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Capping CJP's tenure at three years

Senate passes 26th constitutional amendment with two-thirds majority

Bill aimed at enforcing judicial reforms that have been a bone of contention between govt and opposition; PTI attends Senate session but opts out of the voting process; remaining members of Senate vote in favour of 22 clauses of the bill.

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate on Sunday approved long-awaited 26th constitutional amendment with two-thirds majority (65 votes) aimed at ensuring speedy justice in the country and bringing transparency in judicial system, by incorporating all amendments proposed by Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F).

Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar piloted the Constitution (Twenty-Sixth Amendment) Bill, 2024 in the House. The House passed the bill through clause by clause reading.

In the bill having 22 clauses, amendments to various Articles of the constitution have been pro-

posed. A new Article 9 A regarding clean and healthy environment is also incorporated in the bill under which every person shall be entitled to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

As many as 65 members voted in favour of the bill while only four voted against it.

Kamran Murtaza of JUI-F moved amendments one by one which were incorporated in the bill after not opposing by the government.

Earlier, speaking in the House, Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar said that the government, its allied parties and JUI-F reached a consensus

on the draft of the constitutional amendment bill. As part of the government's efforts, a special parliamentary committee comprising representatives of all the political parties including the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) discussed the proposed constitutional package.

He went on to say that the procedure to appoint judges in the superior judiciary had been changed in the 18th Amendment. Both the prime minister and the president surrendered their powers and handed over their authorities to the parliament to bring more transparency in the appointment of judges, he added.

He said the parliament

ary committee was empowered to approve or reject nomination of judges. However, he said the 18th Constitutional Amendment was challenged in court of law and message was given to the then government during the proceeding of the case that the amendment would be struck down.

The minister conceded that 19th Amendment was passed in haste to change the composition of the judicial commission (JC) and parliamentary committee on appointment of judges. Hence, the powers of parliamentary committee were reduced, he added.

Azam Nazeer said even the bar councils and

other lawyers representative organizations including Pakistan Bar Council criticized and demanded to revisit the decision. They demanded to make appropriate amendments in Article 175-A of the constitution, he said.

Now, he said that the JC, responsible for the appointment and confirmation of judges would consist of the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP), three senior Supreme Court judges, four parliamentarians, the Law Minister, an advocate having at least 15 years experience, and the Attorney General. Out of four parliamentarians, two members each from Senate and National Assembly, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the Federal Cabinet.

Bilawal felicitates nation on 26th amendment passing

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Sunday extended his felicitations to the nation on the passing of the 26th Constitutional Amendment package.

Talking to the media here at the Parliament House, he said that the PPP is fulfilling the promises made in the Charter of Democracy (CoD) particularly those concerning judicial reforms.

He described the day as monumental both politically and personally, as he would be implementing one of the points of his mother's unfinished mission.

Bilawal Bhutto emphasised that this achievement, like others, has been secured through political consensus, even in the current political environment.

He noted that there were no objectionable or

controversial points in the Bill.

Both the government and opposition parties involved in the discussions have reached a compromise.

Even parties that may not vote for the Bill today have no substantive objections, as they have already endorsed the consensus formed between Maulana Fazal ur Rehman and the PPP.

Describing it as a historic day, Bilawal Bhutto shared that he had contacted Maulana Fazal ur Rehman by phone to congratulate him.

He praised the efforts of the JUI and Maulana Fazal ur Rehman in evolving consensus on the amendment, saying that their dedication was not for political gain but for the integrity of the Constitution, which is as vital to them as it is to the PPP.

In a separate address

at the PPP parliamentary party meeting, Bilawal Bhutto said that as Parliamentary Party Leader of the PPP and PPPP, it is his instruction to all parliamentary members that they are to vote in favour of the constitutional amendment being presented in the House.

Bilawal Bhutto said that he would be there to guide the members on the specifics, and Sherry Rehman would do the same in the Senate.

He said that all members should consider his official instructions.

Those who are not or could not be present here today, should consider the video message his public instructions that they are bound to vote in accordance to party instructions, he added.

"The violation of party discipline will result in a bye-election," he stated.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar and Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar holding a joint Media talk.

JUI-F's proposals included in draft of constitutional amendments: Law Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar Sunday said that the federal cabinet has approved the comprehensive draft of the 26th constitutional amendment unanimously which also includes the proposals of JUI-F.

Talking to the media outside of the Parliament House, the minister said

that according to the amendments the chief justice of Pakistan would be appointed amongst the most three senior judges of the Supreme Court.

He said that the Jamiat Ulema Islam (JUI-F) has suggested five proposals in the 26th constitutional amendments which were linked to the Islamic law and Islamic Ideological Council (IIC).

Comprehensive plan underway to overcome issues at shrines: Auqaf Minister

Independent Report
KARACHI: The Sindh Minister for Auqaf, Religious Affairs, Zakat, and Ushr Syed Riaz Hussain Shah Shirazi has said that a comprehensive plan was underway to address

visitors at the shrines, the Minister assured that a comprehensive plan was being developed to address the issues.

He said that zaireens across Sindh's shrines will



the problems at shrines across the province.

He expressed these views on the occasion of the 93rd Urs of Hazrat Saman Sarkar and the annual fair held near Pangrio with great enthusiasm and devotion, a communicate said here on Sunday. Discussing the challenges being faced by

have access to basic facilities. He also acknowledged the lack of clean drinking water at Hazrat Saman Sarkar's shrine.

He, on the occasion, announced that a package would soon be provided to improve accommodation and other amenities at the site.

Chefs play vital role in flavours: Governor

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori on Sunday lauded the chefs' vital role in introducing new flavours and traditions in their cooking delights.

He expressed these words on the occasion of International Chefs Day being observed today (Sunday), adding that the training of young chefs could help this profession in highlighting its prominent place.

While paying tributes to the chefs, he said this year's theme was "Growing Great Chefs".

The Governor Tessori said that the Chefs bring a pleasant change to the society with innovative cuisines.

He further said that the cuisine of Pakistan was very famous all over the world, which was the result of the hard-work of the chefs.

FIA arrests man outside US consulate in Karachi for visa fraud

KARACHI (INP): In a significant operation, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has arrested a resident of Lahore outside the US Consulate in

Karachi for attempting to obtain a US visa using forged documents linked to a cricket club.

The accused, whose identity has not been disclosed, was reportedly seeking a visa based on these fraudulent documents when authorities intervened.

According to sources, the individual had acquired the fake paperwork from an agent named Sajjad, for which he settled matters for a sum of 32,000 UAE dirhams, equivalent to approximately 450,000 Pakistani rupees. Upon questioning, the accused failed to provide satisfactory responses regarding the legitimacy of the documents he presented.

The FIA's swift action underscores the agency's commitment to combating visa fraud and ensuring the integrity of the visa application process.

Further investigations are underway to uncover more details about the agent and any potential network involved in such fraudulent activities.

Pakistan, India should decide themselves scope of bilateral dialogue: US State Dept

The US values its relations with both countries," says State Dept Spokesperson Matthew Miller

WASHINGTON (INP): After some time finally melted between Pakistan and India during the recently held Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government summit in Islamabad, Washington has said that it is for both the nations to decide the scope and role of any bilateral dialogue.

Matthew Miller, the spokesperson for the

United States Department of State, reacted to the positive development between the two rival countries in the mega diplomatic event held in the federal capital last week.

"We have bilateral relations with Pakistan and India. The US values its relations with both countries," said Miller in an exclusive conversation with Geo News in Washington.

Education Minister announces rewards for top position holders

Independent Report

KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Education, Syed Sardar Ali Shah has announced rewards for students who achieved top positions in the Karachi Matric Board exams.

He stated that the expenses for the higher education of Hafiz Abdul Raffay, the student who secured the first position, will be covered until he completes his education.

Addressing the event organized by the Delhi School Old Boys Welfare Association to honour

Hafiz Abdul Raffay and other top-ranking students, Syed Sardar Ali Shah praised the achievement of a government school student securing a position after 28 years, calling it a positive beginning.

He highlighted that students from middle-class backgrounds have proven that it's not necessary to have luxuries to showcase one's talents, even in the face of challenges.

The event was held at the Karachi Medical and Dental College auditorium in North Nazimabad.



KARACHI: Police arrest the activists of Baloch Yakjehti Committee during a protest rally outside the Karachi Press Club.

Dr Fowzia urges taking proactive steps towards prevention and management of diabetes

KARACHI (INP): Noted neurophysician of the country Dr Fowzia Siddiqui has stressed the need for proactive steps towards prevention and management of diabetes.

Addressing the Euro Endocrine Conference in Istanbul where Dr Fowzia Siddiqui represented Pakistan on the prevalence of neurological issues in diabetes in Pakistan and its complex effects on the body, she expressed concern over the alarming rise in cases of diabetes in Pakistan.

In her keynote presentation on "Diabetes: the neuro-endocrine overlap", she said that Pakistan has become the world's number one in diabetes prevalence, which is a worrisome trend. She said that diabetes is no longer considered just

an endocrine disorder, but its effects are far more complex, involving the brain and other systems.

Dr Fowzia said the center for blood sugar control lies in the brain, and any disruption in the pathway can cause diabetes, including stress, depression, and anxiety. She said high blood sugar levels can cause micro vascular changes in the brain, leading to debilitating strokes and dementia. There is also a strong link between Alzheimer's disease and diabetes, with poor blood sugar control leading to worse outcomes.

Dr Siddiqui said that peripheral neuropathy is a neurological complication of diabetes, causing burning, stabbing pain, numbness, and tingling sensations in arms and legs.

Pakistan Navy Ship seizes narcotics at sea

KARACHI (PR): On 08 Oct 24, an intelligence-based counter narcotics operation was conducted by Pakistan Navy and ANF in North Arabian Sea in which approximately 2000 Kgs of Hashish, 370 Kgs of Ice and 50 Kgs of Heroin were seized by Pakistan Navy Ship HUNAIN.

The consignment includes one hundred thousand illegal Indian made pills used as drug which was to be transported via sea to international destination. Value of narcotics in international market is approximately US\$ 145 million. The seized items have been handed over to ANF for further legal proceedings.

Sindh reports two new poliovirus cases, nationwide tally surges to 39

ISLAMABAD (INP): Two fresh cases of the wild poliovirus type-1 (WPV1) have been confirmed in Sindh, raising the total number of country-wide cases to 39 so far in 2024, said the National Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). The emergence of the new cases shows the extent of deterioration with regards to the poliovirus crisis in Pakistan. Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI) officials, on Sunday, told The News that the two new victims are kids — a boy from Mirpurkhas and a girl from Sanghar. Both are the first known instances of the disease in their respective areas this year.

Federal cabinet approves proposed draft of 26th constitutional amendment

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Federal Cabinet has approved the proposed draft of the 26th constitutional amendment of the coalition parties including the Pakistan People's Party. According to a statement issued by Prime Minister Office, the Federal cabinet meeting was held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, in which the Minister of Law and Justice again gave a detailed briefing on the 26th constitutional amendment.

The federal cabinet has approved the proposed draft of the 26th constitutional amendment of the coalition parties including the Pakistan People's Party. Congratulating the entire nation on the approval of the 26th constitutional amendment by the cabinet, the cabinet took the

decision in the wider interest of the country while adhering to the oath of national development and public welfare.

A milestone has been achieved for the constitutional stability and rule of law. According to the promise made to the people, will continue to work for the development, prosperity and stability of the country. The Prime Minister thanked the leaders of the coalition parties and praised the efforts of Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Minister of Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar, Interior Minister Mohsin Raza Naqvi, Adviser to Prime Minister Rana Sanaullah and Minister of Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar.

26th amendment sets Jan 2028 deadline to end Riba, paves way for interest-free banking

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 26th Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2024, recently passed by the Senate, has established a deadline of January 1, 2028, for the end of the practice of Riba (interest-based banking) in the country.

The clause was added to the draft amendments at the suggestion of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F), the Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman-led regio-political party, which gave the gov-

ernment a tough time in presenting the draft of the amendment bill.

To eradicate this form of usury, the Senate approved the amendment in clause (f) of Article 38 of the Constitution, which pertains to the promotion of social and economic well-being.

The current clause states that "eliminate Riba as early as possible," and the government replaced this with "as far as practicable, by the 1st of January, 2028."



Pakistan Navy officials handing over the seized Narcotics to ANF officials at Gwadar.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Human rights review

Pakistan is on shaky ground regarding human freedoms. In a recent review, the UN Human Rights Committee — which carries out periodic assessments of other countries' rights record too — has expressed concern about escalating human rights abuses: politically motivated oppression, torture, eroding freedom to practise religious beliefs, forced conversions, curbs on the freedom of expression, a ban on student unions, restrictions on assembly, harassment of rights activists, crimes against women and children, capital punishment and extrajudicial killings.

Successive governments have been responsible for matters reaching this point, while certain state agencies can specifically be held responsible for crimes such as enforced disappearances. Besides, the state's failure to rein in radical religious elements has also contributed to a culture of fear.

While the scale of intimidation is significant, the rising crime graph is the outcome of a corrupt, ineffective and inequitable criminal justice system and structural flaws in the security apparatus. Among other things, these factors have contributed to the rampant violence against women: for instance, a rape takes place every two minutes in the country because of a 3pc conviction rate.

As for Pakistan's children, not only are millions of them deprived of even basic freedoms like education and forced into manual labour, their existence itself is overlooked by the state: as the review notes, only 42pc of children under five were registered at birth.

Meanwhile, religious communities experience persistent tyranny through the misuse of blasphemy laws, while forced conversions underscore the defencelessness of the marginalised. Thus, the UN body dismissed the figure of 74 cases of forced conversions from the state party and observed that the actual number was far higher.

The review is a reminder that our constitutional protections exist as mere aspirations, and that the state has no regrets about its citizens morphing into missing persons, while it actively crushes dissent in places such as KP and Balochistan where movements protesting against atrocities by both the state and radical anti-state elements are growing. Even peaceful protesters have encountered the might of the state.

It is unfortunate that human rights are seen as a favour to the populace — an attitude that is visible in institutions and social groups, including the judicial system. It is an approach that prevents the authorities from forming pro-people policies or fortifying departments for social development and protecting them from exploitation.

Instead of focusing solely on Pakistan's economic woes, the state must take a holistic view. It must understand that a fresh human rights regime will be realised when elected representatives are held accountable for rights excesses in their constituencies, policies are in line with international standards, and the state has a heart.

Road to Baku

Jamil Ahmad

In 2015, the Paris Climate Accord, a legally binding international treaty, established a structured plan for climate action with step-by-step targets for emission reductions, aiming for net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. It acknowledged that reducing GHG emissions alone would not be enough to control climate change: mutually supportive adaptation policies would be necessary to protect vulnerable people from its impact. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report, some 3.6 billion people, almost half the global population, are highly vulnerable to climate change.

The Paris Agreement, therefore, established a Global Goal on Adaptation to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change in the context of its goal to limit the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. This benchmark was based on the IPCC's analysis that crossing this threshold would unleash harsh environmental impacts, including severe heatwaves, frequent droughts and heavy rainfall — which are becoming common. Sadly, the Global Goal on Adaptation is yet to be operationalised.

For developing countries, the treaty also laid down a framework for financial, technical and capacity-building support, and "reaffirmed that developed countries should take the lead in providing financial assistance to countries that are less endowed and more vulnerable" for mitigation and adaptation. Developed countries had pledged, in 2009, to raise \$100bn by 2020 for this purpose. Belatedly

mobilised in 2022, this amount fell short of requirements, which are estimated at \$600bn annually. Distressed by debt, most developing countries find it difficult to take climate action. They need sufficient financial means to raise adaptation to a level that guarantees a better degree of protection against the climate crisis.

In 2021, the Glasgow Climate Pact called for the doubling of "collective provision of climate finance for adaptation". But funding needs kept surging. Last year, UNEP estimated that the financial needs of developing countries for adaptation would soar from \$215bn to \$387bn by 2030. These figures are expected to be overtaken in this year's UNEP Adaptation Gap Report, due next month.

Climate COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, next month, has been dubbed the "finance COP", and will seek to agree on a new global goal for climate finance to replace the unmet \$100bn adaptation target. The new goal is expected to be broad-based and open to contributions from the private sector and others.

Precariously perched, developing countries are expecting concessional finance to be prioritised by COP29, as more loans will only add to their debt burden. Discussions in Baku will be informed by the report of the Independent Expert Group on Climate Finance, tasked by COP to assess how the climate finance system can support the implementation of the Paris Accord. The report notes that insufficient investment in developing countries in key areas — a just energy transition, adaptation and resilience, conservation and restoration of nature, etc — was the primary reason that the Paris Agreement went off track. The report concluded that developing

countries and emerging economies, minus China, would need around \$2.4 trillion annually by 2030 to invest in climate change and nature.

The expert group recommended that immediate debt constraints and lack of fiscal space impeding the ability of poor and vulnerable countries to invest must be tackled urgently. It said that country leadership was crucial for the doubling of "collective provision of climate finance for adaptation". But funding needs kept surging. Last year, UNEP estimated that the financial needs of developing countries for adaptation would soar from \$215bn to \$387bn by 2030. These figures are expected to be overtaken in this year's UNEP Adaptation Gap Report, due next month.

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Overall, however, the agreement risks missing its goal of keeping the temperature rise under 1.5°C, unless fresh vigour, stronger political commitment and adequate financial resources are urgently pumped into its pipelines. — Courtesy Dawn

Fighting toxic talk

Muna Khan

I had to step outside social media silos to understand what was happening in Lahore, because my trusted sources — ie, this newspaper and other legacy outlets — were reporting on student protests while information about the alleged rape seemed muted. On social media, meanwhile, things were alarming, even horrific. No rape was as possible as the cover up of one. I wanted to create a timeline myself to make sense of things — this is before The Current published a very good explainer — namely, had a rape occurred?

While student protests and police brutality have continued across Punjab, there's more clarity, at least for me: a young woman and her family's name have been dragged through the mud, and they will likely have to spend the next few years explaining that she/their daughter was not raped. Students who are braving police violence are being used for political point-scoring. No one believes the government, and likely won't even if Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz pursues criminal cases against those who spread misinformation, as her administration seems to be doing. Minds have been made up across the political divide.

Welcome to this age of disinformation — with dangerous consequences.

Let it be clear that misinformation about this case was spread at a dizzying speed. Investigative journalist Umar Cheema, who was one of the first to report there was no rape at the said college, tweeted a video of a woman claiming to be the rape victim's mother on Friday evening. She tells

her followers on TikTok what happened to her daughter and asks them to call out the government and the news media for covering up the crime. After this tear-eyed confession, she posts her next video, wherein she is lip-synching to a Bollywood song.

It's easy to dismiss this woman as an attention-seeker but it's the folks who believe it and share it that worry me more. According to Tom Buchanan, who wrote a paper on disinformation in 2020, those who deliberately create it do so "to deceive and mislead audiences for the purposes of causing harm, or for political, personal or financial gain". People who then share it do so because it aligns with their worldview. Many, citing the sheer strength and effectiveness of a particular political party's social media strategy, suspect its supporters of pushing news of this rape, saying they got the turmoil they wanted. Meanwhile, brave students will bear the brunt of police violence.

Of course, a rape can occur on campus. Of course, parents would deny it. Of course, a guard or male school employee could be the harasser, CCTV footage could be deleted, the school administration could pressure and/or threaten students, the media could be involved in hushing things up. We have seen iterations of this play out plenty of times before. In this case, the police officer who told students to return to classes lest "something else" happen to them too is no different to the police officer asking why a woman gang-raped on the Motorway was driving alone at night.

We live in a country where whatever women say is treated with sus-

picion. I'm lying if I said I was raped, I'm covering up rape if I say I wasn't. I'm telling the truth if I say a guard harassed me, I'm lying if I say an actor did. It is exhausting to be a woman in this country. Attitudes and policies deny us basic humanity. Digital platforms do not protect us.

Disinformation is a global threat and requires a global strategy and policies to quell it. However, misogyny threatens to unravel Pakistan's core. Misogyny is being monetised, and it is being used to create divisions in society. It should be seen as big as a national security threat as terrorism. In fact, misogyny is terrorism. In August, the UK said it was planning to tackle misogyny as extremism. There are great concerns about incel culture in the West, promoted by the likes of Andrew Tate. Here, we elect men like Tate, invite them as state guests and fund campaigns for them to run for Oxford chancellor.

The government alone can't fight the kind of disinformation this Lahore 'rape' case has shown. It requires parents and schools to teach media literacy classes from grade 1. And laws that don't suppress civil liberties but punish those who spread false information. Not release them.

If not, I fear parents won't want to send their daughters to colleges, women won't want to stand for public office (given the disgusting hate campaigns they face) or report sexual harassment of violence due to the stigma. This will set us back decades. In 2022, Pakistan was the second worst country for women in terms of gender parity according to the World Economic Forum. Imagine sinking lower. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Revival of diplomatic engagement between India and Pakistan could foster regional peace: Iftikhar Malik

LAHORE (APP): South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik said on Sunday that reviving diplomatic engagement between India and Pakistan during SCO summit would not only benefit the two countries but also contribute to broader regional peace and stability.

Commenting on the recent visit of Indian Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar to Pakistan on the eve of 23rd SCO summit, he said if sustained, this could be a

turning point in South Asia's political landscape, reducing tensions and creating a more conducive environment for collaboration in areas like trade and counter terrorism.

He said Jaishankar's gesture could set the stage for cautious optimism. Both countries, as nuclear powers, have a responsibility to ensure peace and stability in the region. A move towards dialogue, even through multilateral settings like the SCO, could pave the way for future bilateral engagements that could address long-standing

issues and open doors for economic cooperation, regional connectivity. Iftikhar Malik said Jaishankar's outreach to Pakistan opens a window of opportunity for both countries to engage in meaningful conversations beyond the contentious issues that have dominated their interactions in the past. The SCO, with its focus on regional cooperation, counter terrorism, and economic development, provides a neutral platform where both nations can discuss shared concerns such as security, trade, and stability in South Asia.

He said S. Jaishankar extended a symbolic hand of cooperation to Pakistan, signaling a potential thaw in the long-strained bilateral ties between the two nuclear-armed neighbors. Relations between both countries have been tense for decades, marked by territorial disputes, particularly over Kashmir, and intermittent armed conflict. However, the Indian participation in SCO provides an opportunity for constructive dialogue. His interaction with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and others is good omen.

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RAWALPINDI: People selecting and purchasing second hand warm clothes on the beginning of winter season at Landa Bazar in Sunday weekly Bazaar Committee chowk area, in the city.



HYDERABAD: People selecting and purchasing shoes from setup under the shade of Makki Shah Flyover.

Shahid Imran calls for viable policies to address food insecurity

LAHORE (APP): Convener Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry's regional standing committee on Food Security Shahid Imran said that Pakistan's rapid population growth places immense pressure on the fragile food distribution system.

Speaking at a seminar on Food Security in Pakistan, here on Sunday, he said rural poor, who are

often small-scale farmers, are disproportionately affected by food insecurity due to limited resources and access to markets. Addressing food insecurity in Pakistan requires comprehensive policies that focus on improving agricultural productivity, managing natural resources sustainably, and enhancing social safety nets to ensure equitable food distribution and access for all citizens.

Pakistani Startups shine at Gitex Global 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Gitex Global 2024, the largest international technology and startup fair, concluded in Dubai on Friday, showcasing Pakistan's information and communication technology startups participated in this significant tech event, aiming to enhance IT exports from Pakistan to the Middle East and the MENA region while attracting investment and fostering partnerships with major IT firms.

Under the federal Ministry of IT and Telecommunications, ten Pakistani startups joined the Ignite programme at Gitex 2024.

These startups are involved in sectors such as healthcare, aerospace, energy, gaming, travel technology, and smart cities, presenting their innovative solutions to global investors, potential partners, and technology enthusiasts.

Green Tractors to be given to 9,500 farmers

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab government has announced distribution of 9,500 green tractors under Kisan Programme, but more than 15 lakh applications had been received. The government received more than 1.5 million applications under the Green Tractor Programme announced for farmers. The CM office sourced APP that following the directions of the Punjab CM, the list of those who would be included in the draw would be posted on Oct 20.

SNGPL disconnects eight meters, removes two extensions

MULTAN (APP): In a bid to curb gas theft and illegal activities, the Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) UFG Control Task Force intensified its operation under the directions of the General Manager. The task force disconnected eight gas meters and removed two illegal gas extensions in various areas of the city. According to details, six domestic

consumers had their meters disconnected for using gas compressors illegally. In one case, a domestic consumer's meter was found installed away from the main service line, which was immediately removed. Another consumer's meter was missing from its designated location, posing a risk of gas leakage; on which his meter was also disconnected.

Raja Bazar – A colonial era business legacy

RAWALPINDI (APP): Most often stuffed with buyers, traffic and illegally encroaching vendors, Raja Bazaar, boasts of it's over one and half century old legacy for once being the only central commercial point of ancient Rawalpindi.

As the time ran down, this British colonial era sanctuary of traders named after Rajput or Raja (castes) traders of this region still stands there with least of our younger generation knowing its origin and evolution into today's busiest bazar of

Rawalpindi. This blend of history and trade still holds a prominent place in city's business activities for its distinctive socioeconomic features, ancient building structures, classical archaeology designs and antique woodwork adorned with superb grillwork on facades of houses. Majority of them are remnants of Sikh rule during their reign of Punjab. Narrow streets, multi-religious community centers, mosques and temples, historic mansions, havelis, old shops and

godowns reflect its cultural heritage and socioeconomic importance. Since old ages, it still serves as the central business hub of the city by accommodating thousands of wholesalers and retailer shops with diverse range of household grocery to fruits, vegetables, jewelry, cloths, cooking utensils, electronic appliances and much more.

Abraar Sheikh, General Secretary Raja Bazaar's Central Traders' Association terms the bazaar as 'a symbol of socio-economic legacy' having multi-dimensional

links with local and international markets.

"Looking around Fawara Chowk, one can find marks of ancient civilization towards 'Dingi Khoi' on one side and the rich market place on the other side," he said. "Strong reasons for being the heart of city are its central location and market linkage as it connects country's North region with the South. The entrepreneurs from GB and KP too, prefer Raja Bazaar for their trading ventures after China's silk route." Highlighted an

interesting feature of departmentalized nomenclature of its sections, Abraar Sheikh mentioned to Sarafa Bazaar as house of jewelry; Kapra Bazar for cloths and garments; Lakar Bazaar for wooden articles and raw material; Urdu Bazaar books and stationary and Masala Bazar, Sabzi Mandi and other bazars for varieties of goods and services. "Around 50% of shops have been converted into small plazas and joint markets after joining close by shops together making Raja Bazar.

CM approves establishment of three authorities for dev., water, horticulture

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, chairing a meeting here on Sunday, approved the establishment of three key provincial authorities aimed at enhancing development, water and sanitation services, and horticulture. The newly proposed bodies are Punjab Development Authority, Punjab Water and Sanitation Authority, and Punjab Horticulture Authority. Formal legislation will be made for

the establishment of these provincial authorities, which would develop policies and plans at the local level. At the local level, these agencies will ensure the implementation of development projects, water and sanitation services, and horticulture initiatives. These authorities will be governed by a central board, with director generals at the helm. Proposals are under review to establish local management boards and appoint managing directors for execution at the local

level. The chief minister emphasized the need to convert streetlights to solar energy, signaling a shift towards sustainable infrastructure. Provincial Food Minister Bilal Yasin, Minister Local Government Zeeshan Rafiq, Chief Secretary Zahid Aktar Zaman, Chief Secretary to CM Sajid Zafar Dall and relevant departmental secretaries attended the meeting. The Secretary of Housing and Local Government participated via video link.



SIALKOT: A group photo of participants of the first ever Referee Refresh and Talent Hunt Course in Sialkot Organizers by FIFA and District Football Association.

Armed robbery at Shahin dairy: police under fire for inaction

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi
HYDERABAD: A brazen armed robbery shook Hyderabad's Qasimabad area yesterday, as masked men on motorcycles stormed Shahin Dairy, making off with millions in cash. The daring heist saw the robbers hold staff hostage, only to be confronted by brave employees, one of whom managed to wrestle a pistol from one of the assailants. In the ensuing exchange of fire, the robbers abandoned their motorcycle and fled on foot, hijacking a citizen's CD motorcycle to complete their escape. The incident sparked outrage, with locals and business owners

taking to the streets in protest, blocking roads and demanding action from authorities. Notable figures, including PTI leader Afroz Shoro and traders' representatives Mahboob Abro, Rehmatullah Sand, and Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi, joined the protest, condemning the police's perceived inaction. Jasmim Memon, owner of Shahin Dairy, estimated the stolen amount at 700,000 to 800,000 rupees. The incident raises concerns about the growing number of armed robberies in the area and the effectiveness of law enforcement in preventing and responding to such crimes.

CCPO orders early resolution of pending cases

LAHORE (APP): Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Bilal Siddique Kamayana presided over an important meeting of the Investigation Wing at his office here on Sunday to review the progress of cases involving both nominated and unidentified suspects under investigation. The CCPO Lahore directed the SSP (Investigation) to closely monitor these cases on a daily basis, while instructing SP (Investigation) Cantonment area to expedite the resolution of pending cases. He emphasized that SDPOs must consistently assess the performance of investigating officers to ensure timely and effective case disposal. Addressing the meeting, the CCPO asserted that no case involving a nominated suspect older than one month, or an unidentified suspect older than three months, should remain unresolved. He underscored the pivotal role of the Investigation Wing in delivering justice and urged the officers to prioritize providing timely relief to the plaintiffs. He stressed that justice must be served strictly on merit, without discrimination, and reiterated that no recommendations.

Azma terms consensus on constitutional amendment good

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari has said that state affairs run as per the laws and constitution made by the parliament. According to a press release issued here on Sunday, she said that judicial reforms were necessary in the present circumstances. She said that formation of constitutional court was being made in accordance with charter of democracy. Azma said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder wanted an NRO [deal] in exchange for supporting constitutional amendment. She termed consensus on constitutional amendment good. The PTI members were sick and tired of PTI founder's anti-state activities, she claimed.

Govt committed to provide quality education for youth: Faisal Khokhar

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Sports, Labour and Human Resources Faisal Ayub Khokhar has said that the government was committed to providing quality education for youth while also creating opportunities for them to participate in extracurricular activities. He emphasized that initiatives like "Khelta Punjab" and the Lahore Youth Festival were crucial in this regard, noting, "When grounds are filled with players, hospitals become empty." He expressed these

views during a media briefing as the chief guest at a talent hunt program organized for Lahore Qalandars at a private university's high-performance center here on Sunday. The minister remarked that such programs play a significant role in providing opportunities for talented athletes to showcase their skills. He expressed hope that these trials would reveal new talent that could contribute to both the Lahore Qalandars and the national cricket team in the future.

Minister launches Rescue 1122 emergency bike service

PESHAWAR (APP): Special Assistant to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Relief and Resettlement Naik Muhammad Khan Sunday visited Rescue 1122 headquarters to inspect the newly launched emergency bike service. Special Assistant praised Rescue 1122 for its invaluable services in providing timely relief across the province during emergencies and accidents. He commended the launch of emergency bike service as a significant step towards offering swift assistance in remote areas.

Two killed in separate firing incidents

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Two persons have been killed by their opponents in separate firing incidents over personal disputes in Zandani and Looni areas here, a police spokesman said on Sunday. He said that 25-year-old Ahmad Nawaz Baloch son of Sanaulah, resident of Zandani has filed a report with Dera Town Police Station that he along with his partner Masood ur Rahman son of Abdul Rauf Baloch.

PDF, SBBWU and Pak Army organize grand medical camp

PESHAWAR (APP): A free general medical camp was organized at Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Peshawar, under the auspices of Pakistan Development Foundation (PDF) and in collaboration with XI Corps and Lady Reading Hospital. At the camp, ten specialists including medical specialists, skin specialist, gynecologist, ENT specialist, chest specialist, dental surgeons, children specialist, psychiatrist and nutritionist participated and conducted free examinations of people living in more than 15 villages in the vicinity of the University. On the occasion, diabetes and blood diagnostic tests of patients were also conducted free of charge. Free medicines were also given to all patients. Wife of Corps Commander Peshawar visited the camp and raised the morale of the doctors who volunteered for the camp. PDF Chairman Bilal Sethi, Patron-in-Chief Dr Fatima Shaheen and SBBWU Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Safia Ahmed (TI) were also present on the occasion. PDF Chairman Muhammad Bilal Sethi said in his address that his organization had been serving the poor and indigent for eight years.



HYDERABAD: Women residents of Jamshoro are holding press conference for acceptance of their demands, held at Hyderabad press club.

SEPCO cracks down on electricity thieves cub, cuts thousands of illegal connections

Allah Dad Chandio
LARKANA: In a bold move, Sukkur Electric Power Company (SEPCO) under the WAPDA department has continued its massive operation against electricity thieves and non-payers, despite the weekend holidays. Led by Larkana, Qamber Shahdadkot, Ratodero, Baqrani, and Dokri, the operation targeted small and big cities, towns, and villages, resulting in the disconnection of thousands of illegal electricity hooks. SEPCO Sukkur Superintendent Engineer Shah

Mohammad Bajkani revealed that the company aims to recover a staggering debt of 42 billion rupees from electricity thieves and defaulters. The ongoing campaign will persist until the issue is resolved. The operation highlights SEPCO's commitment to providing stable electricity supply to its customers while addressing the financial losses incurred due to power theft. As part of its efforts, SEPCO offers various services, including online bill payment, new connections, and consumer safety guidelines.

International News

Israeli strikes on northern Gaza leave at least 87 dead or missing, Palestinian officials say

Monitoring Desk
DEIR AL-BALAH: Israeli strikes on multiple homes in the northern Gaza Strip overnight and into Sunday left at least 87 people dead or missing, the territory's Health Ministry said. It said another 40 people were wounded in the strikes on the town of Beit Lahya, which was among the first targets of Israel's ground invasion nearly a year ago. The Israeli military said it carried out a precise strike on a Hamas target. Israel has been carrying out a large-scale operation in northern Gaza for the last two weeks, saying Hamas has regrouped there. Palestinian officials say hundreds of people have been killed and that the health sector in the north is on the verge of collapse. The United States is meanwhile investigating an unauthorized release of classified documents that

assess Israel's plans to attack Iran, according to three U.S. officials. A fourth U.S. official said the documents appear to be legitimate. The documents, attributed to the U.S. Geospatial Intelligence Agency and National Security Agency and marked top secret, indicate that Israel was moving military assets in place to conduct a military strike in response to Iran's ballistic missile attack on Oct. 1. The U.S. officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly. The U.S. is urging Israel to press for a cease-fire in Gaza following the killing of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar last week. But neither Israel nor Hamas has shown any renewed interest in such a deal, after months of negotiations sputtered to a halt in August. Iran supports Hamas



Italy's Defence Minister Guido Crosetto speaks during a roundtable, part of the G7 Defence Ministers Summit, in Naples.

G7 reassures Ukraine on NATO bid, frets over threat to UN in Lebanon

Monitoring Desk
NAPLES: Defence ministers of the Group of Seven (G7) wealthy democracies on Saturday backed Ukraine's "irreversible" path to NATO membership and expressed concern over threats to United Nations peacekeepers targeted by Israel in Lebanon. The first ever gathering of G7 defence ministers took place as Israel and Lebanese armed group Hezbollah exchanged fire, with one drone directed at Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's holiday home, according to his spokesperson. Italy holds the G7

rotating presidency for 2024 while the West also grapples with the Russian advance in Ukraine and China's military activities around Taiwan, as well as heightened tensions along the border of North and South Korea. Italian Defence Minister Guido Crosetto, who hosted the meeting in the southern city of Naples, told reporters the G7 could not solve global tensions alone, but needed to stimulate action across the international community. "The G7 must be like a gadfly that has the strength to sting the rest of the world," he said at a news conference.

North Korea minister says new US-led sanctions monitoring team unlawful

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korea's foreign minister said a new multilateral sanctions monitoring team led by the United States was "utterly unlawful and illegitimate", state media reported on Sunday. The United States, South Korea and Japan on Wednesday announced the launch of a new multinational team to monitor the enforcement of sanctions against North Korea after Russia and China thwarted monitoring activities at the United Nations. The team was introduced after Russia in March rejected the annual renewal of a UN panel of experts that had over the past 15 years overseen the implementation of sanctions aimed at curbing North Korea's nuclear and

Bomb hoax threats to Indian airlines spark chaos

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: More than 90 fake bomb threats have been made against flights operated by multiple Indian airlines this week, Indian media reported Sunday, sparking fear among passengers and global delays. All flights landed safely, but the spate of threats has resulted in planes being diverted to Canada and Germany, and fighter jets scrambled to escort aircraft in the skies above Britain and Singapore. India's government and civil aviation authorities have warned that "very strict action" will be taken. New Delhi's civil aviation authorities have not said how many threats have been received in the past week, but The Times of India and broadcaster News18 reported more than 70 hoaxes.

Russia, Ukraine each bring home 95 prisoners of war

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Russia and Ukraine carried out a new exchange of prisoners of war, each side bringing home 95 prisoners in an agreement in which the United Arab Emirates acted as mediator. Russia's Defence Ministry, in a post on the Telegram messaging app, said the returning Russian service members were undergoing medical checks in Belarus, one of

Russia's closest allies in the more than 2-1/2-year-old war. Video posted on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's Telegram account showed men, some wrapped in the blue and yellow Ukrainian flag, getting off a bus well after dark and being embraced by loved ones. A Russian military video showed smiling soldiers boarding buses.

Mexican navy claims seizing record 8.3 tonnes of drugs

Monitoring Desk
MEXICO CITY: The Mexican navy announced on Friday it had seized more than 8.3 tonnes of drugs in the Pacific Ocean, a record for a single operation at sea. "Navy personnel seized 8,361 kilograms of illicit cargo, which represents the largest amount of drugs seized in a maritime operation, unprecedented in history," said a statement from the Ministry of the Navy. It did not specify the type of the drugs, but said they were valued at 2,099 billion pesos (about \$105 million). Twenty-three people

were arrested during the bust which took place southwest of the port of Lazaro Cardenas, off the western coast of Mexico. The drugs were distributed in six small boats and one of the vessels was a submersible, which implied a "complex" action on the part of the sailors, added the ministry. The largest drug seizure in Mexico's history was 23 tonnes of Colombian cocaine in November 2007. Mexico has for decades been the hub of drug trafficking to the United States, with a large number of cartels fighting for control of the trade.

Boat carrying more than 100 Rohingya sighted off Indonesia

Monitoring Desk
BANDA ACEH: A boat loaded with more than 100 Rohingya refugees was spotted off Indonesia's westernmost province with at least one dead body seen on board, local officials said on Saturday. The mostly Muslim ethnic Rohingya are heavily persecuted in Myanmar, and thousands risk their lives each year on long and dangerous sea journeys to try to reach Malaysia or Indonesia. The Rohingya boat is anchored around three to four miles off the coast of South Aceh district with its engine turned off.

Kamala, Trump deploy celebrity power in must-win states

Monitoring Desk
DETROIT: Kamala Harris and Donald Trump will roll out starkly contrasting celebrity back-up this week-end in Pennsylvania and Michigan — among the most prized of the battleground states set to decide the tightest of US presidential races. Pop star Lizzo will throw multi-Grammy award winning glitter behind the vice president's campaign in Detroit, while the world's richest man Elon Musk is to stump for Trump in Pennsylvania.

Ukraine's 'victory plan' receives mixed reactions from Western allies

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's plan to end Ukraine's nearly three-year war with Russia has received mixed reactions from Western allies so far. The "victory plan" that Zelenskyy outlined at home and abroad includes a formal invitation for Ukraine to join NATO and permission to use Western long-range missiles to strike military targets in Russia — two steps Kyiv's allies have been reluctant to support before. U.S. backing is crucial if Zelenskyy is to get support from other allies for proposals he believes are necessary to strengthen Ukraine's position on the battlefield and ahead of any peace negotiations. But analysts say the Biden administration is unlikely to make a decision before the U.S. presidential election on Nov. 5, as it may not appeal to voters. "They seem to be just doing very little now

and waiting for the election," said Phillips O'Brien, professor of strategic studies at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland. "So much of the strategy will live or die in Washington." Analysts said the plan is a step in the right direction for Ukraine's military efforts. They also described it as ambitious, given allies' fears of escalation with nuclear-armed Russia. Ukraine has previously secured Western support for requests once deemed unrealistic, such as Patriot air defense systems and F-16 jets. Presenting the plan now puts on the radar for the next U.S. administration, analysts said, though it's unknown how the next president will receive it. After returning from making his case to the European Council, Zelenskyy said he expects the White House to provide feedback. "They will be here soon with some form of response," he said.

Passage of 26th constitutional amendment, incomplete agenda of CoD fulfilled: Ishaq Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Sunday expressed his gratitude to all political parties for voting in favor of the 26th Constitutional Amendment and said that the incomplete agenda of the Charter of Democracy (CoD) had now been fulfilled.

After the passage of the amendment, Ishaq Dar thanked the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F), Awami National Party (ANP), Pakistan Muslim League (Quaid-e-Azam)

and others for their support in passing the amendment. He called it a historic day, commending all political parties for demonstrating wisdom and political maturity.

He stated that the passage of the amendments was made possible due to the relentless efforts of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

Ishaq Dar recalled that a parliamentary committee was formed to build consensus among political parties, including the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). He noted that several rounds of consultations were held with the leadership of JUI-

F and PTI, and the committee reached a consensus.

The Law Minister then briefed the committee on each clause. Dar also acknowledged PTI's active participation in the committee, noting that they showed unanimity on the draft.

However, despite reaching a consensus in the parliamentary committee, PTI did not support the amendment during the vote. Dar remarked that this was their democratic and constitutional right. He praised Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman for his wisdom and commended his efforts in helping to build consensus on the amendment.



ISLAMABAD: Activists of Save Gaza hold placard during the protest in support of the oppressed and resistance in Gaza outside the National Press Club.

Mushahid proposes 3-point Action Plan, urges Erdogan to take lead on Palestine issue

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed during the global Palestine Conference proposed a 3-point Action Plan, and urged President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to take lead on Palestine issue. On invitation of President Erdogan's AK Party, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed gave a keynote address at the "Global Palestine Conference" held here at the Turkish capital, where he presented a 3-point Action Plan.

President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan was Chief Guest on the occasion, said a news release. Senator Mushahid Hussain, who is Member of Executive Board of the Istanbul-based 'Al Quds Parliament', as well as Co-Chairman of International Conference of Asian

Political Parties (ICAPP), hailed the resistance of Hamas, Hezbollah and Iran to Israeli aggression and Zionist expansionism, terming these as exemplary models of 'Might is not Right, but Right is Might'.

During his speech, Mushahid Hussain appreciated the leadership role of President Erdogan, terming him as the 'Lion of the Muslim World', and congratulated him on his victory in the Turkish Presidential elections.

Condemning Israel for committing the first televised genocide in history, Mushahid also condemned Western double standards and absence of morality as they were actively aiding and abetting Israeli crimes. "Most of the Muslim re-

gimes have also failed to rise to the occasion due to either fear or expediency," he added.

Presenting his Action Plan before the gathering of some 1000 guests from over 50 countries, Mushahid said the first step should be for President Erdogan to take the lead and constitute an International Leaders Delegation, comprising leaders from the Global South, including Pakistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Africa, Algeria and Brazil, who should visit Washington immediately after the November 5 US Presidential polls to meet the American President-elect, and urge the new US President to reverse the one-sided American policy of blatantly supporting Israel.



KARACHI: Ahle Sunnat Pir Syed Arshad Saeed Shah Kazmi is addressing to participants during the Annual Azmat-e-Auliya and Urs Mahbubeen Conference organized Jamia Masjid Ameer Hamza Trust, held at Nazimabad area in Karachi.

JJ would continue the voyage of progress and development, Monem

KARACHI (INP): Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Ameer Monem Zafar has inaugurated another sports complex in Karachi as a part of the party's drive to restore parks, sports, educational and health facilities in the nine towns run by the JI in the mega city. MPA Muhammad Farooq, Liaquatabad Town Chairman Muhammad Haseeb, local JI leaders and a large number of area residents participated in the graceful ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, Monem Zafar said that the JI leadership in all the nine towns have started delivering in their respective towns since the day, they have been provided with limited administrative and monetary powers.

He recalled that the JI supreme Engr Hafiz Naeemur Rehman had once said that the JI would not just cry foul, instead it would deliver even beyond its mandate. He added that

the JI walked the talk. The JI leader said that the youth in Karachi had been pushed to weapons and narcotics in the past but the JI reversed the trend and launched BanoQabil Program for their betterment and development.

He further said that the Pakistan People Party government in Sindh and it has kept all the local government powers, using them to just plunder the resources.

He highlighted that the PPP government has kept the water and sewerage department but never brought any reforms or progress. As a result, he said, the mega city has been facing acute crises of water supply and sewerage.

Similarly the PPP regime in the province kept the chapter of construction and repairing of roads into their own clutches but took it as an opportunity to make money instead of serving Karachiites.

ECP to hear PTI intra-party election case on Oct 22

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has scheduled the hearing for the PTI intra-party election case on October 22, delays in local body elections in Punjab and at the federal level, as well as a contempt case against the PTI founder.

Notices have already been issued to Barrister Gohar Ali, Rauf Hassan, Akbar S. Babar, and others in the PTI intra-party election case.

The Election Commission has summoned the Chief Secretary of Punjab, the Secretary of Local Government Punjab, and the Federal Secretary of Interior regarding the delays in the local body elections in Punjab and Islamabad, respectively.

Man kills four women in name of honour

KARACHI (INP): In a gruesome incident, a man killed his four female family members—including his mother and sister—in the name of honour in Karachi's Lea Market.

A suspect named Bilal, who was taken into custody by police, has been charged in the murder of four women found in a flat near Lea Market. Bilal confessed to the crime during the interrogation, the police added that he killed his mother, divorced sister, niece and sister-in-law in the name of honour.

Man gunned down in Karachi

ISLAMABAD (APP): A young man was killed on Sunday in a shooting at a car on the Karachi super highway.

According to police, the deceased Sadiq was a government employee.

His brother told the police that they were going for family breakfast when the motorcycles tried to stop the vehicle, a private news channel reported.

The accused opened fire when they failed to stop the car.

Police arrest three accused, recover weapon, marijuana, mainpuri

HYDERABAD (APP): Police in its continued drive against narcotics and criminals on Sunday, arrested three accused and recovered weapons, marijuana and mainpuri from their possession.

SHO Hali Road police station Inspector Shaukat Ali Malokhani conducting raids in different areas arrested three suspects Waqar Dahot, Muhammad Imran Sangrasi and Ahad Qureshi and recovered a pistol with ammunition, mainpuri and one kg marijuana from their possession.

Police have registered cases against the accused under Sindh Arms Act, Narcotics Act and Gutka Mainpuri Act.

NA speaker bans recording mobile videos from press gallery

ISLAMABAD (INP): National Assembly (NA) Speaker Ayaz Sadiq has banned recording mobile videos from press gallery ahead of important session of the house.

According to the ruling of the NA speaker the ban has been imposed on recording videos on cell phones from the press gallery. During Sunday's session, the speaker instructed journalists, saying, "Please refrain from making mobile videos from the press gallery."

The sessions of the Senate and National Assembly will resume today at Parliament House Islamabad today. After a series of meetings at Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman's

PMA expressed over polio cases

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) has said that there has been an increase in polio cases and it is concerned about the situation.

It is said in the press release issued by the Secretary General of PMA (Center) Dr Abdul Ghafoor Shoro.

The statement said that the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) is deeply concerned about the recent surge in polio cases, particularly in Sindh.

The confirmation of two more children affected by the polio virus, a girl in Sanghar and a boy in Mirpurkhas, brings the total number of cases in the country to 39, with 12 cases now reported in Sindh alone.

Crackdown on power thieves in Shikarpur

Independent Report SHIKARPUR: The Shikarpur Bachao Movement organized a peaceful protest camp at Lakidar Ghar Chowk today, condemning the rising lawlessness and kidnapping of innocent children in the city.

The protest camp, held from 5 pm, was attended by movement chairman Allahi Bakhsh Sheikh, Abdul Wahab Kagzi, Habibullah Pahnwar, SDO Hosh Muhammad Sethar, SDO Gulrez Arai, LS Mohsin Rafiq Awan, and others conducted a crackdown on power thieves and defaulters in Shikarpur.

The operation targeted illegal connections in various areas, including Hathi Dar, Sikpal, Daduwi Road, Haji Latif Shah, Naru Faqir Street, Somra Mohalla, and others. The drive aims to eliminate unauthorized connections in Shikarpur, Kandhkot, and Jacobabad.

Gilani congratulates nation on approval of 26th constitutional amendment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Sunday extended his congratulations to the nation on the approval of the 26th Constitutional Amendment and said that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has long been committed to judicial reforms.

In a statement, Gilani praised the efforts of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and all coalition parties for their dedication to this crucial constitutional reform.

Gilani said that the amendment will not only strengthen the judicial system but also enhance the functioning of the superior judiciary across all four provinces. He highlighted that access to justice for the

people will be significantly improved as a result of these reforms.

Reflecting on the legacy of the late Benazir Bhutto, Gilani said she was deeply committed to improving the judicial system. "Today, with the passing of the 26th Amendment, another dream of Shaheed Bibi has come true," he added.

He credited Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and the coalition partners for this historic achievement, acknowledging the PPP's sacrifices in promoting democracy in the country.

Gilani reaffirmed that the PPP remains the largest and most dedicated party serving the people of Pakistan. He also expressed his gratitude to all coalition partners for their support in passing this critical constitutional amendment.



HYDERABAD: Leaders of Jeay Sindh Qaumi Party addressing during Party Conference held at Hyderabad press club.

Garbage heaps in megacity spreading diseases: Altaf Shakoor

KARACHI (INP): Expressing serious concern over poor cleanliness conditions in Karachi, Pasban Democratic Party (PDP) Chairman Altaf Shakoor here Sunday said that garbage heaps and overflowing gutters are spreading viral, fungal and bacterial infections in the megacity at an alarmingly high rate.

He said almost every household has a patient or two suffering from various diseases, especially viral ones. He said emergency rooms of every government and private hospital are overcrowded. He said dengue fever and other vector diseases are on the rise, but

the government is not taking any action to mitigate the situation.

He said the poor people especially have to suffer a lot due to missed workdays besides bearing costs of doctors' fees and medicines. He said the government hospitals have no sufficient medicine stock or manpower to cater the growing number of patients.

He said special medical camps should be arranged in poor localities to help the patients and their families. He said children are especially suffering from these diseases due to their weak immunity.

Shikarpur Bachao Movement holds peaceful protest

By Adeal Ahmed SHIKARPUR: The Shikarpur Bachao Movement organized a peaceful protest camp at Lakidar Ghar Chowk today, condemning the rising lawlessness and kidnapping of innocent children in the city.

The protest camp, held from 5 pm, was attended by movement chairman Allahi Bakhsh Sheikh, Abdul Wahab Kagzi, Habibullah Pahnwar, SDO Hosh Muhammad Sethar, SDO Gulrez Arai, LS Mohsin Rafiq Awan, and others conducted a crackdown on power thieves and defaulters in Shikarpur.

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KARACHI: A view of ongoing construction work at the Numaiish Chowranghi underpass in the provincial capital, aiming to improve city infrastructure.

11068 candidates take entry test at US Jamshoro campus in second phase

HYDERABAD (APP): The second phase of the entry test for admission to various bachelor's degree programmes for the academic year 2025 began at the University of Sindh (US), Jamshoro, on Sunday.

A total of 11068 candidates, including 3390 female students, took the test in the second phase out of as many as 21,809 candidates seeking admission against almost 11,000 seats in 70 disciplines of bachelor's degree programmes offered by the university.

SU Vice-Chancellor Professor (Meritorious) Dr Muhammad Siddique Kalhoro reviewed the test process and personally supervised it. He expressed his satisfaction over the arrangements made by various committees for the exam. Pro-VC SU main campus Prof Dr Abdul Sattar Shah, Registrar Dr Mushtaq Ali

Jariko, director admissions Prof Dr Ayaz Keerio, Dr Arfana Mallah, Dr Misbah Bibi Qureshi, Dr Hamadullah Kakepoto, Dr Khalil ur Rehman Khoubhati, Dr Agha Asad Noor, Dr Nek Muhammad Sheikh, Dr Anila Naz Soomro, Dr Rabia Asma Memon, Dr Tania Mushtaq, PD Gulam Shabbir Abbasi, Dr Muhammad Younis Leghari, Dr Kiran Sami Memon, Dr Muhammad Aqeel Bhutto, Dr Ali Nawaz Siyal, Munawar Rajar, Gulam Saqib Burro, Engr. Sajjad Shah, Engr. Murad Shah and others accompanied the VC during his visit. The test started at 10:20 am and lasted 90 minutes. Separate blocks were set up for the 3390 female candidates at the Institute of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering, Department of Media and Communication Studies.

ECP to hear PTI intra party election case, LG election delays on Tuesday

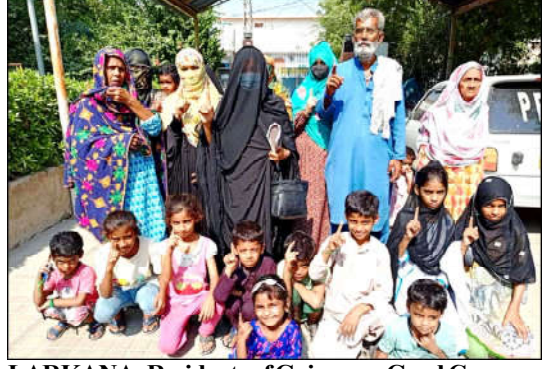
ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has scheduled the hearing for the PTI intra-party election case on October 22, delays in local body elections in Punjab and at the federal level, as well as a contempt case against the PTI founder. Notices have already been issued to Barrister Gohar Ali, Rauf Hassan, Akbar S. Babar, and others in the PTI intra-party election case.

The Election Commission has summoned the Chief Secretary of Punjab,

the Secretary of Local Government Punjab, and the Federal Secretary of Interior regarding the delays in the local body elections in Punjab and Islamabad, respectively.

The contempt case against the PTI founder will also be heard on October 22.

In last hearing, the Election Commission sought responses from PTA and PTCL about the lack of video link facilities for the founder's statement from Adiala Jail. His statement is scheduled to be recorded on October 22.



LARKANA: Residents of Gajanpur, Gaad Community are holding protest demonstration against the high handedness of Sachal Police Station, held at Larkana press club.

"World Culture Festival Karachi 2024" dazzle with mega music concert

KARACHI (APP): The 24th day of the 38-day "World Culture Festival Karachi 2024," organized by the Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi, continued with a vibrant musical concert.

The Mega Music Concert 4.0 added an extra spark to the festival with performances by South Korean group Good Fellis, SOVAPA Academic Ensemble, Hamza Akram Qawwal, Natasha Baig, Wahab Bugti, Sultan Baloch, Noman Al Shaikh, JAMBROZ Band, and Rhythmic Reverie. Good

Fellis from South Korea captivated the hearts of audience with their unique performance.

During a musical concert in Karachi, the Consul General of South Korea, Yi Sungho, shared his thoughts. He remarked that it is a matter of great pride for me that a Korean concert is being held in Pakistan.

He highlighted that listening a Korean band in Karachi is a rare opportunity, and for the first time, the people of Pakistan are experiencing a South Korean musical band.

Vice President HCSTSI hails SBP, NBP for introducing loan schemes for SMEs

HYDERABAD (APP): The Vice President of Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry, Shan Elahi Sehgal, has commended the State Bank of Pakistan and the National Bank of Pakistan for introducing loan schemes for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), agricultural financing and commercial vehicle loans.

He stated that these initiatives would play a crucial role in stabilizing the national economy by providing essential support such as working capital and financial assistance for business expansion to SMEs.

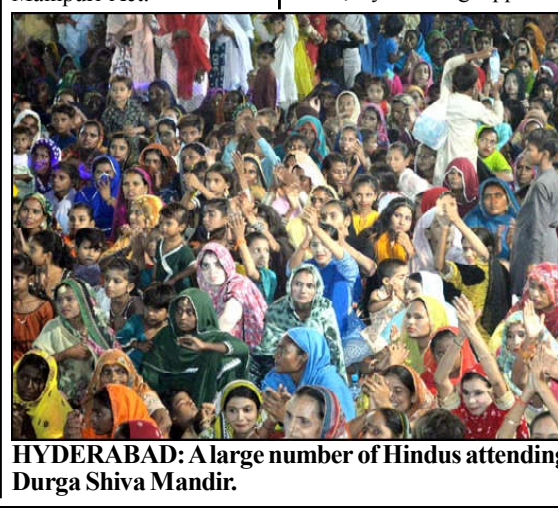
Shan Sehgal further emphasized that these schemes would greatly benefit small business owners, especially women entrepreneurs, by offering oppor-

Tribute to legendary singer Ustad Mukhtiar Ali Khan on 7th death anniversary

Independent Report SANGHAR: The seventh death anniversary of Ustad Mukhtiar Ali Khan, a prominent figure of the Gawaliar family and renowned singer was observed simply in Tando Adam. According to reports, the ceremony took place on Sunday and included Quran recitations to honor the late artist's soul.

Family members, including his brothers Ustad Nadir Ali Khan, Hameer Ali Khan, and his son Junior Manzoor Ali Khan, along with journalists and local residents visited his final resting place, laying flowers and offering prayers.

Senior journalists, including Imdad Rahi, Ashiq Saand, Khalid Khaskhali, Rais Zahid Hussain Mari, Ali Raza Sand and Kashif Panhwar remarked on Ustad Mukhtiar Ali Khan's invaluable contribution to classical music, noting that his unique voice was deeply cherished. They expressed sorrow over his untimely passing, stating that his legacy continues through his children.



HYDERABAD: A large number of Hindus attending their religious festival at Durga Shiva Mandir.