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'Parliament reigns supreme,' says PM

"This is more than an amendment," says premier; calling legislation "reaffirmation of solidarity and agreement"

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif declared Sunday a historic day for Pakistan, following the passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment in the National Assembly. Speaking on the floor of the House, the prime minister emphasised that the amendment represents not just a legal change, but a symbol of unity and consensus. "This is more than an amendment; it is a reaffirmation of solidarity and agreement across political lines," he noted. Reflecting on the past, PM Shehbaz criticised what he termed "palace conspiracies" that led to the dismissal of governments and prime ministers. The government



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Communication & Works Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa presenting condolence resolution in the Balochistan Assembly.

President signs constitutional amendments into law

ISLAMABAD (INP): The 26th Constitutional Amendment, which became law earlier on Monday after the approval of both houses of the Parliament, was given assent by President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday. Pakistani politics saw a second "working weekend" in as many months, where the ruling coalition finally succeeded in passing the much-touted 'Constitutional Package' with a two-thirds majority in both the Senate and the National Assembly. The 26th Amendment brings changes to the Constitution, most of which pertain to the judiciary. Some main reforms include taking away the Supreme Court's suo motu powers, setting the chief justice of Pakistan's (CJP) term at three years, and empowering the prime minister to appoint the next CJP from among the three most se-



QUETTA: Lawyers Action Committee Leaders, Ali Ahmed Kurd, Afzal Hurrifal, Rahib Buledi, Abdul Ghani Khilji and others addressing a press conference, in Quetta.

Enough is enough, recover abductee today, present him in the court: CJ IHC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) while expressing resentment over police performance in recovery case of lawyer Intezar Panjutha has summoned IG Police Islamabad today (Tuesday). The Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamer Farooq has remarked "10 days have passed. Has earth devoured the man. Enough is enough. The man be got recovered today (Tuesday) and be presented in the court. Don't make any wrong statement before the court. He gave these remarks during hearing of Intezar Panjutha recovery case Monday. The CJ IHC inquired

has any progress been made. Counsel Faisal Chaudhry said we have got footages and pictures. At present no progress has been made. You had sought IB report. SHO said under your order we made contact. Two pictures of front have been found Give these to us. The CJ IHC remarked investigation has to be made by you and not by them. SHO said the vehicle is not being seen till 5.02. The CJ IHC remarked go ahead from two minutes too. SHO said what cameras were found ahead we went to Kala Chitta airport. But nothing was found.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and PML-N Quaid Muhammad Nawz Sharif attending the session of the National Assembly convened to pass the 26th Constitutional Amendment.

Special parliamentary committee formed for CJP appointment

Four senators and eight MNAs have been nominated by political parties represented in parliament

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: A 12-member special parliamentary committee has been formed to oversee the appointment of Pakistan's next chief justice, marking a significant shift in the country's judicial selection process. The committee, established following the 26th Constitutional Amendment, includes representation from the National Assembly and Senate, with nominees from major political parties submitted to the National Assembly speaker's office. According to the speaker's office, four mem-

bers have been nominated from the Senate. The Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazi (JUI-F) has named Kamran Murtaza, while the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has nominated seasoned lawyer Farooq H. Naek. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) selected Azam Nazeer Tarar, and Barrister Ali Zafar has been nominated by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). From the National Assembly, PML-N has put forward senior members Khawaja Asif, Ahsan Iqbal, and Shaista Pervaiz. PPP has nominated former prime minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf and Naveed Qamar. PTI's

nominees include Barrister Gohar and Sahibzada Hamid Raza, while the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) has chosen Khawaja Izzat Hassan for the special committee. The Assembly Secretariat will issue a notification for the formation of the parliamentary committee shortly, following the speaker's approval. The formation of this committee is part of sweeping changes introduced under the 26th Constitutional Amendment, which reforms the process of appointing the Chief Justice of Pakistan. Previously, the Chief Justice was selected based on seniority, but under the new amendment, a three-member panel of senior judges will be reviewed by the parliamentary committee. The committee, requiring a two-thirds majority for approval, will then select the new Chief Justice. This special committee is tasked with ensuring wider representation in judicial appointments, with the aim of enhancing transparency. The amendment also impacts the process for appointing Supreme Court judges, involving parliamentary members in decisions that were previously handled exclusively within the judiciary.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Haji Ali Madad Jattak, Parliamentary Secretary Sanjay Panjwani and MPAs Prince Umar Ahmedzai and Mir Rehmat Saleh Baloch talking with each other after conclusion of Assembly session.

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah says Question of jurisdiction to arise every day in SC following legislation on constitutional benches

ISLAMABAD (INP): On the heels of the 26th Amendment's passage, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah on Monday remarked that the question of jurisdiction would "arise every day" in the Supreme Court (SC) following legislation on constitutional benches. In the wee hours of Monday, the much-awaited 26th Constitutional Amendment became law after approval of both houses of the Parliament, which was then given assent by President Asif Ali Zardari. The 26th Amendment brings changes to the Constitution, most of which pertain to the judiciary. Some main reforms include taking away the Supreme Court's suo motu powers, setting the chief justice of Pakistan's (CJP) term at three years, and empowering the prime minister to appoint the next CJP from among the three most se-

nior SC judges. On Monday, while hearing a case related to the Competition Commission of Pakistan, Justice Shah passed a light-hearted remark, saying: "Will this case now go to the constitutional bench or can we hear it?" "It seems now that this question will arise every day in the Supreme Court, whether the case will be heard by the normal bench or constitutional bench," Justice Shah said. Advocate Farogh Naseem responded by saying that political cases have now become constitutional cases. At this, Justice Ayesha Malik said, "Now it's up to you and your constitutional benches." Justice Shah then adjourned the case for three weeks, saying that by then they would have more clarity on the situation.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting regarding duties of lady health workers and visitors during anti-polio campaign.

CM Bugti assures PPL of full cooperation

QUETTA (APP): Managing Director (MD) of Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) Imran Abbasi called on Balochistan Chief Minister (CM) Mir Sarfraz Bugti at the CM House Quetta. They discussed crucial matters related to resource exploration and community development in the province during the meeting, said press release issued here on Monday. During the meeting, Abbasi outlined PPL's strategic plans for hydrocarbon exploration and mining in Balochistan including updates on social development projects in the area. The conversation also touched upon the status of the SUI Gas Fields development and Mining Lease. He also highlighted the sustainable development of ongoing projects under Bolan Mining Enterprises, a joint venture between PPL and the government of Balochistan (GoB). He explored how these initiatives would significantly contribute to the socio-economic uplift of local communities. Reaffirming PPL's commitment to the area, he said the company's continued support for community welfare efforts including the provision of free gas and water supply to Sui Town alongside numerous Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) projects. The CM assured the PPL of full cooperation and emphasized the importance of forging a joint strategy to enhance local community development and the broader progress of the area.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti presenting shield to Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Pakistan Petroleum Limited Imran Abbasi

Enactment of 26th constitutional amendment victory of democracy: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture, Attaullah Tarar, on Monday hailed the passage of the 26th constitutional amendment as a victory for democracy, one that will be etched in history. "The approval of the 26th constitutional amendment marks a significant milestone in Pakistan's history; a new dawn has begun," the information minister stated. Tarar extended congratulations to Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Ameer Maulana Fazlur Rehman, the members of the federal cabinet, all coalition parties, and the entire nation on the successful passage of the amendment. He emphasized that the amendment would bring greater stability to Pakistan's constitutional and legal framework. "Extensive consultations were held to ensure as much consensus as possible on the amendment," Tarar added. The minister noted that the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah laid the foundation for constitutional thought in Pakistan. "History will confirm that this constitutional amendment is in the best interest of the people," he asserted. The amendment, according to Tarar, will eliminate obstacles to the swift delivery of justice.

Will file reference against 'defectors', says Mengal

ISLAMABAD (INP) Sardar Akhtar Mengal, the head of his own faction of the Balochistan National Party (BNP-M), has announced his intention to file a reference seeking the disqualification of two senators who voted in favour of the 26th Constitution Amendment Bill, in violation of the party line. BNP-M senators Muhammad Qasim and Naseema Ehsan had voted in support of the bill, enabling the ruling coalition to complete its numbers in the upper house of the parliament. Talking to media, passage of the amendment bill from the Senate, Mr Mengal alleged that he was expelled from the visitors' gallery and the members' lobby of the Senate by the sergeant-at-arms before the start of the voting process so that he could not meet the two party dissidents. He said he had gone to the Senate just to have an eye contact with the two

senators and in an effort to at least make them feel embarrassed, but security officials told him that he could not sit in the gallery and the lobby as per the directives of Senate Chairman Yousaf Raza Gilani. BNP-M chief claims he was expelled from Senate visitors' gallery before vote. The move appears to be part of extra security measures taken by the government ahead of the crucial vote in both houses of parliament, on Sunday. Earlier, reports suggested that unidentified men had allegedly abducted the husband and a son of Naseema Ehsan from Parliament Lodges. During the Senate session on Oct 17, when the opposition members criticised the government for alleged harassment, Ms Ehsan took the floor, but she was so disturbed that she found it difficult to narrate details and just said: "The sanctity of chador and chahr diwari had been violated".



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting regarding duties of lady health workers and visitors during anti-polio campaign.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

26th Amendment

Has the storm passed? The coming days will tell. The ruling coalition's much-debated 'constitutional package' was finally endorsed by the Senate late Sunday evening, capping off weeks of fervent politicking and negotiation over its different provisions.

It was headed to the National Assembly at the time these lines were being written. Compared to the draft that had emerged after the abortive first attempt to bulldoze the amendments, the bill approved yesterday appeared to be a more watered-down version.

Even the PTI, which lost an important opportunity to suggest improvements in the bill by boycotting the voting process, acknowledged that it was 'much better' than the initial proposals. The party's leader in the Senate, Barrister Ali Zaffar, was profuse in his praise for JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman for this 'achievement', even though he maintained his party's reservations on the new process for judges' selection and key appointments in the superior judiciary.

The bill endorsed by parliament included 22 amendments in all, less than half of the over 50 provisions that were part of earlier drafts. This depleted version was also almost universally acceptable, with PTI leaders saying they would have participated in the voting process if it was held at a later date, mainly because they still needed to consult their jailed party chief on some remaining items. From first impressions, it appeared that the new appointment process for the Supreme Court chief justice remained the most contentious of the proposed amendments, with the government getting an unprecedented say in who makes the cut. Given the long-running feuds and divisions, both within the apex court and between the branches of the state, and their impact on major political developments in the country, the changes being made could trigger a new stand-off between the legal fraternity and the government. How the lawyers' community reacts remains to be seen.

A fear remains that the ruling coalition may try to misuse the amendments to appoint judges of their choice to the new 'constitutional bench', or elevate a 'like-minded' judge to the chief justice's position. Perhaps the PTI should have taken its responsibility, as the primary opponent of these amendments, more seriously. It should have presented alternative ideas or proposed changes to make the process 'fairer'. Even if these proposals were rejected during the process, it could have at least claimed to have offered other options.

That said, the responsibility of building a consensus remained with the government, and if achieving buy-in from all parties meant taking a few more days or even weeks, the option should have been exhausted. Instead, the government bound itself to an arbitrary deadline, seemingly to pre-empt the upcoming change of guard at the apex court. It remains to be seen how matters will proceed from here.

Classroom change

Neda Mulji

As the world gets smaller, with knowledge-sharing across borders, the growth of AI and easy access to free learning platforms, teachers find newer ways of teaching. Many schools have addressed the need for change, collaborating within their teams to design better lesson plans, cater to students' changing learning styles and keep up with new trends.

Recent curriculum reforms have introduced student-centred pedagogy focused on inquiry-based approaches. However, the real question is whether the changes are implemented in a structured, school-wide framework, with results that are continuously monitored. Schools that have been prioritising this transformation may benefit from working backwards from their goals.

One way of doing this is to trace impact through timelines: teachers can note the list of changes they wish to prioritise and track their implementation each month. At the end of the academic year, a reflective exercise will show the results they have achieved in bringing about concrete change in their teaching approaches.

An effective way to track successful implementation of new methods would be through teaching 'mind maps' that jot down what is usually done against the new tools that teachers have introduced. The real task would be to execute the change in an ongoing, sustainable way — and not as a one-off experiment. Most teachers who try out something new also inevitably tend to fall back on tried and tested ways and 'give up' before putting in hard work to produce different or improved results. Reflection

on the change and its impact is as valuable as the change itself.

The impact of embracing new ways of teaching is massive. Students start to respond with greater motivation, engage more readily with course content, and gradually learn to study more independently, thinking for themselves rather than relying on the teacher's explanations. They develop what Carol Dweck introduced as the 'growth mindset' in 2006.

The idea of the growth mindset is a change in student belief that ability and intelligence are malleable and not fixed. They can grow to infinite possibilities if nurtured with motivation and the passion to learn, with practice, reinforcement and positive feedback. Tracking progress does not merely entail monitoring grades, but also the level of effort and involvement that a student demonstrates through the school term.

Any kind of change is hard; sustaining it is even harder. However, growth lies in transformation, not in resistance to change. With an information overload and technological integration in learning, teachers are now called to action more relentlessly than ever before. Upskilling their skills calls for much more subject expertise alongside digital capability. Upgrading teaching involves keeping up with what students already know. Often this may mean they are more digitally savvy than their teachers.

Change involves not just upgrading, but diversifying the strategies and activities used to engage students in learning. The 21st century teaching calls for curating lessons to offer students new challenges, enabling them to work in collaboration, discover, analyse and communicate ideas. Students

enjoy agency no matter what their age, and will often have unique perspectives to share.

This would imply keeping explanations short and crisp, while allocating sufficient time for students to work and discuss, evaluate and apply what they are taught. Most lesson plans tend to focus on one stream of work and fail to offer a 'package' of structured learning that allows them to engage, explore and explain what they know.

Learners also need ongoing appreciation and acknowledgement of their efforts. When they get a chance to show-case their work or present ideas in class, the level of motivation improves dramatically. The teacher's work becomes easier when students take ownership of their learning and real change begins to surface.

Exasperated teachers, working hard to nudge students to study more, complain that students have changed massively and that they do not follow instructions like the students of yesteryear. Students have changed, both in their ways and their expectations, and the old models of teaching are no longer sustainable. Traditional teaching is being applied to students who are programmed differently, respond to vastly different stimuli, and many teachers are not yet ready to adapt.

But they can meet their students at least halfway by adapting to change, however cautiously. Often, change can start by reflecting on simple questions — what will help my students thrive? What can I do to involve them in learning? The answers are not complex for those ready for change. -- Courtesy Dawn

A death foretold

Zarrar Khuhro

Like his life, Yahya Sinwar's death was an act of resistance against seemingly unsurmountable odds. Born in 1962, in a refugee camp in Khan Younis to which his family had fled after being forced from their home in Ashkelon amidst the murders and massacres of the Nakba, Sinwar joined Hamas soon after its formation in 1987 and rose to lead its internal security wing.

It was a position in which he excelled, rooting out spies and collaborators, whom he disposed of with often brutal efficiency. It is perhaps a testament to the efficacy of the systems he set up that, despite the devastation of Gaza and the desperation of its people, Israel was unable to uncover any meaningful intelligence on his movements, or the movements of any other prominent Hamas leader in the Gaza Strip, for an entire year. When they did kill Sinwar it was, as per Israel's own account, quite by chance.

Arrested in 1982 and then in 1988, he was to spend 23 years in an Israeli jail before being released, along with 1,046 other Palestinian detainees, in exchange for the freedom of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit. It was likely that this experience provided at least part of the motivation for launching the Oct 7 attacks, in which some 250 Israelis were taken captive and moved to Gaza.

Prison also served as a training ground; years later Sinwar would remark to his supporters: "They wanted prison to be a grave for us, a mill to grind our will, determination and bodies ... we turned the prison into sanctuaries of worship and academies for study."

It was no idle boast: Sinwar spent his term

studying Hebrew, a language he became fluent in, and also studying how Israeli security forces, and in particular the notorious internal security wing Shin Bet, worked. It was knowledge he was to put to deadly effect. On Israel's hit list for years, Sinwar remained in the Gaza Strip, cementing his status as a fighter who remains with his people by posing in an armchair amidst the rubble of his house, which had been bombed in an attempt to assassinate him.

Ironically, the video of his last moments also shows him sitting in an armchair. Having engaged with, or been engaged by Israeli forces while moving above ground, Sinwar and his three bodyguards holed out in a building as Israeli forces approached. As per the Israeli account, Sinwar targeted the approaching troops with hand grenades, managing to seriously injure at least one of them. Unwilling to enter and engage, Israeli forces then called in a tank which fired at the building, seriously injuring Sinwar and shredding his right arm. Then they called in a drone strike. His bodyguards now dead, a critically injured Sinwar sat in an armchair with his face wrapped in a keffiyeh, as the Israeli drone video shows. With his one functioning arm, he threw a piece of wood at the approaching quadcopter in a last act of defiance, a singularly human act of resistance in the face of a tech-driven holocaust.

Even then, it took a sniper shot at long range to finally kill him.

In death, he also exposed many Israeli lies: for over a year, Israeli media has dutifully reported every claim of Israeli intelligence as to Sinwar's whereabouts as fact. We were told he had

fled Gaza and was hiding in another country while his compatriots suffered. We were told that he was sheltering among Palestinian civilians in a refugee camp dressed as a woman, a fabrication that was also used to obliquely justify Israeli massacres. We were told that Israel had not targeted him yet because he was sheltering in a tunnel using Israeli hostages as human shields while wearing a suicide vest.

Instead, Sinwar was found on the front lines just a few metres away from the Israeli army's operational area in Rafah, and by releasing the video of his final moments, Israel has done more to ensure that the legend of Sinwar survives than he could ever have imagined. Even those with Zionist sympathies have wondered why that decision was made, but to me it stems from the fundamental Israeli inability to understand the people they have been oppressing and decimating for nearly a century. If the Israeli intention was to show Sinwar's helplessness and, by extension, the hopelessness of resistance, then they have achieved the exact opposite. If they thought that eliminating Sinwar would eliminate his movement, then that shows that they have not understood that resistance is not a function of leadership as much as it is a function of oppression; so long as the one exists, so too will the other.

As for Sinwar, this is the ending he wanted. In an interview, he once remarked "The greatest gift Israel can give me is to assassinate me ... I prefer to die a martyr from an F-16 than to die of coronavirus or a stroke or a heart attack."

Sinwar got what he desired, it remains to be seen if Israel will. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Govt committed to strengthen IT, Telecom sector: Shaza Fatima

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja said that innovations in data networks, cloud computing, artificial intelligence and 5G are crucial for Pakistan's economic growth and in addressing key challenges such as healthcare, education, and sustainable development. Speaking at the SANOG-42 Conference, the Minister highlighted the importance of regional cooperation in enhancing the country's digital infrastructure and in developing inclusive, secure and sustainable technologies. She reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening the IT and Telecom sectors through various initiatives.

"We have launched IT Parks in Islamabad and Karachi, supporting over 1,300 startups through our National Incubation Centers. Our Digital Pakistan Policy aims to

boost e-governance, cybersecurity, and entrepreneurship," she stated.

She acknowledged the telecom sector's significant contribution to the national economy. She added that the upcoming 5G spectrum auction, scheduled for early 2025, alongside policies such as the National Fiberization Policy and Spectrum Sharing, would further accelerate growth.

The minister noted Pakistan's remarkable progress in cybersecurity, placing it among the top-tier nations in the ITU 2024 Global Cybersecurity Index. "This advancement reflects our strong commitment across all cybersecurity pillars, positioning us alongside leading countries in cybersecurity readiness," she said.

She highlighted the IT sector's thriving exports, which have already surpassed \$3 billion. Initiatives such as local

Chromeblock manufacturing by Google and Islamabad's transformation into a Model Digital City underscore the country's vibrant IT landscape.

"We continue to focus on training young people, particularly in cybersecurity, to ensure a skilled workforce for the future," Shaza Fatima remarked. She outlined comprehensive policies that aim to enhance access, affordability, and innovation, ensuring sustained growth and global competitiveness.

The minister also called for strengthened partnerships across South Asia, leveraging SANOG's experience for policy alignment and capacity building. "Our focus remains on optimizing Internet Exchange Points and enhancing network resilience. We invite international partnerships and investments to further drive the growth of our IT sector," she added.



LAHORE: Punjab Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb during a ceremony inaugurates to activate Kisan card and setting up anti smog squad at Agriculture House.

Country director ADB calls on minister for Planning

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Country Director of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Emma Fan met with the Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, on Monday to discuss ongoing and upcoming development projects supported by ADB.

During the meeting, the Minister emphasized the alignment of the recently finalized 5-year development plan with the Prime Minister's broader development agenda, said press release issued here.

Marriyum Aurangzeb says: Punjab CM committed to provide economic opportunities to people

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday said that Punjab Chief Minister was fully committed to provide economic opportunities to people to bring ease in their lives.

She said this while addressing the inauguration ceremony to activate Kisan card and setting up anti smog squad at Agriculture House. She said that special tasks had been assigned to all departments under

He highlighted the government's strategic focus on key sectors such as information technology, agriculture, and social development, aiming to foster inclusive growth and uplift marginalized communities.

The Minister underscored the importance of modernizing infrastructure, particularly roads, to enhance connectivity within the country and with regional partners, especially Central Asia.

He appreciated ADB's continued support

in this regard, stressing that improvements in road infrastructure, including the Taftan section, are critical for boosting trade and regional integration.

Furthermore, the Minister pointed out the need for greater investments in health and education, recognizing these sectors as the pillars of human development.

He reiterated the government's commitment to expanding access to quality healthcare and education to ensure a healthier and more educated workforce.

Lucky cement wins awards

ISLAMABAD (APP): Lucky Cement Limited, Pakistan's leading cement manufacturer, secured first position at the prestigious Best Corporate Report (BCR) Awards 2024, organized by the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Pakistan (ICMA) and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP). This award recognizes Lucky Cement's commitment to transparency, excellence in corporate reporting, and adherence to international best practices in financial reporting, according to a news release received here on Monday.

Huawei in partnership NIBAF completes training for SBP employees

ISLAMABAD (APP): Huawei Technologies Pakistan, in partnership with the National Institute of Banking and Finance (NIBAF), successfully completed the first batch of training for State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) employees aimed at enhancing their digital capabilities. This training follows the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in September 2024 between the two organizations, said a news release issued here on Monday. The MoU outlines a collaborative

framework to empower SBP's staff in digital transformation and related areas.

Huawei aims to drive digital empowerment in Pakistan's banking and governance sectors, ultimately improving overall efficiency. The first one-week training program, held at the NIBAF Campus in Karachi, focused on Datacom certification. A certification ceremony was attended by Mr. Asim Iqbal, Chief Technology Officer and Executive Director of ITG-SBP, along with Mr. Ahmed Bilal Masud.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja addresses during the SANOG-42 Conference held in Islamabad.

POL imports up by 15.74% in 1st quarter

ISLAMABAD (APP): The petroleum group imports increased by 15.74 percent during the first quarter of the current fiscal year as compared to the imports of the same months of last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

The imports of overall petroleum group during July-September (2024-25) stood at \$4,053.017 million as against the imports of \$3,501.860 million during July-September (2023-24), according to PBS data.

Among petroleum commodities, the import of petroleum products declined by 10.60 percent, from \$ 1,355.072 million

last year to \$ 1,515.733 million during the time period under review.

However, the imports of petroleum crude increased by 51.02 percent, from \$ 947.176 million to \$ 1,430.416 million; natural gas liquefied by 14.30 percent, from \$898.428 million to \$ 1,026.900 million whereas the imports of petroleum gas liquefied went up by 71.19 percent and reached to \$240.503 million as compared to \$140.489 million last year. The imports of all other petroleum group products also increased by 270.59 percent and went up to \$0.126 million from \$0.034 million

Atif Ikram says: FBR's I&I notices to industries are condemnable

ISLAMABAD: President Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Atif Ikram Shaikh has said that the notices of I&I by FBR to industrialists are condemnable. The notices stated that fake sales tax invoices were taken as inputs. Scrutiny of the importers to some extent can be done by the buyer before buying the goods but a thorough investigation procedure should be adopted because what can the purchaser do if the importer refuses to accept his own sales tax invoices. We can check NTN and the genuineness

of the company but FBR says that the buyer should investigate completely, it is not possible for us. Federation President Atif Ikram said that Purchaser conducts banking transactions, maintains all records, yet issuing notices is tantamount to harassment. FBR should oblige the importers to update their complete record and put it on their website. Our demand is that the government and FBR should adopt the rules of doing business so that industries can run and exports can increase. If the industries are freed from day to day inquiries then the economy can move towards improvement

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was reported at the port where six ships, TSS Amber, Alea, Nave Cielo, Lusail, Xin Hai Tong-8 and ELLAN Manx scheduled to load/offload Container, Rice, Gasoline, LNG and Coalberthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Grain Terminal, FOTCO Oil Terminal, Pakistan Gas Port Consortium Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal and Pakistan International Bulk Terminal respectively on 20th October.

Meanwhile three more ships, Karlskrona, Orange Victoria and Dravin scheduled to load/offload Containers, Gasoline and LPG also arrived at outer anchorage the port during last 24 hours.

Maryam reviews progress on Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar programme

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, chairing a meeting here on Monday, reviewed the progress on 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' programme.

The CM said that under 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' programme, construction of houses has started across Punjab. She added that in a record period of only two months, the people who got the first installment in Lahore, Kasur and other districts have started construction of their houses vigorously.

The CM said, "I express prayers and best wishes for the lucky

citizens who are building houses under 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' programme." She directed the authorities concerned to ensure release of the second installment of loan under the programme as per schedule, and said, "We are trying our best so that no one is deprived of a rightful loan." She underscored that in each district, Assistant Commissioner has been appointed as Focal Person for the convenience of applicants. "I will myself monitor 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' programme via dashboard" she said.

She directed Provincial Minister Bilal Yasin to monitor the

programme in the field.

Earlier, the CM was briefed by the relevant authorities that more than 550,000 people have approached the portal for "Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar" programme, and about 450,000 applications have received under the programme. Senior Provincial Minister Mairiyum Aurangzeb and Provincial Minister Housing Bilal Yasin attended the meeting. Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Secretary Housing Asadullah Khan, Principal Secretary Sajid Zafar Dal, DG PHATA Saif Anwar Jappa and other relevant officers were also present.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi presides over the special Senate meeting of Gomal University at Governor House.

Governor Kundi for permanent resolution of Kurram situations

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday expressed concern regarding the security situation in Kurram, emphasizing that solutions should align with local customs and Pashtun traditions permanently.

He said this during a meeting at the Governor's House with former MNAs Pir Haider Ali Shah and Jawad Hussain, along with Kurram tribal elders.

Governor Kundi said he is well aware of the challenges facing Kurram and is actively engaging with various community leaders to find a lasting solution.

He underscored the need for a permanent resolution rather than a temporary peace.

The Governor highlighted that some incite sectarian conflict between Shia and Sunni communities and urged locals to remain vigilant against such divisive tactics. He reassured the delegation that the people of Kurram are part of the broader community, and restoring complete peace in the area is a top priority for him. The delegation informed the Governor about the persistent sectarian violence that has plagued Kurram for years, resulting in the loss of

thousands of lives, including children, women, and the elderly. They said that travel remains perilous, and the ongoing conflict is exacerbated by issues surrounding land disputes, which need resolution for sustainable peace.

Additionally, they said that a small fraction approximately three percent of individuals are responsible for disrupting the peace, and they called for action against them.

The blockade of roads has led to shortages of essential goods and medicines, while trade at the Pak-Afghan Kharlachi border is stalled, causing significant economic losses.

Governor Punjab greets the nation on the passage of 26th constitutional amendment

LAHORE (Online): Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan congratulated the nation on the passage of the 26th constitutional amendment. He congratulated President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari, Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto and leaders of all political parties on the passage of the 26th constitutional amendment. Governor Punjab said that this institution is rendering great services for education. Governor Punjab said that Indus Hospital is catering to the health problems of poor people by providing them free of cost health services.

Besides, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider attended the honorary doctorate ceremony at the University of Lahore as the chief guest. Addressing the ceremony held on this occasion, Governor Punjab said that this institution is rendering great services for education. Governor Punjab said that Indus Hospital is catering to the health problems of poor people by providing them free of cost health services.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider conferred honorary doctorate degrees on Dr. Abdul Bari Khan and Javed Ashraf Bhatti during a ceremony.

PPP leader says: 26th Amendment to guarantee supremacy, dignity of parliament

PESHAWAR (APP): A local PPP leader and a former candidate for National Assembly, Syed Abid Ali Shah, congratulated the nation for the passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment by the parliament, saying it would ensure the supremacy and dignity of the parliament in the country. Talking to APP here on Monday, he said that the adoption of the constitutional amendment was necessitated to return the powers given to the parliament for its supremacy under 18th Constitutional Amendment back to the legislature. These powers, he said under the 19th Constitutional Amendment were transferred to the judiciary and now they have returned back to the parliament.

Maulana Fazalur Rehman in the passage of the amendment bill. "PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has played big and crucial role in making of this achievement who entered into consultations with political parties and developed a consensus and resolve a hard task amicably and all democrats are paying tributes to him for it." Terming 26th Constitutional Amendment a step forward towards the restoration of the 1973 Constitution in real shape and expressed the hope that very soon more similar constitutional amendments would also be introduced in the parliament to ensure speedy justice and relief to the people. Syed Abid Ali Shah said that the political sagacity exhibited by PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in developing political consensus for the passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment would be written with golden words in the democratic history.

Governor calls on newly appointed Commandant FC

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi welcomed the newly appointed Commandant of the Frontier Constabulary, Muhammad Riaz Nazir Gara at Governor's House here on Monday.

During their discussion, they focused on the professional duties and responsibilities of the Frontier Constabulary in maintaining peace and order in the province.

Governor Kundi congratulated Muhammad Riaz Nazir Gara on assuming his new role and expressed his best wishes for his success.

The Governor commended the services of the Frontier Constabulary, recognizing their vital contribution to maintaining peace in the region.

He said that the Frontier Constabulary is a highly professional force, and its exemplary role in improving law and order is commendable.

Transport Minister vows swift resolution of transporters' issues

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Transport Bilal Akbar Khan assured the transporters that their problems would be resolved promptly. He assured during a meeting with representatives of Pakistan Mini Mazda Association at Transport House who called on him here on Monday.

The minister directed the Transport Secretary and Provincial Transport Authority (PTA) Secretary to take immediate, necessary actions to address the issues. Emphasizing the vital role of transporters in sustaining national development, the minister stated that the government was committed to resolving their challenges within the framework of law.

He also warned against any unjust treatment by officials, promising strict action against those who unnecessarily penalize or halt vehicles without reason.

CM starts 'Dhi Rani' programme

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has inaugurated the 'Punjab Dhi Rani' Programme here on Monday. Under the programme, the CM said that Rs100,000 would be given to each newly-married couple through ATM, adding that food would be served to 20 guests of each couple. She highlighted that necessary furniture, household utensils, clothes and other daily necessities will also be donated. The CM said receipt of applications under the Punjab Dhi Rani Program for mass marriages has started, which can be submitted online at cmp.punjab.gov.pk. She added a dedicated helpline 1312 has also been established for the program.

Ban lifted on transfer of property: Mayor

PESHAWAR (APP): Mayor Peshawar Zubair Ali on Monday said that ban on transfer of properties in the Capital Metropolitan Government has been lifted and people should contact capital metropolitan with relevant documents for transfer of property.

Director Property Ayaz Khan, chairman Shah Faisal, former advisor and traders' representative Mehar Elahi. The meeting discussed the problems being faced by traders due to a ban on transfer of property. The mayor told the traders' representative Mehar Elahi that the ban on transfer of property has been lifted and shopkeepers should contact the capital metropolitan office for transfer of shops.

International News

UN says Israel targeting UN peacekeepers' positions in Lebanon, as Gaza nightmare escalates

UNITED NATIONS (APP): The UN peacekeeping force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has said that an Israeli army bulldozer demolished an observation tower and the perimeter fence of a UN position in Marwahin, a town in the southern part of the country.

A press statement issued by the Mission, formally known as the UN Interim Force in Lebanon, said Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) "deliberately demolished" the watchtower and the fence surrounding the Marwahin site.

"Yet again, we remind the IDF and all actors of their obligations to ensure the safety and security of UN personnel and prop-

erty and to respect the inviolability of UN premises at all times," UNIFIL stated.

The mission also reiterated that the violation of a UN site and damage to its assets constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and Security Council resolution 1701, the unanimously adopted text to end to a 2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah and chart a path towards security on the border between Israel and Lebanon.

The statement went on to note that the Israeli army has repeatedly asked UNIFIL to vacate its positions along the Blue Line and has deliberately damaged UN positions.

Despite the pressure on the mission and troop-

contributing countries, UNIFIL stressed that peacekeepers remain in all their positions, the mission's statement said on Sunday.

"We will continue to carry out our mandated tasks of monitoring and reporting," the statement concluded.

Sunday's developments come after a series of worrying incidents in the past days in which a total of five peacekeepers have been injured.

Just four days ago, UNIFIL issued a statement saying peacekeepers at a position near Kafer Kela had observed an IDF Merkava tank firing at their watchtower. Two cameras were destroyed, and the tower was damaged, it said.



Palestinians inspect the damage after an Israeli air strike at Beit Lahya in the northern Gaza Strip.

Indonesia's Prabowo swears in cabinet of over 100 ministers, deputies

JAKARTA: Indonesia's newly minted leader, President Prabowo Subianto, officially swore in his cabinet on Monday, a team which analysts said reflected continuity of his predecessor's main policies.

Prabowo took office on Sunday as the eighth Indonesian president, taking the mantle from Joko "Jokowi" Widodo. In a fiery speech to lawmakers, he promised to eradicate corruption and aim

to reach self-sufficiency in food and energy. Prabowo's cabinet has 48 ministries with over 100 ministers and deputies, including re-appointments of Sri Mulyani Indrawati as finance minister and Bahlil Lahadalia as energy minister.

Sri Mulyani will preside over Prabowo's main programmes, including giving free meals to about 20 million children which could cost the state budget 71 trillion rupiah (\$4.60 billion) in the first year.

Japan PM facing lukewarm approval ahead of election

TOKYO (AFP/APP): Approval ratings for Japan's new Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba have fallen ahead of an October 27 general election, one weekend poll showed, with another survey suggesting the ruling coalition could struggle to secure a majority.

Former defence minister Ishiba took office this month after being voted leader of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which has been in power for most of Japan's post-war history.

Ukraine attacks forced Black Sea Fleet to move warships from Sevastopol, Russian official says

MOSCOW: Russia's Black Sea Fleet has been forced to move many warships from the naval base of Sevastopol on the Crimean peninsula, which Russia annexed in 2014, due to attacks by Ukraine, a Russian-installed official was quoted as saying on Sunday.

The remarks by Dmitry Rogozin, a Russian-installed senator for the Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia region and a former head of Russia's space agency, are the first Russian official confirmation that the fleet has had to move from Sevastopol. Ukraine has repeatedly said its attacks on Rus-

sian warships in the Black Sea have forced Moscow to move ships to Novorossiisk.

Rogozin told the M o s k o w s k y Komsomolets, opens new tab newspaper that Russia needed to get more serious about its drone development, the organisation of its military drone units and the development of electronic warfare and satellite positioning systems.

"A military-technical revolution is taking place before our very eyes," Rogozin said of the development of drones and electronic warfare, adding that the pace of innovation was changing the situation at the front every month.



Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris speaks during a church service at New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Stonecrest, Georgia.

Kamala turns 60, but prefers to talk about Trump's age

STONECREST: Kamala Harris turned 60 on Sunday in the final stretch of a knife-edge election battle with 78-year-old Donald Trump, as she urged a Black congregation in Georgia to embrace compassion-ate values while others "spread hate, sow fear and cause chaos."

Harris, speaking at a Baptist megachurch near Atlanta, did not mention Trump by name but the crowd — after spontaneously serenading her with

"Happy Birthday" — nodded knowingly to her allusions to her Republican rival. Georgia is one of the key states that are expected to decide the November 5 election. Both candidates were planning events later Sunday in another of those states, Pennsylvania, which both sides see as a must-win.

With just over two weeks before Election Day, the Democratic vice president and the Republican billionaire are in a fierce race. Harris, addressing the enthusiastic Black churchgoers,

US investigates leak on intelligence about Israel's Iran attack plans

WASHINGTON: The United States is investigating the leak of a pair of highly classified intelligence documents describing Israel's preparations for a retaliatory strike on Iran, House Speaker Mike Johnson said on Sunday.

The documents appear to have been prepared by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, describing US interpretations of Israeli Air Force and Navy planning based on satellite imagery from Oct. 15-16. They began circulating last week on the Telegram messaging app. Israel has been planning a response to a ballistic-missile barrage carried out by Iran on Oct. 1, its second direct attack on Israel in six months. Israel has intensified its offensive in Gaza and Lebanon.

Expelled Indian envoy blames Trudeau for row

OTTAWA: India's envoy to Canada, who is being expelled over what Ottawa says are links to the murder of a Sikh leader, insisted in an interview he was innocent and said Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had wrecked bilateral political ties.

Both countries on Monday ordered out six diplomats in tit-for-tat moves over Ottawa's allegations that New Delhi was targeting Indian dissidents on Canadian soil.

Trudeau specifically tied the six to the murder of Sikh separatist

Hardeep Singh Nijjar last year in British Columbia. Sanjay Kumar Verma, India's envoy to Canada, told CTV that Trudeau had been relying on intelligence rather than evidence.

"On the basis of intelligence, if you want to destroy a relationship, be my guest. And that's what he did," Verma said in an interview broadcast on Sunday.

Asked whether he had anything to do with Nijjar's murder, Verma said: "Nothing at all. No evidence was presented. (This is) politically motivated."

Brazil's Lula cancels trip to BRICS summit in Kazan on medical advice

BRASILIA: Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva announced on Sunday that he will no longer travel to Kazan, Russia, for the BRICS summit, following medical advice to temporarily avoid long-haul flights. In a statement, the presidential palace said Lula will participate in the BRICS meeting via video conference. The group comprises Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

Oil-rich Iraqi Kurdistan votes, shadowed by economic struggles

ARBIL: Iraq's Kurdistan voted on Sunday to elect a new parliament for the autonomous oil-rich region, where voters expressed concern over economic struggles and disenchantment with the political elite.

Iraqi Kurdistan presents itself as a relative oasis of stability in the turbulent Middle East, attracting foreign investors due to its close ties with the United States and Europe.

However, activists and opposition figures contend that the region, autonomous since 1991, faces the same issues affecting

Iraq as a whole: corruption, political repression and cronyism among those in power. Originally scheduled for two years ago, the vote was postponed four times due to disputes between the region's two historic parties, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

Each party is controlled by a powerful Kurdish family—the KDP by the Barzanis and the PUK by the Talabans.

Despite holding election rallies and mobilising their patronage networks, experts,



President of Kurdistan Nechirvan Barzani shows his inked finger after casting his vote at a polling station in Erbil.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal addressing during Data Fest 2024 organized by Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives at Pak-China Friendship Center.

UN Fellowships participants briefed on Pakistan's stance on arms control

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director General (Arms Control and Disarmament) Ambassador Tahir Andrabi, on Monday, briefed participants of the United Nations Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament, about Pakistan's stance on arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation.

He also emphasized the importance of unrestricted access to dual-use technologies for peaceful socio-economic applications.

The United Nations Disarmament Fellows, belonging to 25 countries, are visiting Pakistan from 20-23 October, as part of their international study tour and visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release.

The visit, which has been organized by the Government of Pakistan in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), aims to familiarize international diplomats with Pakistan's policies and institutional frameworks in arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation.

During their visit, the fellows will tour the Pakistan Centre of Excellence on Nuclear Security (PCENS), the Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science & Technology (PINSTECH), the Pakistan Ordnance Factories (POF) in Wah Cantt, the Heavy Mechanical Complex (HMC) in Taxila, the National Centre for Physics (NCP), and the Centre for International Strategic Studies (CISS).

At PCENS, the participants will receive detailed briefings on Pakistan's nuclear safety and security architecture, regulatory frameworks, and the safeguards adopted in line with international standards, which have been recognized by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

At PINSTECH, they will observe the Pakistan Atomic Research Reactor and the peaceful applications of nuclear technology in health, industry, agriculture, food security, and power generation.

Established in 1978, the United Nations Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament is a prestigious programme of UNODA and offers valuable training and exposure to young professionals. Pakistan is hosting the international study tour for the UN Disarmament Fellows for the second time.

Ayesha Raza says: Media role crucial in fight against polio

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Prime Minister's Focal Person for Polio Eradication Ms. Ayesha Raza Farooq on Monday urged to strengthen collaboration and foster media engagement in the ongoing fight against polio. She was addressing a group of health journalists at media engagement session at the National Emergency Operations Centre for Polio Eradication (NEOC), organized by the Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme.

The event brought together health reporters from various print, electronic, and online media outlets, aiming to provide them with accurate data, present the programme's current strategy to fight poliovirus, and address media questions ahead of the nationwide polio vaccination campaign set to begin on October 28, 2024.

Ms. Ayesha Raza provided journalists with critical updates on the current status of the polio programme efforts in the country.

NEOC Coordinator Anwarul Haq presented the key challenges facing the eradication efforts, including persistent vaccine hesitancy, population movement, and security concerns in high-risk areas that affect consistent access to children with the vaccine.

Journalists play vital role in strengthening democracy: Muqam

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, Engineer Amir Muqam on Monday said that journalist's community had played a pivotal role in the strengthening of democracy in the country.

In a statement, the minister said that the present government was taking all possible cooperation and measures for the safety and welfare of journalists, as it values their services and sacrifices.

He said that Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan beat reporters were playing their role in resolving the problems of both areas, adding that Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Beat Reporters Association was highlighting the Kashmir issue on the media front. Amir Muqam expressed his best wishes for the injured Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan beat reporter Asghar Hayat and also prayed for his early health recovery. Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan were regions with unique political and geographical conditions, he concluded.



QUETTA: Vice Principal Bolan Medical College Dr. Ilyas meeting with Special Secretary Health Shehak Baloch.

'Long live democracy, long live Parliament' Maryam on Parliament's new laws

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has lauded the passing of the 26th Constitutional Amendment calling it a historic moment for democracy and the supremacy of Parliament.

In her statement following the approval, Maryam Nawaz emphasized the significance of the amendment in restoring Parliament's authority and strengthening the judicial system.

"Long live democracy, long live Parliament," declared the Chief Minister, congratulating the nation on this achievement. She highlighted that the 26th amendment is a "clear message for the people to raise their voice" and stands as a pivotal reform for ensuring justice is not only served but also seen to be done in a timely manner.

The amendment is crucial for the supremacy of Parliament and reflects a broader movement towards making Pakistan an "exemplary democracy" on the global stage.

Ahsan hopes Pakistan economy volume to reach \$3trillion in 23 years

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal on Monday hoped that the annual volume of Pakistan's economy will be \$3 trillion and the country will be counted among the top 10 economies of the world in 100 years of independence in 1947.

In the current era, data-driven, knowledge economies are ruling the world, and data sets, data integration and Artificial Intelligence are significant for the sustainable economic development of any country, the Minister said.

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal said this while addressing the 'Data Fest 2024. Organized by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) here.

Chairman NADRA Lieutenant General, Muhammad Munir Afsar, Federal Secretary for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Owais Manzoor Samra, Chief Statistician, PBS, Naem ul Zafar and representatives of federal and provincial ministries and other stakeholders participated in the ceremony.

The main strategic partners for DataFest-2024 are UNICEF, UNFPA, the World Bank, ILO, UNHCR, FAO, ADB and these organizations bring extensive expertise in global development, public health, and education.

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives said that today "we have entered a world that is undergoing the most rapid changes in human history and people who have seen the huge innovations and development in modern time."

He said that now modern data science drives the economic revolution in the world, and data analytic and advanced technology have fueled the modern economic development and digital revolution.

He said that data science is the core of artificial intelligence, and its quality is the foundation of any economic theory and development in the modern world and for that, our economy needs very reliable data.

The Minister said that behind the economic development of any nation are 10 years of continuous policies, which pave the way for their development.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif signs the advice for presidential assent on the 26th Constitutional Amendment Bill.

SBP says: Current Account records surplus of \$119m in Sep 24

KARACHI (APP): The Current Account Balance of Pakistan further improved in September 2024 with a surplus of US\$ 119 million as compared to a surplus of US\$ 29 million in August 2024, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported on Monday.

Cumulatively the current account balance for July to September 2024, according to the latest SBP data, has also shown significant improvement as deficit of \$98 million was recorded during the first four months of FY 2024-25 as compared to the deficit of \$1.241 billion during the corresponding period of last year. "Current Account Balance recorded a surplus of US\$ 119 million in September 2024 compared to a surplus of US\$ 29 million in August 2024," said SBP adding that cumulatively for Jul-Sep FY25, the CAB improved significantly, recording a deficit of only \$98 million in comparison to \$1,241 million in Jul-Sep FY24. According to SBP figures, the merchandise trade deficit during July-September (2024-25) was recorded at \$6,723 million as compared to the deficit of \$5,336 million in July-September (2023-24).

UoT extends spring 2025 admission deadline

TURBAT: The University of Turbat (UoT) has extended the application submission deadline for spring 2025 admissions to various undergraduate and graduate programs. The new deadline for submitting applications is 1st November 2024. According to the details, the last date for admission to the various undergraduate programs including Associate Degree in Business, BBA, BS in Commerce, Economics, Political Science, Sociology, Balochi, English, Chemistry, Computer Science.

PM condoles death of MPA Patrick Sant Masih

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday expressed condolence over the death of the Member of Balochistan Assembly and Pakistan Muslim League-N leader Patrick Sant Masih.

Praying for strength to the bereaved family to bear the loss, the prime minister said that the late Patrick Sant Masih had rendered unforgettable services for the public welfare besides effectively representing the Christian community, according to a PM Office press release.



QUETTA: Former Provincial Ministers Mir Haider Khan Jamali, Maulana Noor Muhammad Sharudi and others meeting with Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani.

Abdul Rauf assumes charge as DG Agriculture Research

QUETTA (APP)-Abdul Rauf Khan Kakar took the charge of Director General (DG) of Balochistan Agriculture Research on Monday in Quetta.

Concerned officials met the newly DG Abdul Rauf Khan Kakar during taking charge at his office.

The DG said that he would take all possible measures to develop the Agriculture Department in limited resources because development of Agriculture Department is essential for the economic of the province.

PTA intensifies crackdown on illegal issuance of SIMs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Zonal Office in Lahore, in close collaboration with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Cyber Crime Circle, Lahore conducted a successful raid against a telecom franchisee located at Kot Addu. This franchisee was found to be involved in the illegal issuance of SIMs said a news release. During the raid, 166 fingerprints, one mobile phone and one Laptop were recovered from the franchisee. The FIA team confiscated these devices as evidence.

Those who voted for constitutional reforms 'betrayed' PTI, Imran

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) senior leader Asad Qaiser said on Monday that the PTI-backed independent candidates, who supported the contentious constitutional amendment, betrayed the party and its founder, Imran Khan.

The government clinched 225 votes of the required 224 with the crucial support of a handful of independent MNAs, including those backed by the PTI. Zahoor Qureshi Aurangzeb Khichi, Usman Ali, and Mubarak Zeb were the PTI-backed independent MNAs who voted in the tweak's favour, while Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q)'s Chaudhry Ilyas also supported the legislation.

Under the judicial reforms passed during a late-night session of parliament, the chief justice of Pakistan will now be selected by a parliamentary committee and have a fixed term of three years. A new constitutional bench will also be formed. "Those who voted [in favour of the bill] have committed treachery against the party and its founder," said Qaiser during a media talk.

Emphasizing that the votes cast were not in line with the party policy, Qaiser, a former speaker of the lower house, stated: "These were not their votes, they were votes for the founder of PTI." He accused the government of ignoring parliamentary rules and procedures in pushing through the bill. "The government did not adhere to the proper rules and processes for this bill," he claimed. The former speaker of the National Assembly further alleged that what transpired in the Parliament was unconstitutional.



QUETTA: Members of Pashtun Qaumi Jirga are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, outside Balochistan Assembly in Quetta.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Livestock Sardarzada Faisal Khan Jamali meeting with Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai.

ICJ describes 26th amend as threat to judicial independence

ISLAMABAD (INP): The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) has described the passage of 26th Constitutional Amendment as a blow to judicial independence, the rule of law, and human rights protection in Pakistan.

In a statement issued on Monday, the ICJ Secretary General Santiago Canton said, "These changes bring an extraordinary level of political influence over the process of judicial appointments and the judiciary's administration."

"They erode the judiciary's capacity to independently and effectively function as a check against excesses by other branches of the State and protect human rights."

"It is alarming a Constitutional Amendment of great significance and public interest was passed in such a secretive manner and in less than 24 hours."

"The core principle of the rule of law and the separation of powers according to which citizens and their freely chosen representatives have the right to participate in the legislative process culminating in the adoption and enactment of laws was flagrantly violated in this case," added Canton.

The ICJ is particularly concerned about the following changes introduced by the 26th Constitutional Amendment since they seriously undermine the independence of the judiciary by unduly subjecting it to executive and Parliamentary control. These amendments directly violate Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

Gandapur announces launching movement for independence of judiciary

PESHAWAR (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur announced to start a movement for the independence of the judiciary.

Gandapur described the overnight passage of the amendment as a corrupt practice.

He further condemned the government for making decisions through the servants warning that such actions hinder development.

Gandapur also vowed to reverse the unconstitutional amendments once given the mandate, promising to hold those responsible accountable, including traitors who changed loyalties. The KP chief minister praised the police for their sacrifices in the fight against terrorism and pledged to address their issues for the peace and stability of the country.

Gandapur also declared that he will not allow the judiciary to become subservient and will lead a strong movement to safeguard its independence.

Addressing the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, Gandapur vowed to fight for "real freedom."

He asserted not to rest until the war is over. He blamed the government's recent actions, accusing them of attempting to seat judges of their choice.

Next amendment will be South Punjab province specific, says Ali Gilani

MULTAN (INP): PPP leader and Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Chairman Syed Ali Haider Gilani said on Monday that following the passage of the 26th constitutional amendment by the parliament, the next amendment would be related to the creation of South Punjab province.

In an exclusive interview with a private TV channel, Ali Gilani said on this occasion, he congratulated all democratic forces in the country and the masses.

"I felicitate Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and other heads of the political parties, currently part of the coalition government." These amendments, he went on to say, would benefit the masses the most.

PAC chairman said that the Supreme Court (SC) in the past had removed two elected prime ministers namely Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani and Nawaz Sharif from office, while one, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto (ZAB) was hanged. Gilani said that Pakistan would become interest-free country by 2028.



ISLAMABAD: JI Ameer Hafiz Naem Ur Rehman addressing a press conference in the Federal Capital.

We will challenge 26th constitutional amendment in court: Hafiz Naem

ISLAMABAD (Online): JI while rejecting 26th constitutional amendment has termed it tantamount to curbing the independence of judiciary.

Addressing a press conference here Monday, JI Amir Hafiz Naem ur Rehman said JUI-F while siding with government on draft bill has refreshed the memory of PDM-3.

"We will challenge 26th constitutional amendment after consultation with the lawyers, he added.

PDM-3 once again became united for sale and purchase.

Today PDM-3 attack has been launched on judiciary.

PTI should not have participated in any talks, he said adding PTI has done good by boycotting the session.

He talked to high officials of the health department to resolve issues of the hospital on priority including provision of blood bags for thalassaemia patients and emergency department. He said that the blood bags were provided by the health department on an emergency basis to the hospitals.

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