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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 members have been nominated from the Senate. The Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (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.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a meeting to review the development portfolio of the city at CM house

Sindh govt approves Rs75.63 billion for Karachi development projects

CM Murad Ali Shah announces Rs14.80 billion allocated in current financial year's budget for these projects

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has directed the Planning and Development Department to expedite the approval process for 162 development schemes, amounting to Rs75.639 billion, as part of Karachi's Rs187.3 billion development portfolio.

These schemes, which have an allocation of Rs14.8 billion for the current financial year 2024-25, are targeted for completion by the next fiscal year. Therefore, there is an urgency to start work on these projects without delay.

This he said while presiding over a meeting at CM House on Monday. The meeting was held at CM House on Monday. It was attended by Minister P&D and Energy Nasir Shah, Minister Home Zia Lanjar, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder

Shah, Secretary Energy Musadik Khan, Secretary Finance Fayaz Jatoi, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh and Secretary Law Ali Ahmad Baloch.

The Minister P&D Nasir Shah gave a detailed briefing to the chief minister about the Rs187.3 billion development portfolio of the city.

The development portfolio includes Rs76.952 billion allocated for 988 schemes launched under the provincial Annual Development Program (ADP), Rs103.051 billion for six major projects under Foreign Project Assistance (FPA), and Rs7.30 billion from District ADP. Out of the total schemes, 87 important projects, each costing Rs500 million or more, are part of ADP 2024-25.

The CM was told that out of the 988 schemes, 346 are fully funded and expected to be completed by June 2025. It was pointed out that work is currently in progress on 826 of these schemes, worth Rs269.243 billion, with Rs62.149 billion allocated for this year.

During the discussion, it was revealed that there were 162 schemes amounting to Rs75.639 billion with an allocation of Rs14.803 billion for 2024-25 that were yet to be approved. The CM directed Minister P&D Nasir Shah to expedite the approval of the schemes so that work could be started on them.

To a question, the CM was told that the total cost of 988 ADP schemes was Rs344.882 billion against which Rs76.953 billion had been allocated and Rs242.048 billion was

throw forward. At this, the CM directed Minister P&D to direct all the departments to utilise the funds allocated for their development schemes so that they could be given additional funds next year for their full completion.

The CM was told that there were six Foreign Funded projects of Rs403.981 billion against which Rs103.05 billion have been allocated and Rs363.636 billion was thrown forward. The foreign-funded projects are as follows:

World Bank-assisted Rs63.950 million CICK project launched for institutional strengthening & infrastructure financing of Local Councils in Karachi; overhaul of urban immovable property tax and improving Ease of Doing Business (EoDB).

World Bank and AIIB assisted the Rs16.708 million KWSSIP project, which focuses on the long-term strengthening of the KW&SB through multiple reforms.

World Bank & AIIB assisted project KWSSIP-Phase-II has been launched for Rs 171.948 million to scale-up investments in waste-water collection and treatment facilities and Augmentation of K-IV and capacity building and reform agenda.

World Bank assisted project Rs16800 million SWEEP focuses on solid waste services for Karachi. World Bank assisted the BRT Yellow Line project with Rs 56.189 million to provide BRT bus service from Dawood Chowrang to Numais / Lucky Star (via Korangi Road).



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.

'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.

"Today, it's been decided that parliament reigns supreme," he said, as 225 members, including coalition partners and independent lawmakers, voted in favour of the bill.

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.

The government



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

Governor Sindh felicitates nation on passage of 26th Constitutional Amendment

KARACHI (APP): Governor Sindh Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori on Monday has congratulated the nation on the passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment. He said that judicial reforms would ensure the fastest resolution to pending cases.

Governor Tessori lauded every member of the National Assembly and Senators for their role in the passage of the Amendment. He said that all the parties had played an important role for the approval of this amendment. He further said that today, it had been proved that Parliament was the supreme institution.

Disappeared on father's instructions': Zain Qureshi

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Zain Qureshi said on Monday that he had disappeared on the orders of his father, senior party leader Shah Mehmood Qureshi, ruling out government pressure. "I could never think of voting for this constitutional amendment," Zain said in a video statement as he debunked reports of him being in the National Assembly and backing the tweaks, calling it "baseless propaganda".

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 senior SC judges.

On Sunday, the bill, which had 22 clauses, was greenlit by the Senate with a two-thirds majority. Then, during a session that began late on Sunday night and continued past 5am on Monday, the National Assembly also passed it with a two-thirds majority.

The NA-approved version had 27 clauses after incorporating suggestions made by the Senate.

Following the conclusion of parliamentary procedures, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, according to Radio Pakistan, sent his advice to President Zardari for his assent on the newly enacted law — titled "The Constitution (26th Amendment) Act, 2024". Following the passage of the bill, PM Shehbaz delivered a speech in the NA and congratulated the parliament for the "historical achievement".

Bilawal played leadership role to develop consensus on constitutional amendment: CM

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah while congratulating the Chairman of PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on the passage of 26th Constitutional Amendment has said that Bilawal played a leadership role to develop consensus on the Amendment.

He said that the constitution, which was given by his grandfather Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, was completed by his grandson Bilawal. Murad said that the PPP Chairman fulfilled the dream of his mother regarding judicial reforms. He said that all parties deserved appreciation for creating a consensus for the constitutional amendment. He further said that PPP believed in the supremacy of Parliament.

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



KARACHI: Sindh Energy Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah and United Arab Emirates Consul General Bakht Atiq Al Rumعتi attending a briefing at the Energy Department office

UAE investors to invest in energy sectors: Nasir Shah

Independent Report KARACHI: Sindh Energy Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah met today by United Arab Emirates Consul General Bakht Atiq Al Rumعتi at the Energy Department office. On this occasion, there was a detailed discussion regarding investment in the energy sector and other issues including mutual interest.

The Minister of Energy said on the occasion that the energy sector in Sindh province is rich in natural resources and is very fertile for foreign investment. Nasir Shah said that the alternative energy sectors have the potential to generate electricity from 55,000MW wind corridor, 500MW waste to energy, 100MW from bagasse. It has 130MW of hydropower generation capacity.

He added that currently 3000MW of electricity is being generated from Thar's coal and added to the national grid. Nasir Shah said that if we compare the coal of Thar with the oil reserves of Saudi Arabia and Iran, it is a thousand times more than both of them. UAE Consul General Bakht Atiq Al Rumعتi, praised the government's initiatives regarding alternative energy and assured to inform the UAE investors about the details regarding investments in the energy sector in the Sindh Department of Energy. I will also encourage them to invest.

On this occasion, Minister Energy presented Ajarak, a traditional gift of Sindh, to the distinguished guest. Secretary Energy Mahfooz Ahmad Qazi and Project Director Sindh Solar Energy Mahfooz Qazi, and Chairman District Council Sukkur Syed Kamil Haider Shah were also present on this occasion.

Sharjeel lauds Bilawal's role in Constitutional Amendment

Independent Report KARACHI: Senior Minister of Sindh Sharjeel Inam Memon has paid tributes to Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for his efforts on 26th constitutional amendments.

He remarked, "I commend Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for working tirelessly on the 26th Constitutional Amendment. The purpose of this amendment is to unite the nation and strengthen the federation." The Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said, "There is still time for PTI to set aside divisive politics and announce its support for constitutional amendments aimed at the welfare of the nation."

He stated that it was agreed to ensure provincial representation and strengthen the federation through the Charter of Democracy. "The constitutional amendments under the Charter of Democracy were an important and positive step towards ensuring provincial representation and empowering democratic institutions," he added.

Sindh Education Minister highlights role of steam and technology in fostering innovation and cultural unity

Independent Report

KARACHI: The School Education and Literacy Department (SE&LD), Government of Sindh, conducted a meeting of the Science Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics (STEAM) Unit today in Karachi. Chaired by Syed Sardar Ali Shah, Minister for Education & Literacy and Mines & Mineral Development, the meeting brought together high-ranking officials including Secretary SE&LD Zahid Ali Abbasi, Secretary College Education Mr. Asif Ikram, Chairman Sindh Language Authority Dr. Ishaque Samejo, and Chief Executive Advisor Curriculum Wing Dr. Fouzia Khan.

During the meeting, Minister Sardar Ali Shah highlighted the critical role of STEAM education in shaping students' futures across Sindh. He stated, "STEAM education is not just about equipping our students with knowledge in science and technology; it's about nurturing creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills that will help them thrive in an increasingly competitive world."

He praised the STEAM Unit's efforts under the "Science in Sindh" initiative and shared his vision for expanding these activities to private schools, SEF-assisted schools, public and private colleges, and cadet

colleges. "By expanding these programs, we are ensuring that every child, regardless of socio-economic background, has the opportunity to engage in STEAM competitions, which will enhance their confidence, curiosity, and capacity to innovate," the Minister added.

In addition to the focus on science and technology, the Minister emphasized the importance of integrating art, language, and pluralism into education. He said, "We must integrate the message of Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai into our STEAM programs to preserve our rich cultural diversity and spread the message of tolerance and unity."

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's 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 Muriyuz 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 miscreants are trying to 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 Zardari 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 meeting discussed the concerns of goods transporters which was attended by Transport Secretary Ahmed Javed Qazi and other officials, focused on the issues presented by the association in their charter of demands, highlighting the difficulties faced by mini Mazda goods

transporters. 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.

The meeting was attended by Director HR Fakhru ul Islam, Assistant

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.

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.



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 *Moskovskiy 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.

Ukraine has repeatedly said its attacks on Rus-



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

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



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

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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.

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 Afzar, Federal Secretary for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Owais Manzoor Samra, Chief Statistician, PBS, Naeem ul Zafar and representatives of federal and provincial ministries and other stake-

holders 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.

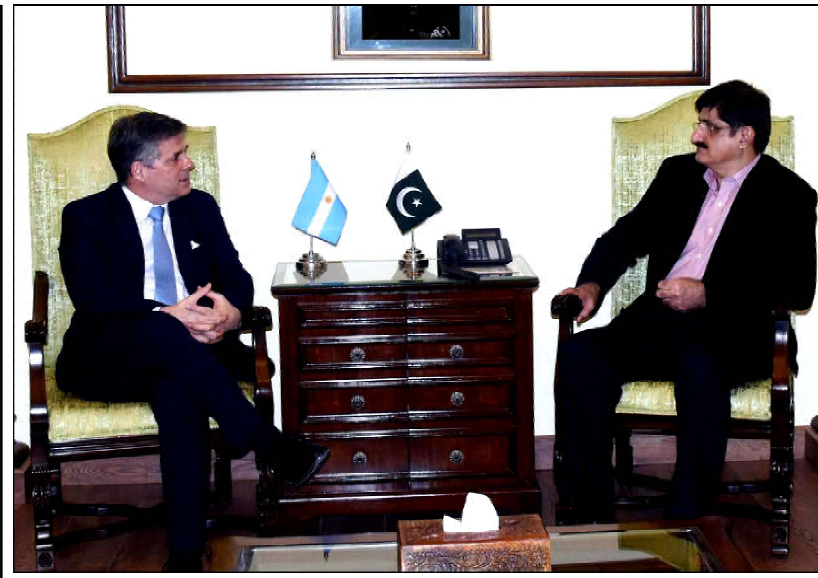
He said that now the government is working on the next five-year plan and today when I read the Vision 2025 made in 2014, it seemed that we had written the same problems we are facing today in the country.

In 2017-18, Pakistan had overcome the issue of energy and terrorism, the country was moving fast with the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), but today we are back to where we were in 2013.

He said that for sustainable economic development in the country, we need continuity of policies to achieve our economic goals.

"Our economy needs reliable data, with which we can measure the direction of progress."

Similarly, data sets are also required for business development and only the nations, businesses or individuals can use data in a better way can achieve their economic goals, he said.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanging views with Sebastian Sayus, Ambassador of Argentina during meeting held at CM

Barrister Murtaza Wahab says Approval of 26th constitutional amendment will lead to political, constitutional stability in country

Independent Report
KARACHI: Mayor Karachi and spokesperson for Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Barrister Murtaza Wahab, stated that the approval of the 26th constitutional amendment will lead to political and constitutional stability in the country and create balance within Pakistan's judicial system. He emphasized that the passage of the constitutional amendment with a two-thirds majority in Parliament is a victory for democracy. He congratulated the entire nation and party chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on the approval of the 26th constitutional amendment, noting that the credit for this achievement goes to Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and other political leaders.

He reiterated that adherence to the law is essential for the nation's development, stating that the Constitution guides us and upholding it ensures the proper direction of national matters. He concluded by saying that the Pakistan People's Party has always prioritized the broader interests of the country and has played an active role in strengthening democracy and the parliamentary system.

Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab remarked that the Pakistan People's Party was also responsible for providing the country with its unanimous Constitution, demonstrating once again that the party has played its part in advancing the country's welfare and progress by facilitating the 26th constitutional amendment.

He reiterated that adherence to the law is essential for the nation's development, stating that the Constitution guides us and upholding it ensures the proper direction of national matters. He concluded by saying that the Pakistan People's Party has always prioritized the broader interests of the country and has played an active role in strengthening democracy and the parliamentary system.

Sindh LG Commission reviews jurisdiction related disputes

Independent Report

KARACHI: Sindh Local Government (LG) Minister Saeed Ghani chaired a meeting of the Sindh Local Government Commission here on Monday to consider some jurisdiction-related disputes between the Chenesar Town in the city and the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC).

The Chenesar Town was represented by its Chairman Farhan Ghani and Municipal Commissioner Iqar Jalbani while KMC was represented by its Municipal Commissioner Afzal Zaidi, according to a communique on Monday.

The Commission, however, deferred these issues till its next meeting. The meeting also considered the dispute between the town municipal corporations Gadap and Ibrahim Hyderi related to the recovery of animal health and milching tax.

The Commission expressed its resentment that Gadap Town had processed a tender in this regard for the collection of health and mulching tax that was in violation of its directives.

The Commission decided to direct the authori-

ties concerned to cancel the tender notice in question, issue a show-cause notice to the Gadap Town, and also to return the tax so far recovered by the town. In case, Gadap Town failed to comply with the directives of refunding the tax recovery, then an equal amount will be deducted from the OZT share given to the town by the Sindh government.

The Commission members presented their report on the dispute of the jurisdiction issues between Shah Faisal Town and Korangi Town in the city. The meeting was informed that the meetings were held with chairmen of both the towns to listen to their versions. The next meeting of the commission will now consider this issue.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary Sindh Local Government Department Khalid Hyder Shah, Sindh Law Secretary Ali Ahmed Baloch, members of the commission Abdul Rahim Soomro, Waseem Ahmed Ursani and DG of the Commission Zulfiqar Ali Nizamani.



LARKANA: Commissioner Larkana Division, Ghulam Mustafa Phul presiding over a divisional meeting regarding Eradication Polio, at his office in Larkana

Energy task force took action against prevent electricity theft: Syed Nasir Shah

Independent Report
KARACHI: Sindh Provincial Energy Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah met Aqeel Ahmed Junejo, the head of the task force set up under his direction, at the office of the Energy Department today directed to prevent the theft of government electricity and to end the issuance of bogus bills while the task force told that in SEPCO areas where the Sindh government pays the electricity bills, large-scale bogus billing and theft of electricity have been revealed by the security side, due to which the Sindh government suffering a loss per month and government officials, HESCO officials and officials of the energy department are also involved.

Expressing his anger, the Minister directed the Secretary Energy Mossadegh Ahmed Khan to take strict departmental action against the officials of the Energy Department involved in power theft and suspend them immediately. He added that letters should be written to the heads of

HESCO and all the relevant organizations that consume government electricity and strict action should be taken against the involved persons after informing them of the situation.

The Energy Minister said that all the concerned government institutions should take steps to prevent electricity theft in their buildings and residential colonies and electricity meters should be installed. Illegal workers should be eliminated and they should pay the future electricity bills themselves.

Nasir Shah said that in the future bogus bills will not be paid by the government nor will stolen electricity bills be paid. On this occasion, the Energy Minister appreciated the performance of the task force and its head, Aqeel Ahmed Junejo, and said that the task force should continue its operations against the people involved in causing losses of millions of rupees per month to the Sindh government; the government should support them in every possible way.

Rioting case: PTI leaders Heleem Adil, Khurram Sher Zaman acquitted

KARACHI (Online): Malir Court has approved acquittal plea of PTI Leaders who are nominated in the case related to rioting on the occasion of appearance of Ali Zaidi.

The acquittal pleas of PTI Sindh president Haleem Adil Sheikh and others came up for hearing in Malir court.

The court while announcing decision on acquittal pleas acquitted PTI leaders Haleem Adil Sheikh, Khurram Sher Zaman and Aftab Siddiqui.

It is pertinent to mention here that rioting case was registered in Malir city police station against PTI leaders.

Fumigation against dengue in 25 TMOs launched

KARACHI (APP): A meeting under the chairmanship of the Sindh Chief Secretary Syed Asif Haider Shah on Monday decided to commence a comprehensive fumigation campaign in Karachi to combat spread of dengue and other diseases.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner of Karachi, Secretary Local Government, all Deputy Commissioners of Karachi division, Municipal Commissioner, and other senior officials. During the meeting, the Chief Secretary Sindh directed that the fumigation campaign be conducted across 25 Town Municipal Corporations in Karachi from today. The campaign will target TMCs including Saddar, Lyari, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Sohrab Goth, Jinnah, Safra, Chanesar, and Mominabad Town Municipal Corporation to eliminate dengue larvae.

Shafqat felicitates nation on approval of 26th constitutional amendment

SUKKUR (APP): Prominent senior politician and renowned social leader Advocate Syed Shafqat Ali Shah said that the approval of the constitutional amendment will speed up the provision of justice and transparency in the judicial system, for which the people have been waiting for decades.

He congratulated the nation on the approval of the 26th constitutional amendment and said that the elected representatives of Pakistan have approved the 26th constitutional amendment bill in the constitution of Pakistan, due to which this day is very important in the history of the country.

In his message on Monday, said the elected representatives of the country have crossed an important milestone to ensure the supremacy of the constitution and the rule of law, which is commendable.

Advocate Syed Shafqat Ali Shah said that the purpose of 26th constitutional amendments is to unite the nation and strengthen the federation, all political forces should unite behind it.

He reiterated that adherence to the law is essential for the nation's development, stating that the Constitution guides us and upholding it ensures the proper direction of national matters. He concluded by saying that the Pakistan People's Party has always prioritized the broader interests of the country and has played an active role in strengthening democracy and the parliamentary system.

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HYDERABAD: Members of All Sindh Law Students Association are holding protest demonstration against extra judicial killing of Sajan Malookani and demanding justice for him, at Hyderabad press club

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.

He reiterated that adherence to the law is essential for the nation's development, stating that the Constitution guides us and upholding it ensures the proper direction of national matters. He concluded by saying that the Pakistan People's Party has always prioritized the broader interests of the country and has played an active role in strengthening democracy and the parliamentary system.

Sindh HEC chairman inaugurates Artificial Intelligence Lab

KARACHI (APP): Chairman of Sindh Higher Education Commission (SHEC) Dr. Tariq Rafi along with Vice Chancellor of Sindh Madressatul Islam University (SMIU) Dr. Mubeen Sahra inaugurated the Artificial Intelligence Computing Lab (AI Lab) at SMIU's IT Tower on Monday.

The lab was set up with the grant provided by SHEC under its Laboratory Strengthening Program. The lab will provide hands-on experience to SMIU's students in their final year as well as in postgraduate programs with the help of the latest AI technologies.

Chairman Sindh HEC Dr. Tariq Rafi in his speech said it was the core responsibility of SHEC to provide the latest facilities of information technology to universities of Sindh province.

"No doubt, Sindh Madressatul Islam University has special status for all of us due to its affiliation with the founder of Pakistan-Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, this is why we are preferring SMIU to contribute to its development," Dr. Tariq Rafi said and added that the SHEC will provide further support to SMIU for expansion of its AI lab. Besides training to its heads of different departments and deans will be provided as they could learn about financial and administrative matters."



KARACHI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Sindh President, Haleem Adil Shaikh leaving after court case hearing, at Malir Court in Karachi

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 en-

tire 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.

'Ghuriya Ka Ghar' staged at 'World Culture Festival 2024'

KARACHI (APP): On the 25th day of 'World Culture Festival Karachi 2024', the theater play 'Ghuriya Ka Ghar' was presented. The play, written and directed by Anwer Jafri, featured a talented cast including Naina Black, Sheema Kermami, Paras Masroor, Imran Khan, Tabita Simrin, and Harris Khan.

The 90-minute drama was well-received by the audience for its social theme. The central character, Tehmina, was portrayed as a woman dedicated to social welfare work. The play also featured a character named Sakina, whose performance left a strong impression. In 'Ghuriya Ka Ghar' production quality and the lack of unnecessary characters, keeping the focus sharp and engaging the audience throughout.



HYDERABAD: AI-Khidmat Foundation Vice President, Zikrullah Mujahid along with Arif Riaz Khan, Deputy Superintendent of Central Jail and others inaugurating the Skill Development Center for Prisoners organized by AI-Khidmat Foundation.

DIG Sukkur, SSP Ghotki transferred

KARACHI (APP): The Deputy Inspector General Police Sukkur Range Pir Muhammad Shah and SSP Ghotki Hafeezur Rehman Bugti were transferred with immediate effect and until further orders.

According to separate notifications issued by Chief Secretary and IG Sindh respectively, DIG Larkana Nasir Aftab was assigned to hold additional charge of the post of DIG Sukkur while SSP Khairpur Dr Samullah Soomro was assigned additional charge of the post of SSP Ghotki with immediate effect and until further orders.

Meanwhile, a committee headed by Additional IG

CTD Karan Imran Yaqoob Minhas and comprising of DIGP Crime and Investigation Aamir Farooqui and DIGP Finance Tanveer Alam Odho as its members to enquire into contents of letter written by then DIG Sukkur against then SSP Ghotki and allegations leveled by SSP Hafeezur Rehman Bugti during media talk against DIG Pir Muhammad Shah. The committee will also ascertain the conduct of DIG Pir Muhammad Shah and SSP Hafeezur Rehman in the aftermath of the firing incident on Ex MPA Shahryar Shar and submit the report within 7 days, another notification added.



KARACHI: View of illegal encroachment by parking on a road by affluent parking and encroachment mafia, which is creating problems for residents and commuters, showing negligence of concerned authorities of anti-encroachment department to draw its attention toward issue, at Qayyumabad in Karachi