanding bilateral cooperation on economic and security issues, including countering terrorism and violent extremism, and the importance of fostering regional stability and prosperity. Under Secretary Bass expressed his gratitude for Pakistan's continued cooperation in assisting Afghans in resettlement pathways to the United States. The Under Secretary congratulated the Deputy Prime Minister on Pakistan's election as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the 2025-2026 term and expressed the United States' interest in working closely with the Government of Pakistan during its tenure.

Message on Jashne Eid Miladun Nabi (SAW): Life of Holy Prophet (PBUH) bright model for us to rid Ummah of problems, hardships: Governor

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has emphasized that the life of Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) is the bright model for all of us to rid of the problems and hardships being faced by the Ummah in world.

In a message on eve of the Eid Miladun Nabi (PBUH) being observed today (Tuesday), 12th Rabiul Awwal, the Governor said that the Muslims celebrate the great day of 12th Rabiul Awwal remembering the day of birth of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

He said that the Holy Prophet (PBUH) are the Man of Kind and beacon of light for all human beings till the day of judgment.

He said that our lives can be filled with goodness and piouness and said that His (PBUH) life is the bright model for all of us for ridding of the issues and hardships being faced by the Ummah.

The Governor also said that His (PBUH) kindness, wisdom and leadership helped and guided towards belief in oneness of God social justice and sustainable peace.

He emphasized that we should pray that may Allah create unity among the Muslims. He also stressed the need to ponder on the teachings of Holy Prophet (PBUH) and extend financial assistance to the orphans and poor segments of the society following His (PBUH) teachings and great character. He also said that it is need of the hour to spread love, brotherhood, harmony and goodness among all human beings without any discrimination.

Greets Muslims on birthday of Holy Prophet (PBUH): Today is not only great day for Muslims but also for whole universe and humanity: CM

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has greeted all Muslims on the occasion of birth anniversary of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him).

In a felicitation message issued here on eve of 12th Rabiul Awwal, the Chief Minister said that today is not only the great day for the Muslims but also for the whole universe and humanity when the Holy Prophet (PBUH) was born and when the darkness of ignorance ended from the

world with His (PBUH)'s birth.

The Chief Minister stressed the need to follow teachings of Holy Prophet (PBUH) promote unity and create spirit of tolerance.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that this day has special importance for the Muslims and it is our good luck that we are the followers of that great personality who was sent as blessing for the universe and humanity.

He said that we should promote the qualities such as unity, forgiveness, tolerance, religious harmony among us while completely following the teachings of Holy Prophet (PBUH) being His (PBUH) followers.

He also said that the real success can be acquired in the world and hereafter besides ensuring formation of the real welfare society by implementing the teachings of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH).

He said that the Ummah can cope with the hardships and issues being faced at the time by following the seerat and sunnah of the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) to be celebrated today

Independent Report

QUETTA: Eid Milad-un-Nabi Sallallahu Aleyhe Wallyhe Wassalam will be celebrated today with great religious fervor and solemnity.

The day will dawn with thirty-one-gun salute at the Federal Capital, Islamabad, and a twenty-one-gun salute in all provincial capitals.

Special prayers will be offered after the Fajr prayer for unity of the Muslim Ummah and the progress and prosperity of the country. It will be a public holiday today.

Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony will organize National Seerat Conference in Islamabad.

Senate passes resolution to declare Sep 7 a national holiday

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Senate on Monday unanimously passed a resolution recommending the Government to celebrate 7th September officially and declare it as a public holiday.

The resolution said, on this day, the Parliament of Pakistan unanimously declared Qadianis as a non-Muslims minority.

It noted that indeed that day was historical not just for Pakistan, but for the entire Muslim world as the long sustained struggle of the Muslims ultimately became successful. Later, the House was prorogued.

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IGP directs to take steps for increasing number of surveillance cameras under Quetta Safe City Project

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Inspector General of Police Balochistan, Moazzam Jah Ansari has directed to the concerned police high ups to take steps for expediting pace of work on the second phase of Quetta Safe City Project in order to increase number of surveillance cameras.

He directed to make the non-functional cameras operational at the earliest. Besides, he also directed to extend the coverage of cameras on the blind spots and the highest crimes reporting areas.

The IGP was speaking on occasion of the visit of Quetta Safe City Project here on Monday. The IGP was welcomed by the DIG Police, Quetta, Aitezaz Ahmed Goraya and other concerned senior police officials including AIG Police, Muhammad Asim, Project Director Safe City Project, Tariq Bizenjo.

The IGP was briefed about the overall functioning of the Quetta Safe City Project, its different sections and nature of tasks.

The IGP on the occasion said that the basic objective of the Safe City Project is to establish peace and ensure protection of the life and property of the general public.

He said that it is also aimed at enhancing security and structure of surveillance by utilizing the modern technology.

The IGP also directed to connect the surveillance feeds, emergent service and communication means with the Safe City Project.

In addition to this, the real time monitoring system should also be improved utilizing the artificial intelligence, adding the IGP stressed. He, however, expressed satisfaction over the overall performance of the Quetta Safe City Project and said that although it is increasing the capacity of the law enforcement agencies, still there's a room of more improvement in it.

Polls on PB-45 Quetta seat nullified

QUETTA (APP): The election tribunal on Monday issued directives for re-polling at 15 polling stations nullifying the election on the Seat PB-45 Quetta.

The election of PPP MPA Ali Madad Jattak from Balochistan Assembly seat PB-45 (Quetta) has been declared null and void.

The disqualified PPP MPA Ali Madad Jattak held the position of Agriculture Minister.

A tribunal headed by Balochistan High Court Judge Abdullah Baloch delivered the reserved verdict. The election tribunal has ordered re-elections at 15 polling stations in the constituency.

Ali Madad Jattak's victory was challenged by JUI candidate Muhammad Usman Perani.

Bilawal meets Fazal amid talks on constitutional amendments

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, accompanied by a delegation, arrived at the residence of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) leader Maulana Fazlur Rehman for a second meeting within hours on Monday.

The meeting is part of ongoing discussions over proposed constitutional amendments.

According to Express News, Bilawal was warmly received by Maulana Fazlur Rehman. The PPP delegation included prominent leaders such as Syed Khurshid Shah, Engineer Naveed Qamar, and Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab.

On the JUI-F side, Secretary General Maulana

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Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, Maulana Abdul Wasay, Maulana Asad Mahmood, Senator Kamran Murtaza, Mir Usman Badini, and Maulana Misbahuddin were present.

Earlier in the day, Bilawal had a significant meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister's House, where the two leaders discussed the political situation and the PPP chairman briefed the premier on his discussions with Maulana Fazlur Rehman regarding the constitutional amendments.

The government is preparing to present the much-anticipated constitutional amendments in the next National Assembly session.

Constitutional amendments designed solely to keep me imprisoned: Imran Khan

RAWALPINDI (INP):

Imran Khan, founding leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), has condemned the anticipated constitutional changes.

During an informal conversation with journalists at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail, Imran claimed the government was pursuing the establishment of a new constitutional court out of fear of the Supreme Court.

He further claimed that the recent amendments are designed to keep him in prison and to dismantle the judiciary, Express News reported.

"The rulers have decided to destroy the judiciary," Imran said. "All this is being done to cover up election fraud and protect their corruption."

Imran criticised the amendments to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) laws, claiming they were used to forgive billions in corruption.

He argued that the government's actions threaten the rule of law and increase political instability through threats to judges and the elimination of political opposition. Highlighting economic concerns, he noted that 4,000 Pakistani companies have been registered in Dubai during the past six months.



QUETTA: On the directives of Chief Minister, Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting regarding implementation of reforms

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Political drama

It fell to the Maulana to save the day. With a constitutional amendment in the balance and powerful individuals repeatedly knocking on his door, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, chief of his own faction of the Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam, broke the deadlock late Sunday when he made it clear that he would not support any extension in the tenure of senior judges.

This is one of the many controversial changes the government reportedly plans to make through its constitutional package, the details of which are still wrapped in mystery.

Given that the JUI-F chief, even with his few votes, could have tipped the scales in favour of or against the amendments, both the government and opposition made all-out efforts to win him over. In the end, his position, stated late on Sunday during a special parliamentary committee's fourth meeting of the day, forced the government to delay its plans.

As news announcers began breaking the news late last night, signalling a much-needed intermission to a political drama that has kept the nation on edge, it seemed like a fitting conclusion to the International Day of Democracy, which, incidentally, was also being observed yesterday.

Despite all that has transpired over the past few years and the many valid criticisms of Pakistan's flawed political system, it was heartening to see that the country's burning political issues can still be settled through old-fashioned dialogue and negotiation. The maulana's position was underlined by his insistence on major decisions being taken through consultation and negotiation instead of bulldozing them through parliament.

Further, while the government ultimately could not move its desired legislation according to the plan, the opposition offered it an olive branch. It suggested that its proposals be debated more thoroughly and given more time; it even offered conditional support for a suggestion to set up a constitutional court.

As matters stand, there is an opportunity for the chief justice to step away with grace from the controversies surrounding his tenure. While some of his decisions may have sparked debate, Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa has had an enviable career and earned much honour. The best course of action for him would be to voluntarily step down and ensure that any amendments that affect the judiciary take effect once he retires next month. In doing so, he will not only safeguard the independence of his office but also set a good precedent for future transitions.

Meanwhile, the government must revisit its plans. It should ensure that any proposed changes to the judiciary are subjected to thorough debate and consensus before implementation. Creating a constitutional court is a step worth exploring, but influencing the elevation and transfer of judges is not. Given the importance of these matters, a consultative and transparent process is essential.

Irsa controversy

Naseer Memon

The Indus River System Authority is again in the spotlight. Following in the footsteps of the previous caretaker government, the present regime is also, most painstakingly, working on amending the Irsa Act, 1992. The caretaker government managed an ordinance to amend the Act in February 2024. Former president Arif Alvi declined to sign off on the ordinance and issued a note of objection. However, it became a constitutional fait accompli after the Prime Minister's Office resubmitted it. Subsequently, its proponents managed to get a former Wapda chairman, known to be a staunch advocate of the controversial proposed Kalabagh dam, notified as the new Irsa chairman. However, the ensuing political maelstrom compelled the PM's Office to rescind the notification and eventually the ordinance was buried without being promulgated.

The contentious amendment was resubmitted recently when a meeting was held at the President's Office on July 8. According to the minutes of the meeting, officials of the Green Pakistan Initiative (GPI) appraised the president of the necessity of an amendment to the existing Irsa Act, and this was endorsed by the president. This time, a more dubious draft of the amendment was pushed through the Irsa chairman's office. The draft aims to deface the federal character of Irsa by making the latter a centrally controlled body, fully subservient to a chairman to be hand-picked by the PM.

The proposed chairman, a Grade-21 serving or retired officer of the federal government, has been given monarchist powers to co-opt more members and create an

Independent Committee of Experts. Section 8 of the proposed amendment authorises the independent experts' committee to lay down the technical basis for regulation and distribution of surface water. This clause has set off alarm bells as it renders Irsa's provincial members redundant and reduced to a rubber stamp. Water allocation on a 10-day basis for every single canal has already been established under the 1991 Water Apportionment Accord. Any new technical basis for water distribution by a handpicked experts' committee will render the Accord ineffective. Article 7 of the proposed amendment further limits the role of the provincial members by stipulating that all decisions involving technical matters shall be taken after seeking necessary technical assistance from the experts' committee.

Constitutionally, Irsa is a subject of the Council of Common Interests under the Federal Legislative List. Under Article 155 of the Constitution, the CCI decides on water-related disputes. Hence matters pertaining to Irsa come within the CCI's purview; no other office, including the presidency, has jurisdiction over its affairs. However, those eager to bring Irsa under their grip have circumvented the constitutional forum and attempted to meddle with the regulatory body through the country's highest office.

The proposed amendment has stirred a strong reaction in Sindh from political parties, growers' associations, civil society and media. The proposed amendment is being seen as an attempt to make Irsa an Islamabad-controlled body with mere token representation by the provinces.

A marathon session of the Sindh Assembly

unanimously adopted a resolution against the anti-proposed amendment. The resolution considers it against the democratic spirit of federalism, which will not make the amendment acceptable to the people of Sindh. Lawmakers criticised the amendment, which is aimed at controlling Irsa and thus tampering with water distribution. Recently, PPP MNAs Khurshid Shah, Naveed Qamar, Ghulam Ali Talpur and Mah-tab Rashdi, speaking in the National Assembly, questioned the proposed Irsa amendment and the rationale behind the plan to irrigate millions of acres of barren land under the GPI. They asked about the availability of water for the massive ploughing.

Replying to a question, Minister for Water Resources Musaid Malik confirmed that 812,000 acres of land have been acquired so far to bring barren land under cultivation in Punjab and Sindh. The GPI is pursuing an ambitious plan of corporate farming over large parcels of hitherto barren land. While national food security and the export of grain are important objectives, it also requires water, not just land.

Under the present arrangement, all the available water is committed. Except when there is a very wet monsoon, water shortages in the river basin often trigger conflicts between the upper and lower riparian.

Pakistan can enhance grain productivity by employing improved water management technologies, opting for water-thrifty crops, planting new varieties, curbing spurious seeds and agri inputs and adopting climate-sensitive agriculture practices. The GPI should focus on non-divisive options to increase crop and water productivity. -- Courtesy Dawn

State and citizens

Huma Yusuf

Trust is the new buzzword in global politics. Western democracies in particular are pre-occupied with rebuilding trust between the state and citizens in an effort to repair a post-World War II social contract that has eroded with growing income inequality, heightened corruption, and cost-of-living crises. Big ideas floating around Western governments are linked to preservation of the social contract: data privacy, universal basic incomes, state support for the green transition. Pakistanis watching this trend should ask: how do you restore what you never had?

The social contract is a useful construct for thinking about the relationship between the state and its citizens. The term is used for the formal or informal rules governing how the state and citizens behave and interact with each other, and what obligations they have to each other.

Sadly, the social contract in Pakistan seems non-existent. Citizens are taking to the streets to decry political persecution, enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings by the state, media censorship, and price hikes.

More notable is the number of issues that has not provoked a public outcry. Here's just a sampling: a public order law that essentially bans peaceful public protest; the installation of a 'web management system' that will likely make a mockery of data privacy; proposed constitutional amendments to fix the chief justice's term, skewing executive-judiciary dynamics and threatening judicial independence; abuse of anti-terrorism laws, including the recent decision to allow for preventive detention of suspected

terrorists in Balochistan without any charges or court orders; proposals for domestic 'internment centres'; the findings of an audit of military institutions that highlights how the rules apply selectively. You get the picture.

There are of course a growing number of groups ready to call out the mounting violations of the social contract, from PTI supporters to the Baloch Yekjehti Committee, the Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement to Aurat March and digital rights groups. These groups' failure to coalesce into a broader civil society movement against state transgressions is often attributed to ethno-linguistic differences. But it may be more helpful to consider this through a social contract lens.

Markus Loewe et al in their work on the Middle East point out that social contracts are asymmetric and hierarchical, writing "some citizens and societal groups are more influential than others and have more say in the nature and content of the social contracts". This plurality of social contracts explains why Pakistan will not go the way of Bangladesh, with a unified uprising. The expectations of the state from each group vary: one feels its social contract has been violated because it is excluded from elite state patronage, another feels betrayed because its loved ones are being arbitrarily abducted.

It is a damning critique of our country that there are such inequities in the social contracts negotiated, and that the baseline assumptions of most social contracts (transparency, inclusion, accountability) do not apply. State representatives' growing willingness to shamelessly negotiate divergent social

contracts for a privileged few was on display recently with electricity subsidies for some but not others.

Recognising the plurality of social contracts also explains why, despite worsening conditions, more Pakistanis are not panicking. For many citizens, there never was a social contract. Their negotiated expectations extended to their families, tribes, feudal lords. The state never had anything to do with it, and so the state's failings and excesses now remain irrelevant.

The other challenge in Pakistan is that the citizens' counterpart in the social contract remains nebulous. In other contexts (Western democracies or explicitly authoritarian states), it's clear to all who they have negotiated their social contracts with, and where accountability lies. The perversion of our hybrid system is that the social contract cannot be enforced because the real counterpart remains veiled.

So where do we go from here? For many Pakistanis, the social contract on offer is unacceptable, and they are simply choosing to opt out (formal estimates suggest that 1.6 million Pakistanis have emigrated over the past two years; the informal number is likely higher). But it could get worse.

When a nation's citizenry cannot agree on the base terms of a social contract among themselves, and the state is not willing to participate in contracts with all its citizens, then fragmentation is inevitable.

We must halt this terrifying trajectory. The state must renegotiate its social contract with Pakistani citizens, and they, in turn, must collectively seek an equal and inclusive contract among them. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

ADB lauds comprehensive reforms, reaffirms continued support

ISLAMABAD (APP): The President, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Masatsugu Asakawa here on Monday lauded the government for undertaking comprehensive reforms, leading to progressive signs of economic recovery.

During a meeting with Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Minister, Ahmad Cheema, he reaffirmed ADB's continued support to Pakistan for complementing its development and reform agenda.

President ADB

reposed his trust in Pakistan's reform agenda and appreciated the required tough stabilization measures taken by the government to bring about macroeconomic stability in the country.

He also assured of bank's continued support in the areas of Public Private Partnership, climate and disaster resilience enhancement, Domestic Resource Mobilization, promoting Women Inclusive Finance and Energy Sector reforms.

Meanwhile, appreciating ADB's longstanding and steadfast

The new building will house ADB's Pakistan Resident Mission and when completed is expected to serve as ADB's development and coordination hub responding to evolving country and regional context. Speaking on the occasion, Kazim Niazi said that the ADB's own building in Islamabad would mark a new exciting chapter in the enduring and trusted partnership between Pakistan and ADB since 1966.

He noted that ADB's decision to build its building in Islamabad.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and President of Asian Development Bank Mr. Masatsugu Asakawa witness signing of loan agreements with regard to Sindh Emergency Housing Reconstruction Project and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rural Roads Development projects.



Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhary Shafay Hussain witnessing the MoU signing ceremony between Chinese Investors ADM and Local Investor Companies for setting Electric Vehicles Charging Stations.

CDNS to attain mark of Rs 180 billion in fresh bonds

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has realized a target of Rs 180 billion in fresh bonds and achieved 10.3 percent of the annual target in the first months of current fiscal year, from July 1 to September 14th. The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has set an annual target of Rs 1650 billion for the current Fiscal Year, 2024-25, which will promote the saving culture in the country, the senior official

of CDNS told APP here Monday.

Similarly, the CDNS has set a target of Rs 170 billion in investment in Islamic finance for the Current Fiscal Year, which will lead to growth in the Islamic economy in the country. Replying to a question, he said that the CDNS has realized a target of Rs1.742 trillion in fresh bonds and exceeded 100 percent of the annual target in the last fiscal year 2023-24, from July 1 to June 30th.

Transport fare reduced by 5 percent

SARGODHA (APP): District & Regional Transport Authority Sargodha region Secretary Malik Muhammad Tahir on Monday chaired a meeting of transport and goods associations here at his office. The purpose of the meeting was to pass on the benefits of fare reductions to passengers as the government has reduced fuel prices. Sargodha transport owners were also present.

FCCI offices to remain closed on Tuesday

FAISALABAD (APP): Offices of the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) will remain closed on account of Eid Milad-un-Nabi on Tuesday (September 17). Meanwhile, the FCCI has declared Wednesday and Thursday (September 18-19) as "no public dealing days" due to the polling scheduled to be held for corporate and associate classes respectively in connection with the FCCI elections for 2024-26, said an FCCI spokesman on Monday.

Economic progress hinges on business community's success: MNA Malik Abrar

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government is fully cognizant of the challenges faced by the business community and is making concerted efforts to address their concerns, ensuring their well-being and contributing to the country's prosperity.

This was said by Member National Assembly (MNA) Malik Abrar Ahmed while addressing the hugely attended Founder Group's reception hosted by Group leader TWA Tarnol Wajid Ayub in honour of President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, said a news release here on Monday. The event was attended by Coordinator to the Prime Minister on National Health Services Dr. Malik Mukhtar Ahmed Bharath, MNAs Anjum Aqeel Khan, Raja Khurram Nawaz, Malik Sohaih Khan Kamriah, Ehsan Bajwa, MPAs Raja Hanif, Ziaullah Shah, Malik Maqsood, former

KPCM's aide emphasises on local investors to invest in Chitral

PESHAWAR (APP): Special Assistant to Chief Minister KP for Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Abdul Karim Tordher has emphasized that local investors invest their resources in district Chitral instead of other cities of the country for the prosperity of the area and the people.

Addressing the 'Chitral Economic Development Conference 2024', he said that the Chitral district has great potential for investment in fruits, vegetables, minerals, and other local products that are in high demand in the market, adding that investment in these sectors would ultimately reduce poverty. He further said that cheap electricity could be generated and supplied to the rest of the province and the country through the Chitral, Chakdara, and Swat corridors. Abdul Karim said that the economic activities in an area could change the fates of the local people, explaining that the Gadoon Industrial Estate is mostly owned by the locals while the outsider investors installed industries but left after ten years.

Senate committee delves into TDAP board membership

ISLAMABAD: In a Senate standing committee of Commerce today at the Parliament House, chaired by Senator Anusha Rahman, scrutinized the issue of Senator Faisal Saleem Rehman as Board Member of the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) Board, for the 2021-24 tenure. The Committee demanded a full account of the situation why he was not made Board member and how removed without any intimation to him.

Senator Faisal Saleem claimed that despite his 2021 nomination to the TDAP board by the Senate of Pakistan, neither the Ministry of Commerce nor the TDAP acknowledged his membership. The Additional Secretary noted that this issue was previously raised in the Federal Cabinet and is now under the Ministry of Law's review. The Chairperson Committee highlighted that this situation predated the SEO Act, 2023. Senator Anusha

Rahman noted that the Finance Ministry, in a response to Question No. 84 asked during the sitting of the Senate on 10th September, 2024 has not listed TDAP as SOE. She emphasized that the Ministry of Commerce opinion cannot not be deemed a legal opinion and is contradictory to stated position of Ministry of Finance. She stressed the importance of upholding the TDAP law. Senators questioned the Ministry of Commerce's reluctance to appoint Parliamentarians to the board of TDAP.

Senator Anusha Rahman expressed surprise at the Ministry of Commerce's position for not allowing senators on the Board of the TDAP. She further added that the TDAP does not fall under the purview of the SOE Act, 2023 as per the declared position of Finance Ministry. Furthermore, the SOE Act, 2023 only prohibits parliamentarians on the slots allocated for independent directors on TDAP board and does not apply to parliamentarians.

CM Maryam says:

Governance burden of responsibility, not luxury

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that governance is not a luxury but a great burden of responsibility.

In her address at the Provincial Serat-un-Nabi Conference on Monday, the CM said, "We will be held accountable by Allah Almighty. I have the responsibility of entire province of Punjab. If no one gets medicine, cheap bread and flour, and no cleanliness, I wonder what answer I will give to Allah Almighty."

The CM emphasized the profound impact of the love for the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) on nurturing young minds. She urged parents,

particularly mothers, to share stories of the Prophet's (PBUH) life with their children before bedtime.

Reflecting on her family's traditions, the CM shared that both her late mother and grandfather were devout followers of the Prophet (PBUH). She highlighted that the month of Rabi-ul-Awwal is celebrated with great reverence in her family, marked by Naat-recitation events she has witnessed since childhood.

Maryam Nawaz underscored the significance of the Prophet's (PBUH) teachings on human rights, noting that the foundational principles of

human rights were established in his Sermon of Hajjat-ul-Wida. She described this sermon as a landmark manifesto that emphasizes respect for all individuals and prohibits discrimination, especially against women.

She stressed that Islam has granted women unparalleled rights and respect, citing the Prophet's (PBUH) teachings on treating women with kindness and respect. Addressing concerns about educational inequality, the CM highlighted the need for equal opportunities for girls, aligning with the Prophet's (PBUH) encouragement to seek knowledge wherever it may be found.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan in a group photo with delegation of investors from Portugal led by Overseas Pakistani Dr. Mohammad Sohail at the Governor's House.

Overseas business delegation calls on governor Punjab

LAHORE (APP): A delegation of investors from Portugal led by Overseas Pakistani Dr. Mohammad Sohail met Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at the Governor's House, here on Monday. Investment in health and renewable energy sectors was discussed in the meeting.

Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that Pakistan is a safe country in terms of investment and the government is providing special investment facilities to foreign investors through the Special Investment

Facilitation Council. He said that development in the country depends on investment in industry and trade and international investment. The Governor Punjab said that the government is committed to increase investment by introducing investor-friendly policies. He said that the investment from friendly countries in various sectors including agriculture and energy is welcomed. He said that all investments of the economy are open for investment with attractive incentives and liberal policies to provide favorable business.

Governor KP expresses grief over demise of Sarfaraz Domki

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Monday expressed his condolence over the death of Provincial Minister for Local Government Balochistan, Sardar Sarfraz Khan Domki. In a condolence message, Governor Kundi described Domki's death as tragic and extended his heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family. Governor Kundi prayed to Allah grants the deceased, Sarfraz Domki, a high place in Jannat-ul-Firdous (Heaven).

KP govt directs all dept to hold Milad ul Nabi (SAW) programs

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Administration Department in a notification issued here on Monday directed all additional chief secretaries, administrative secretaries and heads of government departments to arrange programs for observance of Milad ul Nabi (SAW). The notification directed all the Divisional Commissioners, deputy commissioners of KP and heads of attached departments to strictly adhere to the guidelines issued by Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, government of Pakistan.

Minister chairs meeting of cabinet committee on law, order

LAHORE (APP): A meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Law and Order was held under the chairmanship of Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique, here on Monday.

Finance Minister Mujtaba Shujaur Rehman and Transport Minister Bilal Akbar Khan participated in the meeting.

The security and arrangements for Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) were reviewed in detail. Punjab Home Secretary Noorul Amin Mengal and IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar gave a briefing on peace and order.

Chairman Cabinet Committee and Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique said that full

security arrangements have been made for Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH). The Punjab government will provide drinks and sweets to the participants in all districts. The Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) will be celebrated with full devotion and respect.

Khawaja Salman Rafique said that arrangements have been completed with the consultation of peace committees across the province. He said that the routes of all the main processions and the best security arrangements for the Milad gatherings are complete.

Additional IG Special Branch, Additional IG CTD, Commissioner Lahore, RPO Sheikhpura.



FAISALABAD: Punjab Information and Culture Minister, Ms. Uzma Bukhari, briefs the media on the arrangements for the Eid Milad-ul-Nabi celebration at the Commissioner's office.

Advisor directs immediate anti-dengue fumigation in hotspots

PESHAWAR (APP): After assuming charge of the Health Department, Advisor on Health Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ahtisham Ali on Monday, issued directives to intensify anti-dengue operations.

He instructed the relevant authorities to ensure the anti-dengue fumigation in hotspot areas without any delay. He emphasized that controlling the spread of dengue is one of his top

priorities.

"The dengue season is at its peak, and we must limit its spread through public cooperation," he stated. Providing details on dengue cases, the Health Advisor mentioned that there are currently 18 active dengue cases in the province, with 119 individuals having recovered. So far, 137 cases of dengue have been confirmed across the province.

Two dacoits killed in Khanewal

KHANEWAL (APP): Two dacoits were killed and another sustained serious injuries in firing of their own accomplices during an exchange of firing with police on Bura Road in Mian Chanu. According to police sources, after information of crime on 15, they rushed to Bura Road. When the team reached the site, the dacoits opened fire at them. The police team also retaliated. Two dacoits were killed and their one accomplice sustained injuries while three others.

Provincial health ministers visit PIC

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Health Ministers Khawaja Salman Rafique and Khawaja Imran Nazir visited the Punjab Institute of Cardiology (PIC) on Monday and met with the Consul General of Turkey, Durmus Bastag. On this occasion, Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique mentioned that a team of senior doctors is providing the best possible care to Consul General Durmus Bastag.

Information Minister says: Foolproof security to be provided on Eid-e-Milad

FAISALABAD (APP): Provincial Minister for Information & Culture Azma Bokhari said that a comprehensive strategy would be implemented to provide foolproof security on Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) across the province.

Briefing the media about Milad arrangements at Commissioner Office here on Monday, she said that 2467 Milad processions would be taken out in addition to

1581 Mahafil across the province. More than 55,000 police officials were deputed for Milad security in addition to activating CTD Jawans for checking of processions participants, especially in sensitive areas, she added.

She said that CCTV cameras were also activated in Faisalabad and Milad processions would be monitored through control rooms which were established at divisional levels across the province.

International News

Israeli airstrikes kill 16 in Gaza, including 4 children, Palestinians say

GAZA: Palestinian officials say Israeli airstrikes on Monday killed 16 people in the Gaza Strip, including five women and four children.

A strike flattened a home in the built-up Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza, killing at least 10 people there, including four women and two children. The Awda Hospital, which received the bodies, confirmed the toll and also said 13 people were wounded. Hospital records show that the dead included a mother, her child and her five siblings. Another strike on a home in Gaza City killed six people, including a woman and two children, according to the Civil Defense, first responders who operate under the Hamas-run government. Israel says it only targets militants and accuses Hamas and other armed groups of endangering civilians by operating in residential areas.

Hamas official says group has 'high ability' to continue Gaza war despite losses

ISTANBUL: A senior Hamas official told AFP on Sunday that the Palestinian Islamist movement had ample resources to continue fighting Israel despite losses sustained over more than 11 months of war in Gaza.

"The resistance has a high ability to continue," Osama Hamdan told AFP during an interview in Istanbul. "There were martyrs and there were sacrifices... but in return there was an accumulation of experiences and the recruitment of new generations into the resistance."

His comments came less than a week after Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant told journalists that Hamas, whose October 7 attack triggered the war, "no longer exists" as a military formation in Gaza.

"The number of casualties... is much less than what is expected in a battle of this size, level and breadth," Hamdan said on Sunday. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu launched retaliatory military operations to destroy Hamas after the group's surprise attack on southern Israel, which resulted in the deaths of 1,205 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli official figures.

Germany wants trade with Kazakhstan, won't circumvent Russia sanctions, Scholz says

ASTANA: Germany is interested in expanding trade with Kazakhstan while also ensuring such trade is not used to circumvent EU sanctions on Russia, Chancellor Olaf Scholz said on a visit to the Central Asian nation. "I am grateful for the trusting dialogue between us, through which we want to prevent trade between us from being misused to circumvent sanctions," Scholz said. After Russian forces invaded Ukraine in February 2022, the West imposed sweeping sanctions on Russia, prompting Moscow to seek circuitous routes for importing technology and goods.

Kazakhstan or other former Soviet nations. The Astana government has said it would abide by the sanctions. Both Scholz and Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev said their countries were interested in increasing trade in oil, rare earths, lithium and other raw materials. "Both sides benefit from this exchange because it allows us to diversify our economies and make them more resilient," Scholz said. "A very concrete example of this is the oil supplies from Kazakhstan, which helped us a lot after Russia failed as a supplier."

The two met ahead of a broader meeting between Scholz and all five Central Asian leaders, an example of more active Western diplomacy in what has traditionally been Russia's backyard.

Israeli leaflets tell south Lebanon residents to evacuate

BEIRUT: Israel dropped leaflets over a Lebanon border village Sunday urging residents to leave, state-run media said, but Israel's military told AFP a brigade had taken the initiative without approval. It was the first time Israelis had told residents of south Lebanon to evacuate in 11 months of cross-border fire between Hezbollah and Israel over the Gaza war, triggered by Hezbollah ally Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel. "The Israeli enemy dropped leaflets over Wazzani calling on those in the area and its surroundings to evacuate," the official National News Agency said, referring to a southern border village. Wazzani Mayor Ahmed al-Mohammed shared with AFP a picture of the leaflets that showed a map.



Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer give a joint press conference at Villa Doria Pamphili in Rome after their meeting.

Trump safe after new assassination attempt, suspect arrested

WASHINGTON: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump was safe on Sunday after the Secret Service foiled what the FBI called an apparent assassination attempt while he was golfing on his course in West Palm Beach, Florida. Secret Service agents spotted and fired on a gunman in bushes near the property line of the golf course, a few hundred yards from where Trump was playing, law enforcement officials said.

The suspect left an AK-47-style assault rifle and other items at the scene and fled in a vehicle but was later arrested. The apparent attempt on Trump's life came just two months after he was shot at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania, sustaining a minor injury to his right ear. Both incidents highlight the challenges of keeping presidential candidates safe in a hotly contested and polarized campaign with just over seven weeks to go before the Nov. 5 election.

Iran's president says direct talks with US possible if it abandons its hostility

DUBAI: Iran could hold direct talks with the United States if Washington demonstrates "in practice" that it is not hostile to the Islamic Republic, President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Monday. Pezeshkian was responding to a question at a news conference in Tehran on whether Tehran would be open to direct talks with the US to revive a 2015 nuclear deal.

Former US president Donald Trump, renegeing that deal in 2018, argued it was too generous to

Tehran, and restored harsh US sanctions on Iran, prompting Tehran to gradually violate the agreement's nuclear limits.

"We are not hostile towards the US, they should end their hostility towards us by showing their goodwill in practice," said Pezeshkian, adding: "We are brothers with the Americans as well." After taking office in January 2021, US President Joe Biden tried to negotiate a revival of the nuclear pact under which Iran had restricted its nuclear programme in return for relief from US.

Biden says US Secret Service needs more help

WASHINGTON: The US Secret Service needs more help, President Joe Biden said on Monday after an apparent assassination attempt on Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump was thwarted over the weekend. Biden, speaking to reporters, said he did not yet have a full report of the Sunday incident at Trump's Florida golf course and that he was thankful the former president was ok. Donald Trump was safe on Sunday after the Secret Service foiled what the FBI called an apparent assassination attempt.

North Korea's foreign minister leaves for Russia, embassy in Pyongyang says

PYONGYANG: North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui has flown to Russia to attend the fourth Eurasian Women's Forum and the BRICS Women's Forum in Saint Petersburg, Russia's embassy in North Korea said on Monday.

"Russian Ambassador (Alexander Ivanovich) Matsegora saw off North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui at the Pyongyang International Airport."

UK PM Starmer praises Italy's Meloni for reducing illegal migration

LONDON: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer praised his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni on Monday for her efforts in reducing illegal migration, saying his "government of pragmatism" sought new approaches to the hot-button topic. On his first visit to Italy since his centre-left Labour Party's landslide victory in July, Starmer expressed interest in the immigration policies of far-right leader Meloni — including plans to operate Italian-run migrant centres in Albania — and stressed the importance of cross-border cooperation.

"You've made remarkable progress working with

countries along migration routes as equals to address the drivers of migration at the source and to tackle the gangs," Starmer told Meloni during a joint press conference in Rome. "As a result, irregular arrivals to Italy by sea are down 60 per cent since 2022," said Starmer, who has vowed to fight illegal migration at home.

His visit, in which he toured a national immigration coordination centre with Italy's Interior Minister Matteo Piantedosi, came a day after the latest migrant shipwreck in the Channel claimed eight lives. The latest incident brings to 46 the number of people who have died this year trying to reach British shores.

UK foreign minister Lammy plays down Putin threats

LONDON: UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy accused Russian President Vladimir Putin of "bluster" Sunday over his warning that letting Ukraine use long-range weapons to strike inside Russia would put NATO "at war" with Moscow.

Tensions between Russia and the West over the conflict reached dire levels this week as US President Joe Biden and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer met at the White House to discuss whether to ease rules on Kyiv's use of western-supplied weaponry. "I think that what Putin's doing is throwing dust up into the air," Lammy told the BBC.

"There's a lot of bluster. That's his modus operandi. He threatens about tanks, he threatens about missiles, he threatens about nuclear weapons."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has been asking for permission to use British Storm Shadow missiles and US-made ATACMS missiles to hit targets deeper inside

Russia for months. Biden and Starmer delayed a decision on the move during their meeting on Friday. It came after Putin warned that green-lighting use of the weapons "would mean that NATO countries, the US, European countries, are at war with Russia". "If that's the case, then taking into account the change of nature of the conflict, we will take the appropriate decisions based on the threats that we will face," he added.

The Russian leader has long warned western countries that they risk provoking a nuclear war over their support for Ukraine. "We cannot be blown off course by an imperialist fascist, effectively, that wants to move into countries willy nilly," said Lammy. "If we let him with Ukraine, believe me, he will not stop there." Lammy said that talks between Starmer, Biden and Zelensky over the use of the missiles would continue at the United Nations General Assembly gathering in New York later this month.



Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, chairing a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Chinese Investment Projects (CCoCIP) here in Islamabad.

PM Shehbaz introduces organ donor logo on CNICs

ISLAMABAD (IN): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has announced the launch of a national initiative aimed at promoting organ donation, which features a special logo for voluntary organ donors on National Identity Cards.

"Individuals who voluntarily register themselves as organ donors will have a special, exclusive logo printed on their National Identity Cards, symbolizing their commitment to giving the gift of life," the prime minister said in a message in connection with International Identity Day.

He said organ donation is a profound act of kindness that can give a new lease on life to those in need. "I encourage all citizens to participate in this initiative and become part of a life-saving community."

He said "today, as we commemorate International Identity Day, we reflect on the profound significance of identity in our society".

The prime minister said it is not merely a matter of recognition; but is a cornerstone of inclusion, representation, and access to essential services.

The prime minister urged to work collectively towards building a more inclusive world where every individual's rights are recognized and respected. "I call upon citizens, civil society, and governmental institutions to unite in fostering a culture of awareness and education surrounding identity issues."

He stressed the need to identify and address the critical gaps in current national registration and biometric ecosystem. The prime minister also encouraged the integration of digital solutions and innovation to streamline access to services and enhance the accuracy of identity verification.

"As we embark on these initiatives, my government remains dedicated to implement the policies that promote transparency and accountability to foster trust among our citizens and encourage greater participation in civic duties, thereby strengthening the democratic fabric of our nation," he added.

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Rabi-ul-Awwal is very holy & auspicious month for all Muslims: Lehri

QUETTA (APP): Parliamentary Secretary S&GAD Mir Liaquat Lehri on Monday said Rabi-ul-Awwal is a very holy and auspicious month for all Muslims.

He said that in which the Holy Prophet came to this world as the Mercy of the Worlds and erased the darkness of ignorance and illuminated it with the light of faith.

In one of his statements issued on the occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi, Mir Liaquat Lehri said that the purpose of celebrating Milad-un-Nabi is not only to express our happiness, but this day also invites us to take account of ourselves.

He said that on this day, we should examine how far we are following the principles and teachings given by the Messenger of Allah.

I must pledge to conform my life to the full Islamic code of life and strive to develop in myself the qualities of a true believer and a staunch Muslim, he said.

He said that it is necessary that we unite as one nation so that no false force dares to raise its eyes against them.

He prayed that Allah Almighty would create complete unity, agreement and solidarity among all the Muslims of the world and grant us the opportunity to actively participate in the development of the country and the nation.

Faisal Vawda labels govt 'incompetent', 'inefficient'

ISLAMABAD (INP): Senator Faisal Vawda on Monday called the incumbent government as 'incompetent' and 'inefficient' after it failed to table constitutional amendments package in either house of the Parliament.

Responding to a question pitched by newsmen outside the Parliament House in Islamabad, Faisal Vawda said that despite hectic efforts the government has miserably failed to get passed these constitutional amendments from the parliament.

He said "You can expect such an outcome only from incompetents."

He urged the journalist to ask this question from "champions of politics".

Pakistan reports sixth Monkeypox case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Health on Monday confirmed that a sixth case of Monkeypox has been reported in the country.

According to spokesperson of the Ministry of Health, Border Health Services staff detected the patient, a 44-year-old individual, has a travel history to the Gulf countries at Islamabad Airport during screening.

He said that the patient was admitted to the isolation ward of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) and was healthy.

PM Coordinator on Health, Dr. Mukhtar Bharath said Border Health Services staff at Islamabad Airport were ensuring an effective screening system.

Court accepts bail after arrest pleas of arrested MNAs of PTI

ISLAMABAD (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Islamabad while accepting bail after arrest pleas of PTI arrested Members of National Assembly (MNAs) has ordered to release 10 members of assembly forthwith.

The order has been issued on Monday.

The court accepted bail after arrest pleas of PTI arrested MNAs against surety bonds of Rs 30000 each and ordered to release them immediately.

Judge Abul Hasanat Muhammad Zulqarnain took up the bail pleas of the PTI MNAs arrested in case registered against them in police station Sangiani.

Stronger Parliament vital for safeguarding rights of people: Naveed Qamar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Syed Naveed Qamar said on Monday that a stronger Parliament would be essential for safeguarding the rights of the people.

Speaking on the floor of the House, he said, "A stronger Parliament would make its representatives stronger and play a key role in safeguarding the rights of the people."

Naveed Qamar said that a special committee had been constituted at the request of the PPP Chairman to build consensus. However, he clarified that this committee is not a replacement for the National Assembly's Committee on Law and Justice.

The PPP lawmaker said that no one can compromise on the sanctity dignity of the House, adding that PPP has also reservations about the amendments currently circulating in the media.

Taking part in the debate, Shahida Begum said that mutual consensus should be established before tabling the constitutional amendments in the National Assembly.

She praised Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq for constituting a special committee of Parliament at the request of Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. This committee will allow members from all parties to speak and discuss the matters.

Shahida Begum commended the Charter of Democracy (CoD), signed between Shaheed Benazir Bhutto and Muhammad Nawaz Sharif for its role in strengthening democracy and reforming national institutions through consultations with all political parties.

Dr. Farooq Sattar of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) said that if the government intends to present constitutional amendments to Parliament, working papers should be provided to both the coalition partners and the opposition.



QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Lt. (Retd) Saad bin Asad presiding over meeting of Divisional Task Force regarding prevention of polio

SC seeks summary of annual development plan from federal, provincial governments

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has sought summary of annual development plan from federal and provincial governments.

In the case related to matter of development funds regarding federation and all the four provinces SC has sought details of block allocated schemes or umbrella schemes.

The court ordered annual development plan summary of recently approved annual budget be presented with the signatures of finance secretary or chief secretary.

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa remarked during the hearing of the case we are hearing the case in the perspective for protection of public funds. Government should do spend money but with transparency. Transparency means development and all the four provinces SC has sought details of block allocated schemes or umbrella schemes.

He gave these remarks during the hearing of the case Monday.

The CJP further remarked Zia ul Haq started the tradition of giving money in the name of development funds for members of assemblies and senators.

Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan remarked already there are enormous difficulties. We will not let the public funds waste.

The CJP remarked "work out projects but all should be done under constitution. Governments are changed then the projects linger on. The development projects should not be worked out under the individual persons. We have no concern with it what projects are being framed. There should be transparency. The court adjourned the hearing of the case for three weeks.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Gunvor Group Mr. Torbjorn Tornqvist and Vice President Oceania & Southeast Asia Total Energies Mr. Mehmet Celepoglu called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Hamdullah questions govt's secrecy around constitutional amendment draft

QUETTA (INP): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) leader Hafiz Hamdullah on Monday was bewildered over the government being discreet about the content of the constitutional amendments, for which it is struggling to secure the required numbers in the parliament.

"What kind of amendments are these which are concealed from the cabinet, ministers, allies and the opposition [alike]. The original draft of the constitutional amendments is not being shared", said Hamdullah when speaking to a private TV channel.

On the government's attempts to court JUI-F

chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman for support in the House, he said the entire government was looking forward to Maulana's decision.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman said he refused to support the government's proposal to extend judges' tenure or increase their retirement age, leaving the government-proposed constitutional amendment package in limbo.

This development has created a major hurdle for the ruling coalition as the JUI-F has eight seats in the National Assembly and five in the Senate, a significant number that can help the government achieve the magic number.

Hamdullah said legislation should be made only in the country and its citizens' interest. He also said neither the opposition nor allied parties knew what the amendments contain precisely. "If the constitutional amendments are being made in the nation's interest then why is it being hidden? Do the amendments aim to make the judiciary independent or control it?" he asked. Nevertheless, the JUI-F leader said his party would give its verdict if the government shared the amendment draft with them. Yet, he said, his party was against the proposal of extending judges' tenure.

Petition filed in SC against proposed constitutional amend.

ISLAMABAD (INP): A group of prominent lawyers including Abid Zuberi, Shafiqat Mehmood and Munir Kakar have filed a petition in the Supreme Court challenging a set of proposed constitutional amendments.

The petition has named the federal government, the four provincial governments, the National Assembly, the Senate and other relevant parties.

The petitioners argue that the proposed constitutional amendments undermine the separation of powers and threaten the independence of the judiciary. They have requested that the Supreme Court declare the proposed draft unconstitutional and prevent the government from moving forward with the amendments. The petition also calls for a halt to the process of presenting the bill for the constitutional amendment in the Parliament. In case Parliament proceeds with the amendment, the petitioners request that the president of Pakistan be barred from signing it into law. The petition stresses the need to protect the judiciary's independence, powers and jurisdiction, asserting that parliament does not have the authority to withdraw judicial powers or interfere with the judiciary's functions.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary for Social Welfare Haji Wali Muhammad Noorzai presiding over meeting of Balochistan Charities Registration and Regulation Authority (BCRA)

Pakistan Bar Council Constitutional amendment bill aims at gagging independence of judiciary

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) has expressed grave concern over introducing proposed constitutional amendment in secret way by the government saying the proposed amendments are not only against the basic structure of constitution but also they are aimed at gagging the independence of the judiciary.

In a joint statement, six members of PBC including Mehmood Chohan, Abid Shahid Zubairi, Ishfaq A Khan, Shahab Sirki, Tahir Sarfraz Abbasi and Munir Ahmad Kakar have said we express grave concern over introducing proposed constitutional amendments secretly in complete defiance of procedure of parliament.

The proposed constitutional amendments as is being said are not only violation of basic structure of constitution but also they are aimed at stifling the independence of judiciary. These amendments are against the rule of law. The amendments are being made without any debate to completely abrogate the constitution. This all exercise seems to be rubber stamping exercise so that an alternative judicial system could be raised for wrong purposes. Consensus on amendment in constitution is possible only through speeches and talks.

Bilawal greets nation on Eid Milad-un-Nabi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has extended heartiest greetings to the entire nation on the blessed occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (Peace Be Upon Him).

In a press release issued by the Media Cell Bilawal House, he remarked that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) came as a beacon of mercy for all of humanity, and every aspect of his life serves as a guiding light for us.

He emphasized that the message of the Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) transcends time, place, and borders, offering wisdom and guidance for all generations and communities.

Bilawal Bhutto urged the nation to work towards building a society grounded in the teachings of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him), one where peace, tolerance, and brotherhood prevail.

Help Desk starts at Pak-China Friendship Hospital Gwadar

GWADAR (INP): Pak-China Friendship Hospital Gwadar has unveiled "Help Desk Initiative" for the facilitation of patients to get accurate and timely information for multiple health queries round the clock.

Help Desk Initiative will perform as "One Window facility" where patients will get to know relevant appointments with doctors, medical tests modalities and emergency aid free of cost. Pak-China Friendship Hospital Gwadar official told Gwadar Pro Help Desk is mandated to provide detailed information regarding all medical sections and departments whenever attendants of patients approach to service providers at Help Desk. The hospital has already embarked on health services for local people with the opening of Out Patient Department (OPD), a milestone development.



ISLAMABAD: The President of Asian Development Bank Masatsugu Asakawa is in meeting with Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Cheema in Federal Capital.

Gunvor Group Chairman, Total Energies VP meet PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Gunvor Group Chairman Torbjorn Tornqvist and Oceania & Southeast Asia Total Energies Vice President Mehmet Celepoglu Monday called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and discussed potential investment in Pakistan's energy sector.

During the meeting, the prime minister highlighted that after attaining stability, the country's economy was now moving on the path of growth and development.

He said rapid reforms were underway to increase the investment and business activities, and economic policies were yielding positive results.

He emphasized that the government was removing all the barriers for foreign investment in Pakistan.

Chairman Torbjorn Tornqvist expressed the Gunvor Group's keen interest in investment in the petroleum sector of Pakistan.

The prime minister was told that the Gunvor Group had already signed an agreement to acquire 50% shares of Total Parco.

The Gunvor Group chairman lauded that positive steps were being taken under the prime minister's leadership for promoting investment in the country.

The prime minister directed the relevant authorities to provide all possible facilities to the Gunvor Group. The meeting was also attended by federal ministers Ahad Khan Cheema, Dr Musadik Malik, PM's Special Assistant Tariq Fatemi and other relevant high officials.

99% target of immunization achieved as 7-day anti-polio drive ends in Balochistan

QUETTA: Almost 99 percent target of immunization was achieved as the seven-day anti-polio campaign came to an end all over the Balochistan province on Sunday.

The sources of Emergency Operation Center (EOC) for Polio Eradication told that almost 99 percent target of the immunization has been achieved during the seven-day campaign that had started on September 2 in all 36 districts of the province.

The EOC sources said that it was targeted to vaccinate over 2.655 million children during the seven-day campaign in the province.

For vaccination of the children, more than 11,000 anti-polio teams had been formed in the province. While we have achieved the 99 percent target of immunization, still we are trying to reach out and vaccinate the remaining one percent children, the EOC sources informed.

It may be mentioned here that 12 cases of polio have been reported during the current year in Balochistan. Besides, the polio virus has also been detected in the environmental samples of different districts of the province.

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Constitutional amendment will be an attack on judiciary: Qureshi

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that the government's plan of constitutional amendment is tantamount to bury the constitution.

Talking to media on Monday after the court hearing, the veteran politician paid tribute to JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman for not supporting the constitutional amendment. "I request all the political parties to thoroughly study the draft of the amendment before voting in favour of the bill," he said. The constitutional amendment is a serious issue and it shouldn't be passed in haste, he said. Qureshi said that the draft of the bill should be tabled in the National Assembly to ensure transparency in the process.

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QUETTA: Supporters of Mir Muhammad Usman Pirkani are holding celebration demonstration after the Balochistan High Court decision of the Election Tribunal in favor of Mir Muhammad Usman Pirkani against Ali Madad Jattak, Member of Assembly of Constituency PB-45, held at High Court premises in Quetta.

Secretary Agriculture says Problems being faced by employees of department would be resolved

QUETTA: The Secretary Agriculture and Extension, Akbar Baloch has assured that the problems being faced by employees of the department would be resolved.

The Secretary Agriculture made this assurance to the delegation who called on him under leadership of former President of APCA Agriculture and Extension, Nooruddin and the President of bereaved families of the employees, Syed Habibullah Agha here on Monday.

The delegation was consisted of the Secretary General, Tahir Hussain, Muhammad Anwar and others.

Also present on the occasion was Director General of the Agriculture, Masood Baloch.

The Secretary assured to resolve issues being faced by the employees of department.

He said that the employees have the status of back bone in any department and as such their issues would be resolved immediately.

Nooruddin and Syed Habibullah Agha thanked the Secretary and Director General Agriculture on taking deep interest in resolving the issues of employees.

They said that the fruits of initiatives taken by the Secretary and Director General Agriculture would start bearing soon.

They announced to support senior high ups of the department wholeheartedly.

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