

# Independent

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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. According to 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.



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

## ADB President lauds Pakistan's economic reform agenda, reaffirms support

ISLAMABAD (APP): Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Masatsugu Asakawa, accompanied by his delegation, met with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and commended his government for its comprehensive reforms and reaffirmed ADB's continued support for Pakistan. During the discussions, Asakawa praised Pakistan's long-standing relationship with ADB as one of its founding members. He also reaffirmed ADB's support for infrastructure development, climate resilience, and institutional reforms in Pakistan. While appreciating ADB's long-standing and steadfast support to Pakistan, the prime minister in-

formed the visiting president about a series of reforms introduced by the government. The key reforms include enhancing tax revenues, improving financial sustainability of the energy sector, enhancing climate resilience, reduction in untargeted subsidies and scaling up social protection. The prime minister emphasized that he is personally overseeing the progress of these reforms to ensure their successful implementation and long-term impact, underscoring the Government's commitment to sustainable economic growth and stability. The prime minister appreciated ADB's generous support of over US\$ 1.5 billion in response to the dev-

astating floods of 2022. He showed Pakistan's keen desire to work with the development partners in climate resilience projects including agriculture. The prime minister and president of ADB also witnessed the loan signing of the Sindh Emergency Housing Reconstruction Project amounting to US\$400 million and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rural Roads Development Project worth US\$320 million. Both these projects are part of the ADB's flood commitments. Federal Ministers for Planning & Development, Investment & Privatization, Economic Affairs, Finance & Revenue and other senior government officials also attended the meeting.

## 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.

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

ISLAMABAD: 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 demanding Sept 7 as Finality of Prophethood Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Upper House of the Parliament on Monday unanimously passed the resolution demanding the government to declare official celebration of the Finality of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) Day on September 7th as a national holiday in connection with the day of declaration of Qadianis as non-Muslims. The 12th meeting of the 342nd Senate Session started almost 11 minutes late with the recitation of the Holy Quran under Deputy Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan Nasar in chair. Senator Atta-ur-Rehman of Jamiat-Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) moved the resolution stating: "Commemorating the historical day of September 7, 1974; the day when the Parliament of Pakistan unanimously declared Qadianis as non-Muslims minority; Noting 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;

Realizing that it is imperative to highlight and remember the historical moments, the Senate of Pakistan, therefore, recommends to the Government that the day may be celebrated officially and be declared as a national holiday." Speaking on the motion, he said the Day was historic as the Parliament put a bulwark against the invaders on the sanctity of the Finality of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). The occasion demanded the government to create awareness among the young generation, by declaring it a national holiday, on the matter of critical religious importance, he added. Maulana Atta underlined that the Parliament session continued for 13 consecutive days to declare these rebel Qadianis as non-Muslims. "The government should announce medals for those Parliamentarians who played crucial role in ensuring protection of the Finality of Prophethood (Peace Be Upon Him) to remember their meritorious contributions for Islam," the JUI-F Senator said.

## Pakistan-Indonesia Joint Exercise Elang Strike-II conducted at NCTC

RAWALPINDI (APP): Pakistan-Indonesia Joint Exercise Elang Strike-II was conducted between Pakistan Army and Indonesian Armed Forces at National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), Pabbi on Monday. Exercise Elang Strike-II is second exercise in Counter Terrorism domain between both the countries, an Inter Services Public Relations news release said.



A week-long Exercise Elang Strike-II commenced on 08 September 2024. The exercise was aimed at mutually beneficial sharing of experience and training methodology between the two armies which have strong brotherly relations. At the closing ceremony, General Officer Commanding 17 Division was the Chief Guest. Colonel Budi Wirman, Defence Attaché of Indonesia also attended the closing ceremony. The troops displayed highest standards of professional excellence during the conduct of exercise.

## 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 judi-

## Atta grieved over demise of senior director Altaf Hussain

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attallah Tarar on Monday expressed profound grief and sorrow over demise of Senior Director of Pakistani film industry Altaf Hussain. The minister, in a condolence message, sympathized with the bereaved family, while highlighting the deceased's contribution for the Pakistani film industry. Altaf Hussain directed many memorable films in his life and contributed to the uplift of the Pakistan's film industry through his sheer hard work and dedication, the minister noted.

## Nawaz 'unhappy' with ovt's strategy on constitutional amendment

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz has expressed displeasure with the strategy adopted by his government regarding the constitutional amendment. The former premier, who reached Islamabad from his Jati Umra residence on Sunday, had returned to Lahore after expressing displeasure with his party. Sources close to the party reveal that Nawaz Sharif was unhappy with the approach taken by Shehbaz Sharif and had decided to distance himself from the process. Nawaz Sharif had arrived in Islamabad to attend the National Assembly session but did not meet with President Zardari and JUI-F Maulana Fazlur Rehman, despite efforts by the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to facilitate a meeting. Govt should have taken Fazlur

Rehman into confidence before proceeding with the amendment, sources quoting Nawaz Sharif as saying. The National Assembly is set to discuss and present a series of significant constitutional amendments in today's session including increasing seats for Balochistan in the provincial assembly. According to sources, over 20 clauses are expected to be included in the proposed changes, affecting various key articles in Pakistan's Constitution, including Articles 51, 63, 175, and 187. The constitutional amendments include increasing representation for Balochistan in the provincial assembly. The proposal aims to raise the number of seats in the Balochistan Assembly from 65 to 81, a move intended to ensure better representation of the province in legislative matters.



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.

## 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 Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, 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.

## PM Shehbaz to leave on visit to UK, USA on September 21

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will leave on a tour to the UK and the USA on September 21. Diplomatic sources said that the prime minister would first reach London where he would stay for two days.

## If military trial of Imran has to be held or otherwise: IHC seeks clear reply from govt

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has sought clear reply from the government if the military trial of PTI founder Imran Khan will be held or otherwise. The court adjourned the hearing of the case till next Tuesday. Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb has remarked government statement is not clear. Come with clear stance on next hearing. He gave these remarks during the hearing of petition on possible military trial of PTI founder Imran Khan and handing over him to military custody on Monday. On the other hand defence ministry has filed reply in IHC that there is no information about military trial of Imran Khan so far. Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb in-

quired what is procedure when some has to be given to military custody. The reports regarding statements of politicians and military officers have been brought on record. If statements come from any officer then they are serious. Additional Attorney General (AAG) replied there is no report of military trial of Imran Khan with defence ministry so far. I am giving statement on behalf of ministry of defence that no such thing has come so far. If any application has come even then proceedings will be initiated as per law. Representative of ministry of defence Brig Falak Naz came on rostrum and told military authority informs the respective magistrate about trial of civilian. We too follow law of evidence.

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 Khurshheed 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 preoccupied 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 Yaqjehti 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.

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

support to Pakistan, Minister Ahmad Cheema briefed the President on a series of reforms introduced by the government.

The key reforms include enhancing tax revenues, improving financial sustainability of energy sector, reduction in untargeted subsidies and scaling up social protection.

Asakawa together with Secretary Economic Affairs, Kazim Niazi also attended the groundbreaking ceremony of a new ADB office building in Islamabad.

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 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 Kamrial, Ehsan Bajwa, MPAs Raja Hanif, Ziaullah Shah, Malik Maqsood, former

MPA Sardar Iftikhar Khan Mittu and former Deputy Mayor Islamabad Chaudhry Riffat Javid.

Malik Abrar highlighted the vital role of the business community in powering the economy, underscoring the need for prompt resolution of their issues to ensure the country's continued progress and success.

He reaffirmed his unwavering commitment to supporting the ICCI in its endeavors to facilitate ease of doing business for the entrepreneurial community. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari reiterated the Chamber's commitment to serving the community, stating that its doors are always open to address problems and facilitate ease of doing business. During his tenure, he has made concerted efforts to strengthen linkages for business promotion, with a special focus on tourism development. The main initiatives included conducting foreign trips to explore new business opportunities.

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.

## 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.

## 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 Bokhari, 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.

## 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.

Sources have told Reuters that Russian businesses seeking goods banned by the West sometimes procured them from companies based in neighbouring

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, arguing 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.

## 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, representa-

tion, 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.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam addressing at the World Ozone Day 2024 event in Islamabad.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Ahsan Iqbal inaugurates NICAT investment ecosystem, a collaborative effort by Ignite and NASTP to boost technological innovation and entrepreneurship in Pakistan's aerospace sector.

## Ahsan opens NICAT investment ecosystem to foster technological innovation, entrepreneurship

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Monday inaugurated NICAT investment ecosystem aimed at fostering technological innovation and entrepreneurship in the country, providing a platform for transformative collaboration across the aerospace and technology sectors.

The National Incubation Center for Aerospace Technologies (NICAT) has launched the investment startups ecosystem in collaboration with the Ignite National Technology Fund and the National Aerospace Science and Technology Park (NASTP), a news release said.

The initiatives brought together prominent industry leaders, government officials, investors and innovative startups.

Addressing the launching ceremony, the minister highlighted the significant steps taken by the government in the fields of science and technology, reaffirming the commitment to transforming Pakistan into a modern, technology-driven economy.

He said the incubation centers like NICAT contributed to the development of an innovative ecosystem in which tech entrepreneurship could thrive, and emphasized "a country with

bustling tech ecosystems can fast track its growth by attracting investment."

Ahsan Iqbal said Pakistan's biggest strength was its youth, who needed to be passionate and devoted in succeeding with their startup ideas.

Highlighting the fact that Pakistan's tech entrepreneurs have won laurels all over the world, he assured that the government remained fully committed to developing the technology landscape for the growing businesses.

Citing examples of world class universities such as Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard, Stanford and MIT, the minister said, "One peculiar thing you will find in these universities is that their laboratories and libraries remain open round the clock. There's no concept of off-duty hours in the world's best universities because innovators have no deadline."

He emphasized on the need to create an environment that fostered critical thinking and problem solving skills in Pakistan's universities, eventually establishing stronger links between universities and industries.

He shed light on the government's major scientific and technological initiatives at the national level, including the establishment of National Centre for Ar-

tificial Intelligence, National Centre for Cyber Security, National Centre for Robotics and Automation, National Centre for Big Data and Cloud Computing and National Centre for Genomics.

Ahsan Iqbal noted that the centers were playing a crucial role in fostering a robust scientific environment within the country.

He said Pakistan held a unique history and strategic geographic importance, adding despite facing various challenges, the country had learned from its hardships and emerged stronger.

"Pakistan, though faced with numerous difficulties in its early days, is now the world's seventh nuclear power. Our industrial and defence sectors have made remarkable advancements, exemplified by the development of state-of-the-art aircraft like the JF-17 Thunder," he remarked.

The minister also stressed the urgent need to equip Pakistan's youth with digital skills, stating that future progress would belong to nations that adopted modern technologies.

He announced the launch of a new programme in collaboration with Google, aimed at providing digital skills training to the young people.

## IGP Islamabad holds khuli katchery

**Independent Report**

ISLAMABAD: According to the details, the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, held a Khuli Katchery at the Central Police Office Islamabad, a public relations officer said.

During the katchery, he listened to the issues of citizens and police officers and issued directives on the spot for their resolution.

He said that resolving citizens' issues on merit is our top priority. Negligence and carelessness in duties will not be tolerated. Any citizen facing any issue related to the police can come to the Khuli Katchery. My

office is always open for my citizens, the IGP said.

IG Islamabad further directed the concerned officers to resolve the citizen grievances on merit within the stipulated time frame and report back to the Central Police Office.

He directed all SDPOs and SHOs to adhere to the designated office hours and prioritize resolving citizens' issues.

On this occasion, the IG Islamabad said that the Islamabad Police are taking various measures for the facilitation of citizens. The daily holding of Khuli Katchery helps in resolving issues on a priority basis, he added.

Moreover, all zonal officers and SHOs are directed to meet citizens dur-



office is always open for my citizens, the IGP said. IG Islamabad further directed the concerned officers to resolve the citizen grievances on merit within the stipulated time frame and report back to the Central Police Office.

## 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 spend money but with transparency. Transparency means development schemes be not launched on the basis of in-

dividuals.

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: A newly installed horse model by CDA adds beauty to Rawal Dam Chowk in the Federal Capital.

## IFA conducts 24,137 operations, serves notices to 9346 food outlets

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director of the Islamabad Food Authority (IFA), Irfan Nawaz Memon, chaired a performance meeting of the authority, during which he was informed that 24,137 operations had been conducted so far, resulting in improvement notices being issued to 9,346 businesses.

Acting Deputy Director Operations (DDO) of Islamabad Food Authority (IFA), Aneeq Anwar, while sharing the performance report of the authority, stated that the authority has imposed fines amounting to Rs. 14.36 million on 804 establishments found violating health standards. The crackdown also led to the sealing of 172 outlets for selling harmful products.

Meanwhile, licenses have been granted to 107 food points in Islamabad,

reflecting the authority's efforts to formalize the industry. In response to public complaints, 15 legal cases were registered, following action on 477 citizen reports.

He said that with an unwavering commitment to quality assurance, the authority's latest report underscored its relentless pursuit of adherence to food safety standards across the Federal Capital.

On the occasion, he appealed to the masses to cooperate with the food department in identifying illegal food production units that were operating in small houses to ensure public safety.

Notably, the authority imposed a complete ban on the sale of Chinese salt, and gutka, emphasizing its commitment to upholding stringent standards of food safety and hygiene.

## Pakistan committed to global ozone layer protection for human, environmental sustainability: Romina

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam said that Pakistan has demonstrated a strong commitment and played its role as a part of global efforts to protect the ozone layer through its participation in international agreements, implementation of national policies, and collaboration with global partners.

The country's efforts in phase-out initiatives under the Montreal protocol to restore and preserve the ozone layer for future generations has been globally recognised and presented as a case study, the PM's climate

aide highlighted while addressing as a chief guest at the national experts' dialogue regarding the World Ozone Day 2024 held here on Monday in the climate change & environmental coordination ministry.

On the occasion of World Ozone Day 2024 being marked today globally under the theme "Ozone for Life: Solutions for a Warming Planet", she reaffirmed the present government's dedication to preserving the ozone layer and combating climate change. Romina Khurshid Alam highlighted that this year's theme emphasises the critical role of the ozone layer in protecting

life on Earth and highlights the interconnectedness of ozone layer protection and climate action. It reflects the ongoing efforts to address both ozone depletion and global warming, reinforcing the importance of continued international cooperation and innovative solutions to tackle these environmental challenges. The United Nations' annual Ozone Day is observed every year on September 16, aiming to celebrate the adoption of the Montreal Protocol and raises awareness about the importance of the ozone layer. It also serves as a reminder of the global commitment to protecting this vital component of Earth's atmosphere.

## IRSA releases 226,800 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 226,800 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 168,300 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1545.16 feet and was 147.16 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 91,900 cusecs and 130,000 cusecs respectively.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1227.50 feet, which was 179.50 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded each 19,600 cusecs.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 156,300, 114,200, 106,000 and 61,000 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 28,200 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 5,100 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

## A minor killed in traffic accident in Jaranwala

ISLAMABAD (APP): A traffic accident near Jaranwala motorway claimed life of a 5-year-old child on Monday.

According to a private news channel, the kid was identified as Muhammad Yasin, who died on the spot, while 8-year-old Muhammad Usman was seriously injured. According to the details, family was traveling to Khanewal from Lahore. The rescue team reached the spot immediately after the incident was reported and shifted the dead body and injured to the hospital.

## Toshakhana case against Bushra IHC issues notice to FIA to seeks reply till September 18

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) while issuing notice to FIA in new Toshakhana case against Bushra Bibi has sought reply on September 18.

IHC has directed sessions judge central court to conduct early hearing and decide the case.

These directives were issued by Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb during the hearing of the case Monday.

New Toshakhana case against Bushra Bibi came up for hearing in IHC.

Counsel Suleman Safdar said Accountability

Court (AC) ordered to shift the case on September 9. When we appeared on September 10 the special judge central proceeded on leave for one week.

Case is fixed for hearing before special judge central Shahrukh Arjumand for hearing for today.

Judge Shahrukh Arjumand had already refused from hearing Iddat case. The court has directed special central judge to hear the case early and give decision.

Counsel Suleman Safdar said notices were issued on bail before arrest. Even then arrest was made.



ISLAMABAD: A view of newly installed colorful lights under a bridge at Zero Point in Federal Capital.

## Dengue larvae reported at 1184 sites in ICT; DC for strict SOPs implementation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has intensified its fight against dengue as cases rose across the Federal Capital.

In this regard, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon chaired a key meeting on dengue control, and reviewed ongoing efforts to combat the spread of disease. According to the spokesman of ICT administration, officials from the Health Department and Additional Deputy Commissioners attended the meeting.

The DC was informed that currently, Rawalpindi has reported 297 dengue cases, while Islamabad has

seen 238 cases to date. In the past 24 hours alone, six new cases emerged in Islamabad, raising concerns about the spread of the virus in the Federal Capital.

Meanwhile, positive dengue larvae was reported at 1184 different sites of the city during September 9 to 15. The ICT administration had conducted 1150 operations aimed at preventing the growth of dengue larvae. Special teams were working in border areas, where conditions are favorable for mosquito breeding.

In addition to preventative measures, authorities were cracking down on businesses violating anti-dengue standard operating procedures (SOPs).

## ICT Police devise elaborate security for processions of Eid Milad un Nabi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police have chalked out an elaborate security plan for the main procession of Eid Milad ul Nabi on 12th Rabi ul Awwal (September 17) with Strict patrolling will be ensured throughout the procession and other religious gatherings across the city.

Following the directives of Inspector General (IG) ICT Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi and Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Syed Ali Raza, ICT Police will undertake comprehensive security and patrolling duties.

According to the Police Spokesperson DIG Syed Ali Raza has mandated that all SPs, SDPOs, SHOs, and other police officials visit the procession routes to ensure effective coordination among security personnel.

He said police officials will guide the officers and boost their morale to carry out their duties responsibly.

He said over 2000 police personnel, including specialized teams of commandos, will be deployed for security duties during the occasion.

SPs will also visit various police posts along the procession route to monitor security and brief officers on effective security measures, he said.

Traffic police officers will manage traffic to ensure smooth flow and minimize disruptions, he added.

He said walk-through gates will be installed at all entry points of the procession, and metal detectors will be used to screen participants.

Each participant will undergo a full body search before being allowed entry, he added.



ISLAMABAD: An illuminated view of a Shrine of Bari Imam decorated with colorful lights, in connection with Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) celebrations, in the Federal Capital.

## Pak Zaireen attending Urs of Khawaja Allauddin Sabir in India

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistani Zaireen accompanied by Deputy Head of Mission, Pakistan High Commission, New Delhi, Asif Khan on Monday placed the traditional Chaddar at the Shrine of Hazrat Khawaja Allauddin Ali Ahmed Sabir (RA) at Kaliyar Sharif.

Some 81 Pakistani Zaireen arrived in Kaliyar Sharif on Sept 14 to participate in the 756th annual Urs of Hazrat Khawaja Allauddin Ali Ahmed Sabir (RA), and will remain there till Sept 20, a message received from India said.

After placing the traditional Chaddar on behalf of the people and Government of Pakistan, Deputy Head of Mission and the Zaireen offered prayers for the progress and prosperity of Pakistan. On arrival at the Dargah, Deputy Head of Mission and Pakistani Zaireen were welcomed by Sajjada Nasheen Hazrat Shah Ali Manzar Aijaz Qudusi Sabri. Asif Khan thanked the Sajjada Nasheen and the organizers for facilitating the visit on the auspicious occasion.

The Pakistani Zaireen attend the annual Urs Mubarak of Hazrat Urs Khawaja Allauddin Ali Ahmed Sabir (RA) under the framework of 1974 India-Pakistan protocol on visits to religious shrines.



ISLAMABAD: Heavy machinery being used for the repair of Pandora Link Road in the Federal Capital.