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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; 'Constitutional Package' not tabled in federal cabinet yet, law minister tells NA

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.

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.

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.

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.



QUETTA: A view of gate install on Liqaut bazaar in connection with Jashne Eid Milad Un Nabi (SAWW) on 12th Rabi Ul Awwal.

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.



Chakar Domki was elected as Member Provincial Assembly from PB-8, Sibi-Lehri in the February 8, 2024 general elections.

and 2018, thus it was third consecutive time that he was 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.

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.

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.

Several injured in Lasbela coaches collision

LASBELA (APP): Several persons were injured in a collision between two passenger coaches on Makran-Coastal Highway in Lasbela district of Balochistan, news channels quoting Rescue sources reported on Monday.



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.

sector, enhancing climate resilience, reduction in untargeted subsidies and scaling up social protection.

During the discussions, Asakawa praised Pakistan's long-standing relationship with ADB as one of its founding members.

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.

He also reaffirmed ADB's support for infrastructure development, climate resilience, and institutional reforms in Pakistan.

The prime minister appreciated ADB's generous support of over US\$ 1.5 billion in response to the devastating 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.

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

Independent Report QUETTA: Eid Milad-un-Nabi Sallalaho 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.



QUETTA: Inspector General of Police Balochistan Moazzam Jah Ansari being briefed during his visit to Quetta Safe City Project

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, 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.

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.

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

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.

The PM would also meet with several world leaders on the sidelines of the session and would return on September 28.

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.

extend the coverage of cameras on the blind spots and the highest crimes reporting areas.

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

He directed to make the non-functional cameras operational at the earliest. Besides, he also directed to

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.

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

Today is not only great day for Muslims but also for whole universe and humanity: CM Bugti

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).

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.

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.

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.

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

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).

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.

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 a Foreign Office statement

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 Perhani.



QUETTA: Former Information Minister Jan Achakzai meeting with Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai

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.

designed to keep him in prison and to dismantle the judiciary, Express News reported.

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.

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

He further claimed that the recent amendments are

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



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

Conference of Pakistan's consuls in US cities decides to intensify contacts with community, resolve problems

WASHINGTON (APP): A day-long conference of Pakistan's Consuls General in New York, Chicago, Houston and Los Angeles—presided over by Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh—concluded Sunday after deciding to actively engage with the community, improve service delivery, and promote people-to-people ties with the U.S., especially by boosting business linkages.

"The Pakistani community is our biggest asset; it's the most enduring link in Pak-US relations," Ambassador Sheikh told the conference, as he called for stepped up efforts to resolve their issues.

"We must accelerate efforts to organize our community, especially professional organizations, so that they can play a greater role in their respective areas of operation", he added.

Trade and commercial officers at the respective Consulates were also

present.

According to a press release of Pakistani embassy, the Consuls General apprised the Ambassador of the services being rendered to the community in their jurisdictions including visas, passports, and other consular services. The meeting discussed various problems faced by the applicants and decided to approach relevant federal and provincial government departments to find their solutions.

The meeting also explored the possibility of extending biometric verification facilities for land transfers, vehicle sales, and bank account verifications, the press release said.

In his remarks, the Ambassador also highlighted new initiatives taken by the government to ease the visa regime, especially for businesses and tourism, and stressed the need to create maximum awareness about them.

Trade Officers provided

briefings on ongoing efforts to promote bilateral trade, detailing steps taken to introduce Pakistani products and connect businesses with potential partners in the United States. Ambassador Sheikh emphasized the necessity of attracting investment in priority areas, particularly in self-sustaining businesses that have the potential to create job opportunities for the youth.

Ambassador Sheikh stressed that the specific trade requirements of each U.S. state should be explored, with the goal of connecting each sector with its counterparts in Pakistan.

He noted that existing sister-state and sister-city agreements provided good models not only to strengthen economic interactions but also to establish similar linkages with other U.S. states for mutual benefit.

He also pointed out that Pakistan's tech-savvy

youth were well-positioned to provide IT solutions to companies across the United States at much more affordable rates. Similarly, Pakistan could also help meet the demand for pharmacists and nurses in the United States, he added.

The meeting also discussed Pak-US cooperation in the education sector and ongoing efforts to strengthen existing collaboration.



QUETTA: Members of Religious Organization holding Jashan-e-Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) rally in connection of 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal

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 inquired 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.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb said to Additional Attorney General (AAG) if notice is given to PTI founder before military trial then we wrap up this case. If you say it has to come like sky lightning without notice then it will not happen so. If trial court says the case has to be sent to military court then notice can be sent.

No clear reply is coming from government. I give you time. Come here bringing clear directives.

The court while accepting AAG plea for giving more time for clear reply adjourned the hearing till next Tuesday.

Nawaz 'unhappy' with govt'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 ses-

sion 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 Consti-

tution, 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.

Another constitutional amendment, Article 63, deals with the disqualification of members of Parliament, and will also undergo significant changes. These changes include provisions regarding the voting behaviour of defecting members of the assembly.



NASEERABAD: Commissioner Naseerabad Division Moeenur Rehman presiding over a meeting regarding 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal

Provincial Minister for LG&RD...

Continued from page 1

messages, the Governor, Chief Minister, Speaker and others expressed condolence with the bereaved family of Sardar Sarfaraz Domki.

In his condolence message, the Governor expressed deep grief and sorrow over demise of Sardar Sarfaraz Chakar Domki and prayed for the departed soul.

He also expressed condolence and sympathy with the bereaved family praying to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul into its eternal peace and give enough strength and patience to the bereaved family to bear the loss of his death.

Similarly, condoling death of Sardar Sarfaraz Chakar Domki, the Chief

Minister said that he is saddened over the death of Sardar Sarfaraz Domki and said that the late was a seasoned politician and credible politician and tribal personality.

He said that late Sardar Sarfaraz always played positive role in political and tribal system of the province. The Chief Minister said that the late Sardar Domki was an active member of the provincial cabinet.

He said that he is with bereaved family of Sardar Sarfaraz Chakar Domki over his death.

In his message, the Speaker Provincial Assembly said that death of Sardar Sarfaraz Domki has created a gap in our assembly and province.

He said that Sardar

Sarfaraz Chakar Domki was a best parliamentarian and a dedicated leader to serve the public.

The Speaker said that the late Sardar served the province and its people with dedication and extra passion, and the same would always be remembered.

The Deputy Speaker Ms. Ghazala Gola, Provincial Minister Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran, Provincial Minister, Mir Sadiq Umrani, Mir Shoaib Nausherwani, Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Mir Saleem Khosa, Advisors to Chief Minister, Dr. Rubaba Buledi, Mir Ali Hasan Zehri, Member Provincial Assembly, Zarak Khan Mandokhail, PPP leader, Mir Ali Madad Jatak, spokesman of provincial government, Shahid Rind also expressed grief and sorrow over death of the Minister Local Government, Sardar Sarfaraz Domki and said that we are standing with the bereaved family over his death in the time of trial.

Meanwhile President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday expressed grief over the death of Balochistan Provincial Minister for Local Government and Rural Development Mir Sarfaraz Chakar Domki. The president lauded the political services of late Mir Sarfaraz Domki and expressed his sympathies for the bereaved family, according to a President House press release.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday expressed his deep grief over the death of Balochistan Provincial Minister for Local Government and Rural Development Sardar Sarfaraz Chakar Domki. "By the death of Sardar Sarfaraz Domki, Balochistan's politics has become bereft of an intellectual and a seasoned politician. We share the grief of his family," the prime minister remarked.

Constitutional amendments...

Continued from page 1

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 amend-

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.

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Karim congratulates all Muslims on Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH)

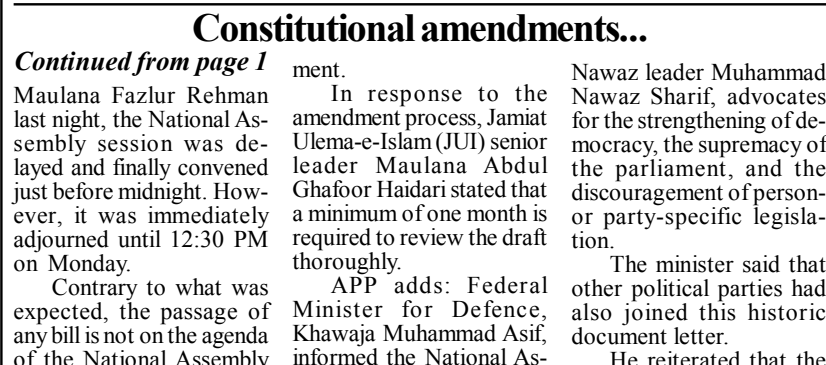
QUETTA (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) central senior leader Chaudhry Naeem Karim on Monday extended warm greetings to Muslims around the world on the auspicious occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH).

In his message, Karim said that the Prophet's birth is a blessing not only for Muslims but for the entire universe, as it marked the beginning of the end of ignorance and darkness.

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MULTAN: Players in action during the First T20 cricket match played between Pakistan and South Africa Women's Cricket Teams at Multan Cricket Stadium.



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CORRIGENDUM

A corrigendum regarding the tender process associated with PRQ No. 782/30-08-2024 pertaining to TSE No. 242508533743, 242508533773 & 242508533783. Initially, the tenders were scheduled to be opened on 18-08-2024. However, due to a necessary revision in the "Basic Eligibility Criteria", the tender opening date has been rescheduled.

The tenders will now be opened on 25-09-2024 instead of 18-09-2024.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (ROADS)
CWPP&H Department District
Loralai

PRQ No.1058/16-9-2024

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer Buildings, CWPP&H Department, District Loralai invites sealed percentage tender based on CSR-2023 Government of Balochistan amended up-to-date from eligible bidders who can prove their eligibility and qualification as mentioned in the Bidding Documents for the work mentioned below. **Earnest Money** 2% of Estimated Cost, Completion Time period 2 Years, Tender Fee Rs.2000/-

S.No.	Name of Scheme	E/Cost
1	Construction of Office Building / Residential Accommodation for Prosecutor of Balochistan (Phase-I) District Loralai (PSDP No.4486 / Z2024.1796) TSE-242509550463	57.658 M

ONLY ELECTRONIC BID WILL BE SUBMITTED, NO PHYSICAL BID IS REQUIRED

Bidding process of aforementioned work will be carried out in accordance with the relevant rules of Balochistan Public Procurement Authorities 2014 & Pakistan Engineering Council By-Laws. **PRELIMINARY / BASIC ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:** The contractors must have valid Registration of firm with PEC in category C-5 and above with specialization codes CE10 in relevant discipline with till date renewal and as well registration with Tax Authorities i.e. (NTN, Sales Tax Department and BRA with till date renewal), where applicable. The prospect bidder(s) must meet the eligibility / qualifying criteria as mentioned in the bidding documents.

METHOD OF PROCUREMENT: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure. **BIDDING/TENDER DOCUMENTS ISSUANCE:** The bidder(s) can obtain the bidding documents from website of BPPRA (www.bppra.gov.pk), under TSE No. given above from the date of publication of this invitation in newspapers till the last date of submission i.e. 03/10/2024 on production of green challan form for an amount of Rs.2000/- (NON REFUNDABLE) deposited in the head of account C-02716 DDO Code L17048 through Government Treasury/National Bank of Pakistan Loralai. The bids must accompany Bid Security with "Technical Bid" for the Project in the form of Call Deposit or Bank Guarantee of amount Specified above in the name of the undersigned from a Scheduled Bank. **DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION:** Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 03rd October, 2024 till 11:00 AM through supplier dashboard.

OPENING OF BIDS: All tenders will be opened on same day at 12:00 PM on EPPS System. **BID VALIDITY:** Ninety (90) days.

ADDRESS: Office of the Executive Engineer (Buildings) CWPP&H Department District Loralai, Contact No.03337768853, Email address: nb5340180875465@gmail.com **TERMS & CONDITIONS:** Terms & Conditions are mentioned (incorporated) in detail in Bidding Documents. The bidders providing unsubstantiated and / or incorrect information will be liable to disqualification and / or legal action.

Executive Engineer (Buildings)
CWPP&H Department District
Loralai

PRQ No.1055/16-9-2024

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CORRIGENDUM

Request for proposal called for PURCHASING OF TRACTOR 385 HP 4 * 4 ALONG WITH FRONT BLADE FOR MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE ZIARAT & PURCHASING OF DUMPER TRUCK (4*2) 03 TON PAYLOAD 2800CC FOR MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE ZIARAT uploaded on BPPRA website vide TSE-242508535331 & TSE-242508535301 published under AB No. 245/02-09-2024. The necessary amendment in Data sheet has been made which can be viewed on BPPRA website. The last date of submission has also been extended; The Tender must be submitted latest by 23 Sep 2024 at 12:00 PM which will be opened on same day at 01:00 PM.

CHIEF OFFICER,
MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE ZIARAT

AB No.300/16-9-2024

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TENDER NOTICE

The Deputy Director Agriculture OFWM Ziarat invites bids from eligible bidders for execution of following works for the years 2024-25 based on Composite Schedule of Rates 2023 Tender Fee Rs. 1,000/- in shape of Green Challan form deposited in head of account (C03136) E/Money 2% of estimated cost in shape of Call Deposit and time limit 30-06-2025 for the work

S#	Name of Works	Tender Cost
1	Drilling of Bore along with Solar System (2No), Deve of Dug Well along with Solar System (2No), Const of Water Storage Tank (1No) and Installation of PVC Pipeline (1No) under PSDP No. 75[Z2024.2704]	27,939,397

Procurements shall be made under BPPRA Rules 2014 Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turnover of at least 19,557,577 PKR amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-5 and above (Up to 65million) in relevant category and specialized codes CE04(i) (Dams/Water Retaining Structures), CE09(ii) (Water Supply), CE10(i) (General Civil Engineering Works) & EE11(vi) (Solar Installation) The bidding Firm must submit Company's latest Bank Account Statement or Bank Credit Line Certificate. The issuance date of Bank Account Statement or Bank Credit Line Certificate shall not be older than July 2024 Income Tax Registration certificate is required to be submitted. The bidding firm must submit Income Tax Return of 3 subsequent previous years. The Bidding Firm must submit Audit Report / Audit Balance Sheet of 3 subsequent previous years. The Bidding Firm must submit Tender Document Fee Rs. 1,000 PKR **Method of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security of estimated cost in the form of Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Issuance of tender Documents:** Tender documents will be issued from the date of NIT published in newspapers till deadline of bid submission. The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed of any working day or downloaded from authority website against TSE No. 242509549873 **Bid Validity Period:** 90 days **Deadline of Bid submission:** The tender should be submitted on 03-10-2024 till 10:30AM at the office of the undersigned. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 10:30AM. **Address:** Opp: ZTLB near to NADRA Office. **Contact No.** 0833920020/03327856292

Deputy Director Agriculture
On Farm Water Management Ziarat

PRQ No.1065/16-9-2024

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Pakistan seeks...

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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.

ment.

In response to the amendment process, Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (JUI) senior leader Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haidari stated that a minimum of one month is required to review the draft thoroughly.

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. There is no political motivation behind this action."

"We want and desire complete consensus within the house. The process will continue, and we believe that no one will oppose the proposals. We are determined to shape the constitution in line with the agreement in the Charter of Democracy (CoD)," he added.

Asif said that, as representatives, members have the right to propose legislation that strengthens parliamentary supremacy and democracy. "Representing 250 million people, we have every right to work for the strengthening of parliament as defined in the Constitution," he said.

He further said that representatives have the right to do any intrusions into parliamentary powers and the Constitution.

Khawaja Asif said that the Charter of Democracy (CoD), signed in 2006 by Pakistan Peoples Party leader Benazir Bhutto and Pakistan Muslim League-

Nawaz leader Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, advocates for the strengthening of democracy, the supremacy of the parliament, and the discouragement of person-or party-specific legislation.

The minister said that other political parties had also joined this historic document letter.

He reiterated that the proposed constitutional package has no political motivation. He mentioned that in the proposed draft, Article 63-A, which previously stated that a vote cast would not be counted, has been reversed.

Asif added that the establishment of constitutional courts, as proposed in the draft, aligns with the CoD and is a practice followed globally.

The purpose, he said, is to ensure speedy justice. He cited an example of an individual who received justice after 25 years, having spent most of that time on death cell.

Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar on Monday informed the National Assembly that the process of talks has been initiated with all the political parties in the Parliament (National Assembly and Senate) on the proposed constitutional package.

Responding to points raised by PTI lawmaker Asad Qaisar, the minister said it would be the government's efforts to evolve consensus on the document.

He urged the opposition parties to come up with positive recommendations instead of undue criticisms, assuring that these would be accommodated in the proposed constitutional package.

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 a 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

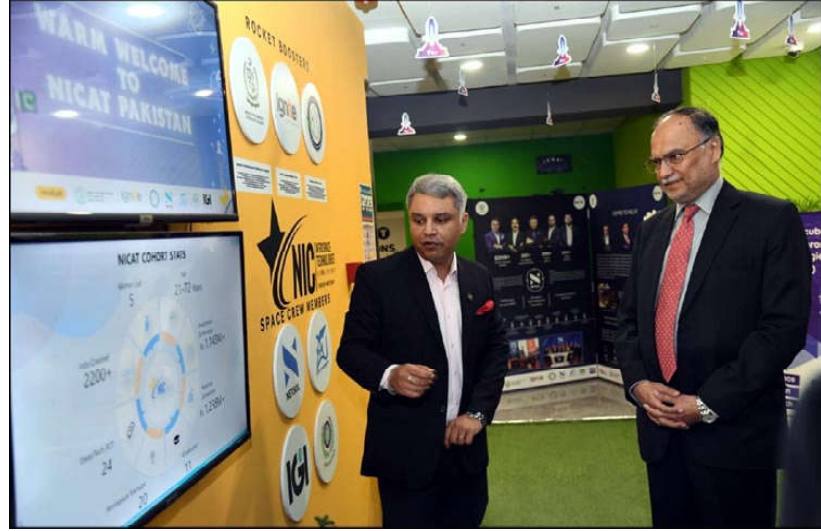
to restore and preserve the ozone layer for future generations has been globally recognised and presented as a case study, the PM's climate aide highlighted while addressing as a chief guest at the national experts' dialogue regarding the World Ozone Day 2024 held here on Monday in the climate change & 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



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.

Shamim Shwal says: Climate change not merely environmental issue but existential threat undermining human rights

ISLAMABAD (APP): Representative of the Indian Muslim Women's Union (IMWU), Shamim Shwal has called upon world leaders particularly the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to prioritize climate action as a fundamental human rights issue.

Taking part in an interactive dialogue along with Special Reporters on climate change in Geneva, Switzerland Ms Shwal while referring to the alarming effects of climate change in Indian Occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir, said that despite the overwhelming evidence of climate change's impact there was currently no dedi-

cated mechanism at the Human Rights Council that addresses this crisis holistically, a news release said.

Citing the Amnesty International report, she said that the humanity was under threat from climate change. "Kashmiris are witnessing the alarming effects of climate change firsthand", the IMWU representative said, adding that daily temperatures were rising, with fluctuations ranging from 0.3 to 1.9 degrees Celsius.

The rising temperature, she said, has dire consequences for Kashmiri communities, particularly for those who rely on agriculture and horticulture for their livelihoods.

"The maximum snow-

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. IGP 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-



ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi holding a Khuli Katchery at the Central Police Office Islamabad.

Chinese institutes contribute to developing major standards for elder care in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Several Chinese universities, vocational colleges, and enterprises have played a key role in the development of major standards for elder care health and wellness in Pakistan, further strengthening Sino-Pak collaboration in the education and healthcare sectors.

According to recognition certificates issued by the National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) and the Pakistan Nursing & Midwifery Council (PNMC), faculty members from renowned Chinese institutions, including Jiangsu Vocational Institute of Commerce, Anhui Vocational College of City Management, Xuzhou Open University, Beijing Youth Politics College, Dezhou Vocational and Technical College, Changsha Social Work College, Guangxi Vo-

ational & Technical College, Pingxiang Health Vocational College, ITMC Technology Co Ltd, and UNI Services International Pvt Ltd, contributed to the development of these essential standards.

The collaboration also extends to joint efforts in developing curriculum standards, digital resources, and practical training software for elder care, as well as the establishment of a comprehensive teaching resource database. These resources are now being implemented in Pakistani colleges and universities.

This cooperative initiative marks an important step in advancing elder care in Pakistan, allowing both countries to explore further cooperation in smart elder care in a more refined, standardized, and professional manner, according to a report from China Economic Net.



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.

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 Shahrugh Arjumand for hearing for today.

Judge Shahrugh 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).

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.



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.

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 Awal (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: Heavy machinery being used for the repair of Pandora Link Road 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 Khawaja Allauddin Ali Ahmed Sabir (RA) under the framework of 1974 India-Pakistan protocol on visits to religious shrines.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent
Tuesday September 17, 2024

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.

Umair Javed

In comparison to other multiethnic/multicultural countries in Asia, like India and Malaysia, Pakistan is a bit of an anomaly in that the largest identity group is not formally politicised. While Hindutva is the predominant political force in India, and Malay nationalism remains the basis of the modern Malaysian state, Punjabis do not vote as Punjabis in mainstream Pakistani politics.

There are a number of explanations for this. One can argue that Punjabis already enjoy a privileged role in the polity on account of how population numbers form the basis of the National Assembly. With nearly 100 out of 266 directly elected seats coming from north and central Punjab, the region and its chosen representatives carry outsized importance in the making, breaking, and functioning of governments.

Additionally, continuities with colonial-era patterns of economic development and recruitment, especially in the military, ensures more than

proportionate Punjabi representation in the state as well as greater access to resources. This is partly why districts of north and central Punjab score the highest in any composite measure of human development compared to the rest of the country.

If the political and development needs of a population are being addressed by the state to an extent greater than for anyone else, it leaves arguably little need for identity-based politics. While it may make sense for Pakistan's marginalised ethnic groups to mobilise given existing patterns of underdevelopment and political disenfranchisement, the largest group faces no such compulsion.

This is a persuasive argument and probably helps explain the absence of Punjabi ethnic nationalism. However, privileged status and outsized numbers aren't always enough to limit a group's politicisation.

Upper-caste Hindus in India are by far the most economically privileged population and enjoy representation greater than even their numbers, yet

they continue to mobilise against Muslim and lower-caste 'others', in service of a virulent, majoritarian politics.

Instead, what may push a majority towards majoritarianism is the loss of privilege in a relative sense, which enables victimhood narratives. This is clearly visible in India, where a handful of reservation-based concessions made to lower-caste and minority groups continuously triggers those already dominant. The result is an aggressive and periodically violent backlash.

In Pakistan, there are a few developments taking place, mostly on social media at the moment, which are worth monitoring to assess whether the demographic majority here can go the same way.

The first is an earnest and largely wholesome revival of Punjabi cultural identity in the digital sphere. There is plenty of new internet content covering the history and cultural heritage of the region, highlighting connections with Punjabis on the other side of the border, and popularising the use of the Punjabi language.

Such content is useful since it helps revive cultural diversity in a region that adopted regressive religion-tinged nationalism most forcefully after 1947. One aspect of this adoption was that upward mobility in Punjab gradually became synonymous with a discarding of Punjabi language and heritage by the urban middle classes, often in favour of Urdu and greater religiosity.

Helping a younger generation connect with their cultural heritage, especially their mother tongue, is a worthy goal in its own right. And if, in that process, it allows people to forgo regressive fundamentalism, and forge connections with others across the border as well as helps them see the essence of shared heritage and humanity, it only advances the cause of peace and co-existence in the region. In other words, Punjabi cultural revival is necessary for a more progressive and tolerant Pakistan.

But on the margins of this revival lurk more regressive tendencies. These were visible in the aftermath of the BLA attack in Balochistan, which led to

the death of 23 people. The bizarre demand to boycott Quetta hotels established in Punjabi cities, which are in fact run by Pakhtun entrepreneurs, is one such example. Another dangerous one is the episodic call for the expulsion of Baloch and Pakhtun students studying in universities of Punjab, labelling them as namak haram troublemakers or terrorism enablers.

This is not the first time ethnic prejudice has reared its ugly head in Punjab, but it would be catastrophic if such tendencies are allowed to gain a mainstream foothold. The prejudice of a minority group and that of a majority group are significantly different. The former at worst results in the creation of enclaves of exclusion and insularity. The latter, however, creates majoritarianism capable of far greater violence.

Pakistan's uneven patterns of development require considerable redistribution and affirmative action to achieve greater equity. The so-called ethnic peripheries are underdeveloped, and, on average,

someone born in Balochistan or the ex-tribal areas is going to have fewer opportunities for mobility than a fellow citizen born in urban Punjab or Karachi.

Resultantly, regions that are more developed need to forgo some of their resources to help those areas that lag behind. Any re-allocation, such as the reservation of seats in Punjab's universities, should be prevented from being portrayed as an unfair concession. Instead it should rightly be seen as a necessity for social justice and equality of citizenship.

To (mostly) their credit, mainstream parties popular in Punjab generally avoid stoking Punjabi ethnic prejudice. The PTI, as a national entity with a strong base in urban Sindh and KP, stands to gain little in any case. The PML-N, on the other hand, has its electoral base largely confined to the province and has occasionally dabbled in ethnic appeals. But on big questions, such as redistribution of finances under the NFC and devolution of central government power, its track record is more federalist. -- Courtesy Dawn

Regaining global relevance**Maleeha Lodhi**

Pakistan is becoming increasingly marginalised in international affairs. It is no longer able to shape the strategic environment in its neighbourhood to advance its interests, much less influence global geopolitics.

The country has faced reversals on a number of fronts, notably Kashmir and Afghanistan. Once an active diplomatic player in the Middle East, today its principal engagement with the region is to seek loans from rich Arab countries. Even the country's most critical bilateral relationship — with China — is facing challenges. Its international relevance has been progressively declining and its diplomatic options shrinking.

A combination of factors is responsible for this situation. Pakistan's economic weakness, political instability, unceasing turmoil, poor governance, continuing internal security threats and strategic confusion. The key question raised by this is why the country was strategically 'relevant' in the past when some of these characteristics were also present.

The answer is that factors or developments extra-

neous to Pakistan gave it a significant role and importance in global geopolitics. For over two decades after its independence, it was the Cold War that catapulted Pakistan into the position of a much sought-after ally by the US-led West in its fight against communism. Membership of Western-sponsored military alliances enabled it to benefit from significant economic and military assistance.

In the 1980s, it was the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan that propelled Pakistan in a 'front-line' role in the international coalition's campaign to roll back Russian occupation. The defeat and disintegration of the Soviet Union was followed by a period in which Pakistan's geopolitical importance declined precipitously. 9/11 dramatically changed that. Pakistan once again assumed a front-line role in the so-called War on Terror. This enabled the country to coast along for two decades in a globally prominent role as a result of the US and Nato countries' need for Pakistan's cooperation in the war in Afghanistan.

What all three phases underlined was that exter-

nal dynamics, regional geopolitical storms or big power rivalries enhanced Pakistan's international importance. Thus, factors extraneous to the country affected transformations in Pakistan's global status, not its intrinsic importance. But in the changed international environment of the post-Cold War era what increasingly mattered was countries' own attributes that gave them importance. There Pakistan came up short.

This should have been an urgent call to adjust to new realities. External overreach and internal underreach had characterised Pakistan's past priorities and actions. That was no longer tenable. But successive governments failed to see the world had changed fundamentally and the days of living off geopolitical rents were over. Ruling elites didn't understand the only way the country could reverse the erosion in its strategic importance was by strengthening and empowering itself at home and putting its own house in order. But old habits persisted as did outdated paradigms.

Pakistan now has to operate in and adapt to a

vastly transformed international environment. The post-Cold War era has given way to a world of growing multipolarity, where power is being redistributed and where there is intense competition among states for global influence. In this transformed landscape, it is increasingly the economic power of countries that gives them international clout and heft. Nations with strong economies and who are technology innovators are the ones that have become consequential in the international arena.

The growing importance and rising clout of 'middle powers' in global affairs reflects this. Middle powers are not superpowers but have characteristics that give them the ability to influence and shape geopolitics. Most middle powers have strong economies and possess other positive attributes that provide them leverage in global affairs to pursue their national interests as well as the ability to build multiple relationships through skilful diplomacy.

The structural changes and dispersal of power in the international system — the currency of

power having changed — has created an enabling environment for middle power diplomatic activism and for them to wield greater influence and become global players. Middle powers play off the US-China competition to strengthen their bargaining position even while they seek to enhance relations with both global powers. They try to avoid getting into the crosshairs of that confrontation but also reap advantages from it. This urges both the US and China to pay more attention to them to ensure they are not firmly tied to their rival's camp.

Pakistan doesn't figure today among middle powers that include many countries of the Global South, such as Türkiye, India, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Singapore among several others. But it has all the potential to become one.

To be internationally relevant, it must first and foremost build a strong and resilient economy that is not reliant on external life support, on bailouts and borrowing — an economy integrated into the global economy, which at present it is far from

being. This needs efficient governance, political stability and an end to the political squabbles that keep the country in such an unsettled, distracted and divided state. It also needs an educated citizenry and workforce that has the ability to innovate and contribute to scientific and technological progress. All this will engender national self-confidence that can empower the country with hope and optimism, which acts as a force multiplier.

Along with building domestic strength, incorporating soft power in the country's diplomatic strategy will also help to improve its global standing and reputation. Understood as a country's qualities or behaviour that appeals to others, soft power can be an indispensable tool to boost its international influence and image. Pakistan has several soft power resources which if identified and leveraged intelligently can help create positive perceptions about the country and build trust, which in turn, can elevate its position and elicit support from the international community for its foreign policy goals.

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 resurrected 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) apprised 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 handpicked 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 anticipated 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 Khurshed 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 Musadik 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

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 antiterrorism laws, including the recent decision to allow for preventive detention of suspected terrorists in

State and citizens

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 Yakjehti 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' counterparty 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 counterparty 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

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 responsibilities.

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.



LAHORE: An illuminated view of Jamia Masjid Shah Inayat Qadri (Oonchi Masjid) decorated with colorful lights in connection with Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) Celebrations.

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's 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.

"Jashn-e-Milad is a prestigious event. Hence, the government, on special directions of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, will facilitate the faithful to maximum extent in addition to distributing sweets and Halwa among the participants of Milad processions," she added.

Biometric verification, transfer made mandatory

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Excise Department has taken a significant step by making biometric verification mandatory for vehicle registrations and transfers. Sindh Senior Minister for Information, Transport, Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon, has said that all new and old vehicles will now be subject to biometric verification during the registration or transfer process.

He elaborated that under the new policy, the change will be implemented

in three phases. In the first phase, starting from July 1, biometric verification will be mandatory for the registration of new vehicles. In the second phase, beginning on November 1, biometric verification will be required for vehicle buyers. In the third phase, biometric verification of both the vehicle seller and buyer will be enforced.

Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said that they are working to make all processes more transparent in the Excise Department.

Minister attends swearing-in of Daska Press Club

SIALKOT (APP): Provincial Minister for Local Government Mian Zeeshan Rafique participated in a swearing-in ceremony of the Press Club Daska and Electronic Media Association.

Press Club Daska Chairman Shakeel Akram Butt, General Secretary Rana Waseem Ashraf, Dr. Afzal Khan, Pervez Alam Butt, Adnan Nasir Mughal, Ghazanfar Mughal, Rana Muhammad Shabbir and President Electronic Media Association Daska, Imran Sharif, General Secretary

Usman Haider, Muzaffar Chauhan, Naveed Sheikh, Malik Chand and Saleem Abbas Bukhari took the oath.

Minister Mian Zeeshan Rafique, addressing the ceremony, said that journalism and politics were interconnected. "Journalism is a sacred profession and journalists should keep the facts in mind while carrying out their professional affairs and should not allow the sanctity of the pen to be violated," he added.



KARACHI: Lawyers hold a banner during protest in favor of their demands at city court, in the Provincial Capital.

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 development 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 sectors of the economy are open for investment with attractive incentives and liberal policies to provide favorable business.



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.

EPC takes key decision to tackle pollution

PESHAWAR (APP): The second meeting of the Environmental Protection Council (EPC) was held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Amin Khan Gandapur.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Secretary, relevant administrative secretaries, and private members of the council.

The meeting made important decisions to address environmental pollution in the province. It was decided to strictly enforce the ban on the use of plastic bags across the province, especially in tourist areas.

A three-month deadline was set for the complete ban on the use and sale of plastic bags.

After the deadline, strict action will be taken against the use of plastic bags.

The meeting decided to launch a project to convert brick kilns to zig-zag technology. Under the project, soft loans will be provided to owners on easy terms.

The meeting discussed the declaration of tourist areas as environmentally sensitive. The Environment Department was directed to consult with all stakeholders and submit final proposals for cabinet approval. The meeting discussed the establishment of a Climate Change Center. Relevant authorities were directed to submit proposals for the establishment.



HYDERABAD: Children participating in rally in connection with Eid-Milad-un-Nabi celebrations at Latifabad.

AJK gears up to celebrate Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) with religious fervor

MIRPUR-AJK (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) is all set to celebrate Eid Milad-un-Nabi (Peace Be Upon Him), the birthday of the last Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) with utmost religious enthusiasm and devotion on September 17.

According to APP, like the rest of the Islamic world, the liberated part of the Himalayan state of Jammu and Kashmir - Azad Jammu and Kashmir has completed all the necessary arrangements to mark this one of the most sacred days in Islamic history.

Milad processions and 'Mahafil-e-Milad' (Milad gatherings) will be held in all major and minor towns and cities across AJK. The main celebrations will take place in the capital city of Muzaffarabad, as well as

in all 10 AJK districts, including Mirpur, Kotli, Bagh, Rawalakot, Palandri, Bhimber, Neelam Valley, Haveeli and Jhelum Valley.

Islamic scholars and seasoned Ulema (religious scholars) from all schools of thought in the Muslim community will pay glorious tributes to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) for his remarkable services and the message of Allah Almighty that he conveyed to humanity, particularly to the Muslim Ummah. The streets and roads including markets and shopping centers have been beautifully decorated with lights and colorful banners depicting the Prophet's birthday.

Gates have been erected on all major roads and streets in towns and cities across AJK.

Sindh PA unanimously adopts resolution for declaring Sept 7 as Youm-e Khatme Nabuwwat

KARACHI (APP): The Provincial Assembly (PA) of Sindh on Monday unanimously passed a resolution urging the Sindh Government to announce celebration of September 7 as 'Youm-e-Khatme Nabuwwat (SAWW)' across the province every year.

Mohammed Farooq of the Jamaat-e-Islami, moving the resolution in House, said every Muslim has a firm belief in Khatme Nabuwwat (SAWW).

He said that on September 7, 1974, the National Assembly had made the historical decision to declare the Qadiyanis non-Muslims.

He said that it was the responsibility of everyone to highlight such historic decisions, and asked the Sindh Government to officially declare Sept 7 as 'Youm-e-Khatme Nabuwwat (SAWW)'.

Sindh Home Minister Zia Hasan Lanjar, and

many MPs from treasury and opposition benches also spoke on the occasion and fully supported the resolution.

Earlier, the assembly session commenced with recitation of the verses from the Holy Quran and Naat Sharif with Speaker Syed Awais Qadir Shah in the chair.

Sindh Minister for Local Government Saeed Ghani answered questions regarding his department raised by the lawmakers.

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.

Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Imran Nazir wished the Turkish Consul General, Durmus Bastag, a swift recovery.

Executive Director Prof. Anjum Jalal, MS Dr. Shoab Aslam, Additional Technical Secretary Dr. Waseem, Dr. Amir Bandisha.

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.



LAHORE: A meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Law and Order held under the chairmanship of Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique to review security and arrangements for Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW). Finance Minister Mujtaba Shujaur Rehman and Transport Minister Bilal Akbar Khan participated in the meeting.

Customs seize 25 tons of smuggled betel nuts

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Customs seized a significant quantity of smuggled hazardous betel nuts from a warehouse in the Gulzar Hijri area.

According to a news release on Monday, the Anti-Smuggling Organization (ASO) of Customs, acting on a tip-off, raided a godown at the Sir Syed roundabout in Gulzar Hijri and recovered 25 tons of betel nuts valued at Rs. 25 million.

The confiscated betel nuts were transported to the Customs warehouse. A case has been registered, and further investigations are ongoing.

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.

He lauded the health department for its efforts in containing the outbreak, noting that no deaths have been reported this year due to dengue, nor has there been a significant rise in cases as anticipated. "This is a clear testament to the efficiency and proactive approach of the health department," he added.

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 Chenu. 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.

Senior civil judge denies bail for fraudulent Hajj, Umrah female organizer

MANSEHRA (APP): The bail application of Shehnaz Bibi, the principal suspect in a massive fraud involving millions of rupees collected under the pretense of providing discounted Hajj and Umrah services, was denied on Monday.

Shehnaz Bibi, who was accused in 2016 of deceiving numerous people by promising inexpensive Hajj and Umrah packages, faced formal charges after

a complaint was lodged with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

Following her arrest on September 5, 2024, Shehnaz Bibi sought bail through the Sessions Court.

The court proceedings saw strong opposition from the victims' legal representatives, including Abdul Moiz Ali Khan.

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 long-standing 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 Niaz 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 Niaz 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.



ISLAMABAD: The President of Asian Development Bank (ADB) Masatsugu Asakawa is inaugurating the foundation of ADB's new building in the presence of Secretary Economic Affairs in Federal Capital.

CDNS to attain mark of Rs 180 billion in fresh bonds

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has set an annual 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 June 30.

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 Rs 1.742 trillion in fresh bonds and exceeded 100 percent of the annual target in the last fiscal year 2023-24, from July 1 to June 30.

National Savings has set an annual target of Rs 1.7 trillion for the year 2023-24; it is encouraging that this year, "We surpassed the 100 percent of the annual target."

CDNS surpassed the annual target and achieved the target of Rs 1.6 trillion in fresh bonds in the previous fiscal year 2022-23, he said. He said this was an Rs 200 billion additional annual target than the target of Rs 1300 billion for the previous financial year 2021-22.

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.

Muhammad Tahir said that the government was striving hard to give maximum relief to the masses by reducing fuel prices. He said that reduction in the transport fare must be ensured.

The transport owners agreed to reduce the fare by 5 percent for local and non-local travellers.

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.

Gold rates up by Rs.1,700 per tola to Rs.268,000

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.1,700 and was sold at Rs.268,000 on Monday compared to its sale at Rs. 266,300 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.1,458 to Rs. 229,767 from Rs. 228,309 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs.210,620 from Rs. 209,283, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs.2,950 and Rs.2,529.14, respectively.

Senate committee delves into TDAP board membership

Independent Report
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. Commerce Minister Jam Kamal assured that the issue would be resolved promptly.

Agri Minister presides meeting for Sindh Seed Corporation reforms

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Minister for Agriculture Sardar Muhammad Bux Mahar presided over a meeting regarding Sindh Seed Corporation on Monday and decided that new reforms would be introduced to make it a viable organization.

Provincial Secretary Agriculture Rafique Ahmed Burriro, Managing Director Sindh Seed Corporation, all Directors General of Agriculture department, Agriculture experts and officers concerned were attended the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Agriculture Minister said there was a need to bring new reforms in the Sindh Seed Corporation.

Muhammad Bux Mahar also directed the Secretary Agriculture to prepare and submit a plan within 15 days.

He also directed the officers to prepare a plan regarding reforms in the corporation and submit it to him so that it would be presented before cabinet.

Mahar said that Sindh Seed Corporation is in worse condition, the officers should improve their performance.

Sardar Maher said Sindh Seed Corporation needs to be self sufficient. Agriculture Minister said that he was not satisfied with the performance of officers of Seed Corporation, good officers should be appointed immediately.

Agriculture Secretary Rafiq Ahmed Burriro, MD Sindh Seed Corporation and other officers briefed the meeting regarding proposed reforms in the Corporation. He also directed to send good officers and employees from all the wings of the Ministry of Agriculture to Seed Corporation.

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DC holds Revenue Darbar at New Peshawar

PESHAWAR (APP): In light of the swift progress on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's new mega residential project, New Peshawar Valley, and to address the grievances of landowners, Deputy Commissioner Peshawar, Sarmad Saleem Akram, organized a Revenue Darbar at the project directorate of New Peshawar Valley.



QUETTA: Containers Trailor Truck Association President Ehsan Ul Haq addressing a press conference.

PSX witnesses bullish trend, gains 158 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Monday, gaining 158.08 more points, a positive change of 0.20 percent, closing at 79,491.14 points against 79,333.06 points on the last working day.

A total of 536,187,271 shares were traded during the day as compared to 916,053,875 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 8.911 billion against Rs. 21,236 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 443 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 139 of them recorded gains and 253 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 51 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Pace (Pak) Limited with 56,890,305 shares at Rs 6.96 per share, Cnergycio PK with 48,934,827 shares at Rs 4.16 per share and WorldCall Telecom with 40,218,735 shares at Rs 1.39 per share.

Hoechst Pakistan Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.128.60 per share price, closing at Rs 2,079.60, whereas the runner-up was Reliance Cotton Spinning Mills Limited with a Rs 53.86 rise in its per share price to Rs 592.43.

WTO says chief to seek second term

GENEVA (AFP/APP): Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, the first woman and first African to head the World Trade Organization, will seek a second four-year term when her mandate expires next August, her spokesmen said Monday.

"We can confirm that Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala has officially announced her intention to seek a second term as Director-General of the WTO," spokesman Ismaila Dieng said in a statement.

Dieng said the 70-year-old had taken into account "the overwhelming and broad-based support expressed by members".

Her current term at the helm of the 166-member WTO ends in August 2025.

Her decision to seek another term was officially communicated to WTO chair Norwegian Ambassador Petter Olberg on Monday.

The WTO's African Group formally requested that she make herself available for a second term at that same meeting, and proposed that the process to re-nominate her should begin as soon as possible.

So far no other candidates have come forward.

Okonjo-Iweala, who took over in March 2021, has hinged her leadership on breathing new life into the sclerotic organisation.

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 Tamol 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 Sohal Khan Kamrial, Ehsan Bajwa, MPAs Raja Hanif, Ziaullah Shah, Malik Maqsood, former MPAs Sardar Ifikhar Khan Mittu and former Deputy Mayor Islamabad Chaudhry Rifat 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.

KP CM'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.

He said the provincial government was prioritizing to make maximum use of local resources and facilitate the local investors.



BAHAWALPUR: A man buys fresh mangoes from a local vendor at a roadside stall in the city.

CCP issues show cause notices to ten steel suppliers for collusive bidding

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has issued show cause notices to ten steel suppliers for collusive bidding.

The CCP has issued show cause notices to ten steel structure suppliers involved in procurement tenders floated by various Distribution Companies (DISCOs) for the alleged collusive bidding, a prima facie, violation of Section 4 of the Competition Act, 2010, said a press release issued here on Monday.

The ten undertakings include M/s. AM Associates (Pvt) Ltd, M/s. Ajmer Engineering Electric Works (Pvt) Ltd, M/s. Khalifa Sons (Pvt) Ltd, M/s. Siddique Sons Engineering (Pvt) Ltd, M/s. Vision Engineering (Pvt) Ltd, M/s. AW Engineering (Pvt) Ltd, M/s. FN Power (Pvt) Ltd, M/s. Gujranwala Cable (Pvt) Ltd, M/s. AH Associates (Pvt) Ltd, and M/s. Process Dynamics (Pvt) Ltd. The CCP took suo motu notice and initiated an enquiry under Section 37(1) of the Competition Act, 2010. During the enquiry, search and inspections were also conducted at the premises of three Lahore-based companies, where critical documents and records were impounded for further examination. During the enquiry, bidding data from 2015 to 2022, obtained from all DISCOs, particularly regarding the procurement of transmission towers, was analysed. Economic evidence revealed a consistent pattern of bidding where these companies appeared to have submitted identical or near-identical rates, with differences as small as 0.001% to 1%.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Anusha Rahman Ahmad Khan, Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Commerce, presides over a committee meeting at the Parliament House in Islamabad.

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

Monitoring Desk
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

Monitoring Desk
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.



Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev shakes hands with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz during a meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan.

US Elections: Trump stalks global climate talks as COP29 draws near

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The prospect of Donald Trump returning as president is hanging over crucial UN-sponsored climate negotiations, with countries "holding back" their positions until they know who sits in the White House. Veteran observers of climate diplomacy say uncertainty over the election outcome is stalling this November's COP29 summit, which starts just six days after voters decide between Trump and Kamala Harris. The election lands awkwardly as governments try to build global consensus in the coming months not just around climate but stronger protections for the environment and a treaty to address plastic pollution. As president, Trump

withdrew the United States from the Paris Agreement on global warming — Joe Biden later rejoined the accord — and there are concerns over what his re-election might mean for climate action. This year's negotiations hope to increase money for poorer countries to handle climate change, but some governments have not proposed a concrete dollar figure, wary of committing too soon. "Everybody is holding back until they know who gets elected," said Mohamed Adow, a campaigner and head of research group Power Shift Africa. This apparent wait-and-see approach has frustrated those seeking a new long-term commitment at COP29 from rich nations to pay the trillions of dollars needed for clean energy.

Israeli leaflets tell south Lebanon residents to evacuate

Monitoring Desk
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 of the region with the areas marked for evacuation in red.

Parts of Europe in grips of worst flooding in decades

Monitoring Desk
GLUCHOLAZY: One person has drowned in Poland and an Austrian fireman has died responding to floods, authorities said on Sunday, as Storm Boris lashed central and eastern Europe with torrential rains. Since Thursday, swathes of Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia have been hit by high winds and unusually heavy rainfall. The rains have flooded streets and submerged entire neighbourhoods in some places, while shutting down public transport and electricity in others. Romanians waded through armpit-high water to safety. Poles sought shelter in schools and Czechs hurriedly put up sand dykes in an effort to keep the water at bay. Sunday's deaths bring the overall toll from the storm to seven, with thou-

sands evacuated across the continent. In Romania, a body was found on Sunday, after four people were reported killed earlier. Four people were reported missing in the Czech Republic. "The water came into the house, it destroyed the walls, everything," Sofia Basalic, 60, a resident of Romania's village of Pechea, in the hard-hit region of Galati, said. "It took the chickens, the rabbits, everything. It took the oven, the washing machine, the refrigerator. I have nothing left," she said. "Heartfelt solidarity with all affected by the devastating floods in Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia", EU Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen wrote on X, formerly Twitter, adding that the EU was ready to offer support.



Residents rescue an elderly person from the rising flood waters in the Romanian village of Slobozia Conachi.



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

Monitoring Desk
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.

Biden says US Secret Service needs more help

Monitoring Desk
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.

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

Monitoring Desk
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 reneged on 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, European Union and UN sanctions.

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

Monitoring Desk
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 (Alexandra Ivanovich) Matsegora saw off North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui at the Pyongyang International Airport," the embassy said in a post on its Vkontakte social network.



Supporters of Donald Trump gather around Mar-A-Lago, after he returned from Trump International Golf Club following an assassination attempt, to his residence at Mar-A-Lago, in Palm Beach, Florida.

Philippines to continue to deploy vessels in contested South China Sea shoal

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: The Philippines will continuously deploy vessels in the contested Sabina Shoal in the South China Sea, its coast guard said on Monday after a Philippine ship returned to port after a five-month deployment there. "We will sustain presence over these waters," Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) Spokesperson Jay Tarrila told a press conference. The PCG's vessel, Teresa Magbanua, was deployed to Sabina Shoal in April to monitor what Manila suspects to be China's small-scale land reclamation activities in the area. It returned to port on Sunday. Tarrila said the ship's return was not related to China's demand for Manila to withdraw its vessel, instead it was so it could be repaired and to attend to the crew's medical needs. Sabina Shoal, which China refers to as Xianbin Reef and the Philippines as the Escoda Shoal, lies west of the Philippine province of Palawan.

Philippine ship leaves flashpoint reef

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: A Philippine vessel that spent months anchored at a disputed reef in the South China Sea has left the area, the national maritime council said on Sunday. The Philippine Coast Guard ship BRP Teresa Magbanua had been anchored inside the Sabina Shoal since April to assert Manila's claims to the area and prevent China from seizing it. Beijing has continued to press its claims to almost the entire South China Sea despite an international tribunal ruling that its assertion has no legal basis. Philippine and Chinese vessels have collided at least three times recently near Sabina Shoal.

Hundreds rally in Paris for Iranian women's rights

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: Hundreds of people marched through Paris on Sunday in support of women's rights and the opposition in Iran, two years after the death of Mahsa Amini sparked protests against the country's religious authorities. A 22-year-old Iranian Kurd, Amini died in custody after being arrested for allegedly violating the Islamic Republic's strict dress code for women. The march, organised by around 20 human rights associations, took place as 34 women began a hunger strike in Tehran prison to mark the two-year anniversary of her death. Franco-Iranian lawyer and member of the "Iran Justice" collective, said that the "sacrifices" made by Iranians opposed to the regime were "not in vain". "Everything has changed in Iran," Ardakani told AFP. "We've gone from an absolutely patriarchal culture, where there was no question of women being able to reveal themselves in the street, to massive support for these women," the lawyer and activist added. The march in solidarity with the "Women, Life, Freedom" movement was attended by Benjamin Briere and Louis Arnaud, two Frenchmen who were arrested and arbitrarily detained in Iran. Chirinne Ardakani, a

Kolkata college head charged for tampering in rape case

Monitoring Desk
KOLKATA: India's federal police have charged the former head of R. G. Kar Medical College in Kolkata with tampering with evidence linked to the rape and murder of a junior female doctor, a case that triggered weeks of nationwide protests. Former college principal Sandip Ghosh is already in police custody for suspected graft. The additional charges were made against him in a petition filed on Saturday by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) before a court.

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

Monitoring Desk
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

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

Monitoring Desk
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 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.

UK foreign minister Lammy plays down Putin threats

Monitoring Desk
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

Greece to ban new short-term lets in Athens for at least a year

Monitoring Desk
ATHENS: A ban on new licences for short-term rentals in three districts in central Athens will be in force for at least a year, the Greek government said on Monday, also raising the tax on such holiday lets. Like many other European tourism destinations, Greece is seeking to balance a profitable industry fuelled by online platforms such as Airbnb with the needs of locals facing a housing shortage. A lack of housing and the rising cost of living prompted the country this month to announce an increase in a tax on short-term rentals, ban new licences in central Athens and give homeowners incentives to switch to long-term rentals. Detailing that plan, Greek Tourism Minister Olga Kefalogianni said on Monday that the ban for new licences on short-term rentals in three districts in central Athens could be extended beyond the initial one year. "We have found that they (short-term rentals) operate somehow as hotels, while there is also a lot of pressure on society," Kefalogianni told reporters. The ban on new short-term lets in Athens would take effect on Jan 1, 2025. With many homeowners choosing short-term lets for their property, Athenians are having a hard time to find an affordable house to rent. "I was looking for a house for eight-nine months and ended up in the one I'm in now," said Alma Lazi, 34, a private sector worker who lives in the central Athens borough of Pangrati. "Even during that period when I was looking and expanding the range of areas that I was considering, I didn't find anything I could afford to maintain." A daily tax on short-term rentals which helps the country deal with the impact of natural disasters related to climate change will be increased to 8 euros from 1.5 euros for the April-to-October period, Finance Minister Kostis Hatzidakis said. The tax will rise to 2 euros from 0.5 euros for the winter months. Greece expects its revenue from tourism to hit 22 billion euros this year, another record high, Kefalogianni said.

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 Paki-

stan (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 individuals.

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 sena-

tors.

Justice Naeem 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.



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 citi-

zens 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 sur-

rounding 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.

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-

eign 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.



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 Fazl has 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.

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.

Petition filed in SC against proposed constitutional amend.

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

The petitioners argue that the proposed consti-

tutional 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.

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.



QUETTA: Mir Behram Baloch and Mir Behram Lehri presenting bill on torture on children in educational institutions to Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani

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

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

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Independent Report

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.

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.



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

Independent Report

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.

ارشاد باری تعالی ہے

"بیشک اللہ اور اس کے فرشتے نبی ﷺ پر درود بھیجتے رہتے ہیں

اے ایمان والو، تم بھی ان ﷺ پر درود بھیجا کرو اور خوب سلام بھیجا کرو"

سورۃ الاحزاب آیت نمبر 56

مصطفیٰ جانِ رحمت پہ لاکھوں سلام

شمعِ بزمِ ہدایت پہ لاکھوں سلام

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