

# Independent

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

## 'Parliament reigns supreme,' says PM after NA passes constitutional amendment

"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 clinched 225 votes of the required 224 with the crucial support of a handful of independent candidates. PTI had refused to back the package and did not participate in the voting.

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.

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 senior 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.

Justice Ayesha cautioned him to read the new amendment since Article 199 cannot be heard in this case. To this, Justice Shah remarked that it would take some time for them to understand things anyway.

## Bugti hails 26th Constitutional Amendment as significant victory for democracy

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti hailed the passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment in the parliament as major win for democracy.

The chief minister congratulated the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for his tireless efforts in making it possible.

In a statement on social media platform X, Sarfaraz Bugti praised the amendment as a significant victory for democracy. He highlighted that the constitution is a legacy of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has accomplished a historic achievement with this latest reform. "The 26th Amendment is a crucial step towards fair representation, and I commend the collective efforts of political leadership across Pakistan in achieving consensus," the Balochistan Chief Minister said.

## 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.



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

## 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 Rahman, the members of the federal cabinet, all coalition parties, and the entire nation on the successful passage of the amendment.

## SC dismisses PTI's review petition regarding intra-party elections

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Monday dismissed the review petition of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) regarding the intra-party elections. A three-member bench of the apex court, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice

Musarrat Hilali, heard the review appeal of PTI.

During the course of proceeding, Barrister Ali Zafar pleaded that this case couldn't be heard here after the passage of 26th constitutional amendment. The chief justice remarked that he has not seen the amendments yet and not aware about the details.



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

## 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-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. PTT'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

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QUETTA: Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Pakistan Petroleum Limited Imran Abbasi meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti.

## Commodore Shahzad Iqbal of Pak Navy promoted to rank of Rear Admiral

ISLAMABAD (APP): Commodore Shahzad Iqbal of Pakistan Navy has been promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral.

Rear Admiral Shahzad Iqbal was commissioned in Operations Branch in 1995, a Pakistan Navy news release on Monday said.

The Flag Officer is a graduate of Pakistan Navy War College, Lahore, and National Defence University, Islamabad. He has also done B.Sc. in Naval Sciences from University of Karachi and Gunnery Officer Command Course from China.

## Second phase of repatriation of illegal Afghans begins

QUETTA (INP): Law enforcement agencies (LEAs) has decided to start targeted operations (TBOs) against illegal Afghan refugees living in Pakistan, 24NewsHD TV channel reported on Monday.

Police sources said that these operations will be conducted in 48 Pashtun camps, while personnel from Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) and law enforcement agencies (LEAs) will conduct combing operations against these illegal Afghan refugees. During combing operation personnel from intelligence agencies will use their verification software to identify status of Afghan refugees.

Police sources further said that during combing operation barriers will be placed and additional LEAs personnel will be deployed around these Pashtun camps to restrict the movement of people. All those Afghan refugees who are residing in these camps illegally will be repatriated after completion of necessary procedure.

Police officials are optimistic that they will arrest some renowned criminals from these camps as they have credible information about presence of notorious criminals in these camps.

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

## 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 Yousuf 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 chaar diwari had been violated".



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.

## Intezar Panjutha recovery case: 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.



## From the waste battle field

**By Syed Abdul Rehman**  
Solid waste management in Quetta has been a chronic problem for the past three decades. This problem is not unique to Quetta, in fact, it has been a problem in every major city of the country and in the region. A viable solution for solid waste management is to outsource its services to the private sector. Service delivery outsourcing has been a proven solution globally, including in the South Asian region (some examples are New York City, Toronto, London, Paris, Melbourne, Singapore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Chennai and almost in every developed city). Various governments in the past have worked to address the problem and almost every time the solution determined has been of outsourcing the services to the private sector. It needs no explanation that outsourcing of solid waste management disrupts the entire rotten ecosystem and beneficiaries. However, unlike in any developed city, here in our country and particularly in Quetta, implementation of such a solution is preparing to battle with all the dangerous elements of the dirty ecosystem. One has to be prepared to face the physical as well as social hindrances that the old delinquents must create. After all, it is a question of their very existence. Outsourcing of solid waste management literally means ripping the beneficiaries off their rent-seeking worth multi-billion annually. Examples of such beneficiaries include an employee of MCQ up in the hierarchy who receives salaries against ghost daily wagers (averaging 10 to 40 ghost

daily wagers depending on where you are in the hierarchy), individuals in civil society and so-called activists (averaging 2 to 5 ghost daily wagers depending on their influence), some former councilors of local governments (2 to 6 daily wagers depending on their knowledge of the MCQ undergrowth ecosystem), and other individuals (depending on their capacity of the noise they can create). MCQ had over 1600 daily wagers on its payroll and not more than 400 daily wagers were present both physically and in papers. Many well-off citizens and their households who were enlisted as daily wagers were not even aware of their such employment. The machinery inventory in MCQ has been a long mystery and to this day, the number is as enigmatic as the universe's other mysteries. Diesel in MCQ has been an equally enigmatic and prolific variable. Such a variable, which according to MCQ's log books, has shown Quetta's machinery trip count better than Paris and Melbourne's. However, the amount of plastic, diapers and waste that was left in the streets told us that it was still one of the most dirtiest cities in Pakistan. Given this background, several key departments within the government decided to give it a final try. The idea was coined by an outgoing administrator of MCQ and endorsed by all the key officers at the government's helm of affairs. Preparation of the technical and financial project documentation started back in December 2023. With the new govern-

ment in charge, one of the first steps was to give a green signal to the project. Subsequently, the project was approved in the Public-Private Partnership Board and the provincial cabinet. The project was advertised in six leading national and international newspapers. The project advertisement itself sent ripples of shock among the existing beneficiaries who had considered it as yet another impotent effort of the government. Consequently, hefty amounts of donations were pooled in by old stakeholders, big and small, to hire an expensive team of lawyers and a CP was filed after the advertisement in the high court to hamper the procurement process. A series of hearings were held at the high court and eventually the matter was quashed resulting in despair for the old beneficiaries. The procurement process was concluded in which two consortiums submitted bids for the project and eventually, the consortium comprising Ghulam Hussain & Sons Pvt Limited, Clean Universe Eco Pvt Limited and Quetta Waste Management Company Pvt Limited won the bid which was subsequently approved by the PPP board. It is worth mentioning that the procurement process followed the PPP process thoroughly in project development, risk assessment, statutory approvals, inter-departmental evaluation committees, publication of evaluation results and post-evaluation approvals. The entire procurement documentation and logs are available for any legally mandated institution of the country and

beyond for scrutiny of any sort. It is well understood right from the inception of the project that the existing beneficiaries will target the project from every angle and the procurement process always remains the most frequent target. The project team has executed the entire process meticulously to keep any influence on the transparency of the procurement process. Under the project's financial model, the government shall pay up to PKR 900 million annually to the consortium against the services provided. The government has not paid a single rupee to the consortium so far, even though services were commenced in August. It may be noted that MCQ was spending over 2 billion rupees from the government's exchequer while the quality of services provided for decades is no secret. MCQ has about 270 machines to manage the waste, out of which about 189 machines had to be handed over to the private party, however, as part of the resistance tactics only 80 machines (with majority out of order or condemned) have been handed over to the private party. The private consortium started its operations from one of the most challenging areas of the city i.e., Satellite Town on August 14th. The consortium has produced impressive results at Satellite Town where door-to-door collection of waste has also been started. Desilting of drains was not carried out in years in the area. Piles of waste in streets and blocked drains had become a part and parcel of their lives. The project teams with their work have been heroic

whose efforts have been hailed by the residents with many households serving the hardworking janitors with tea and treats. It is a sight worth watching in Quetta. An important fact is that the project will be sustainable with a one-third financial burden on the government, the remaining revenue streams will be generated by recycling the trash and a nominal household fee (the lowest in the country) of about PKR 250 per month per household or PKR 8 per day per household. Under the project, the private consortium will take over the entire city until the end of December this year. On October 11th, the consortium took up 21 wards of the city which sent the hardest shockwave among the old beneficiaries who have ever since started another campaign to affect the teams and the project. Today, Oct 20th, tires and large pieces of wood have been deliberately planted at many drain culverts across the city to block drains and cause drain spills. The project teams and the private party staff are now well used to the tactics and have been successfully fixing all such hindrances with amazing efficiency. Any progress in any part of the world requires sincere intent and determination. The project will continue to face challenges both physical and social, and the teams are ready to face them for the love of Quetta. Safa Quetta is a project with a heartfelt intent and iron determination, and God willing, it will be implemented across the city successfully. The project slogan sums it well, "Kar Ke Rahangey".



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

## Interior Minister congratulates nation on approval of 26th Constitutional Amendment Bill

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi has congratulated the entire nation on the approval of the 26th Constitutional Amendment Bill, terming it a victory for the people of Pakistan. The Interior Minister said, "This is success of the people of Pakistan and we bow down to Allah in gratitude." He specifically thanked JUI (F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and leaders of allied parties for their support, saying, "Maulana Fazlur Rehman's positive and historic role will always be remembered."

Mohsin Naqvi praised the efforts of President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, stating, "their tireless efforts have borne fruit." He emphasized that all leaders worked jointly and relentlessly for the 26th Constitutional Amendment. The Interior Minister emphasized that this constitutional amendment is a victory for democracy, laying a strong foundation for a bright democratic future.

"The victory belongs to Pakistan and its people," he said. Mohsin Naqvi paid tribute to leaders of all democratic parties, acknowledging their collective efforts. He reiterated that the approval of the constitutional amendment bill is Parliament's right. Interior Minister stated that the collective efforts and consensus-building have yielded positive results, adding that this amendment holds key importance for balancing powers among institutions.

## PCB announces free entry for spectators during Pindi Test

LAHORE (INP): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Monday announced free entry for spectators on the first day of the third Test between Pakistan and England at Rawalpindi. The series is currently levelled 1-1 and the final match will be played from 24 October to 28 October at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. "FREE entry for fans to Premium Enclosures on the first day of the third #PAKVENG Test in Rawalpindi," the cricket board said in a statement. Squads: Pakistan: Shan Masood ©, Saud Shakeel (vc), Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Haseebullah (wk), Kamran Ghulam, Mehran Mumtaz, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Hurrain, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Noman Ali, Saim Ayub, Sajid Khan, Salman Ali Agha and Zahid Mehmood. England: Ben Stokes ©, Rehan Ahmed, Gus Atkinson, Shoaib Bashir, Harry Brook, Brydon Carse, Jordan Cox, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Jack Leach, Ollie Pope, Matthew Potts, Joe Root, Jamie Smith, Olly Stone, Chris Woakes.

## PTI will undo amendments once in power: Barrister Saif

**Monitoring Desk**  
PESHAWAR: Barrister Muhammad Ali Khan Saif, the Information Advisor of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister, has stated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) will abolish controversial unconstitutional amendments once it comes to power. Barrister Saif stated that the constitutional amendments were passed through 'serious crimes such as abductions, violations of the sanctity of homes, and the dishonoring of mothers and sisters. Barrister Saif said, "The fake government carried out abductions and attacked the Supreme Court under the cover of darkness. The process of amendments itself is screaming that the constitution has been stabbed in the back. These hurried amendments were aimed at avoiding the implementation of the Supreme Court's decisions." He added, "Once the PTI comes to power, we will abolish the controversial unconstitutional amendments. PTI's struggle will only intensify after these amendments. Those who voted in favour of these unconstitutional changes will never be forgiven by history. Those who supported these unconstitutional amendments will not escape the public's wrath."



**RAWALPINDI:** Pakistan's players warm up during a practice session ahead of their third and last Test cricket match against England at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

## PTI Founder seeks access to personal doctors for medical checkup

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has filed a petition in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) seeking permission for his personal doctors to conduct a medical checkup. As per details, the petition was filed through Imran Khan's counsel, Barrister Salman Safdar and Khalid Yousaf Chaudhry. PTI Founder requested that his personal doctors be allowed to examine him, citing their familiarity with his medical history. Earlier, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan expressed concern over Imran Khan's access to information, stating that the party founder is not being provided with newspapers or updates on the constitutional amendments. Barrister Gohar Ali Khan stated that PTI founder is in good physical condition and high-spirited during their meeting at Adiala Jail. He said that the PTI

founder is resolute in his stance, vowing to prioritise the rule of law and national dignity. "I will spend 100 years in jail if needed, but I won't compromise on the Constitution and national sovereignty," the PTI chairman said quoting Imran Khan. It is important to note here that on October 15, PTI chief Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said that party founder Imran Khan underwent a medical checkup at Adiala Jail. In a statement issued here, Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said that he was informed by the government about Imran Khan's medical checkup at Adiala Jail. The PTI chairman, citing the government's sources, said that two doctors, an ENT specialist, and a medical expert examined Imran Khan at about 4 pm. Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said that the medical team confirmed that Imran Khan is in good health and even exercised for an hour.

## CTD arrests three 'TTP operatives' involved in Karachi cop killing

KARACHI (INP): The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) investigation unit, acting on a tip-off, has arrested three suspected terrorists from the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) involved in the killing of a police officer. According to details, CTD's investigation unit conducted a raid in Sohrab Goth, apprehending three suspects identified as Farhad, Haji Rehman, and Sagheer. The authorities recovered three pistols and organizational literature from their possession.

DSP CTD Investigation, Chaudhry Safdar, confirmed that the TTP had claimed responsibility for the attack on the police. The arrested suspects are affiliated with the Maulana Bashir group of the TTP. During interrogation, the suspects revealed that they were recently tasked by the TTP to carry out attacks on police personnel. The recovered weapons are being sent for forensic analysis, and the investigation is ongoing, with further significant revelations expected.

## PM felicitates Prabowo Subianto on swearing in as Indonesia president

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday felicitated Prabowo Subianto on taking the oath as the eighth President of Indonesia. Taking to X, the prime minister said that Pakistan and Indonesia had enjoyed fraternal ties, rooted in shared values and mutual respect. "I look forward to working closely with President Subianto to enhance our bilateral cooperation across all fields of mutual interest as well as to promote regional and global peace and security," the prime minister said.

## Basit Ali slams Sufiyan for behaviour in India clash

LAHORE (INP): Former Pakistan batter Basit Ali did not mince his words while criticizing young spinner Sufiyan Muqem over sledging Indian batter Abhishek Sharma during the ongoing ACC Men's T20 Emerging Teams Asia Cup 2024. Pakistan Shaheens kicked off their Emerging Asia Cup campaign against India A on Saturday, during which Sufiyan got involved in a heated exchange with Abhishek. The incident occurred on the first ball of Sufiyan's spell when he ended Abhishek's entertaining knock of 35 off 22, courtesy of a brilliant catch by Qasim Akram. The young left-arm spinner gave a fiery send-off to Abhishek, signalling for silence with a finger on his lips. Abhishek lunged toward the Pakistan A bowler; however, the on-field umpires intervened to calm the situation down. Basit Ali took to his official YouTube channel and expressed his displeasure over the actions of the young spinner. The former batter highlighted the importance of maintaining discipline on the field. "The cricket was top-class, but one thing that really upset me was the incident involving Sufiyan Muqem and Abhishek Sharma," said Basit. "If I were sitting in the dugout or the team manager, I would have told Sufiyan, 'Son, pick up your things and go back.'

## Special parliamentary committee...

*Continued from page 1*  
judges, involving parliamentary members in decisions that were previously handled exclusively within the judiciary. The committee's role is to select one name from a panel of senior judges, which will then be forwarded to the Prime Minister for approval. The Prime Minister will submit the name to the President for final ratification, completing the appointment process. The creation of this committee comes in response to ongoing demands for a more inclusive and accountable process for appointing key judicial figures. Speaking on the amendment, a government official said, "This new system will ensure that the judiciary's leadership is selected through a more democratic and transparent process, involving broader political representation." The 26th Amendment was passed with a two-thirds majority in both the National Assembly and Senate, and has since been signed into law by President Asif Ali Zardari. The amendment is widely seen as part of a broader effort to strengthen Pakistan's constitutional and legal frameworks. Earlier National As-

sembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has decided to write to parliamentary leaders to initiate the formation of a parliamentary committee for the appointment of the next Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP). It reported in media that the committee will comprise 8 members from the National Assembly and 4 from the Senate. The Chairman Senate will nominate the Senate members. Sources revealed that the parliamentary committee will request a panel of three senior judges from the Ministry of Law. The committee will then select the next CJP from this panel within three days. The development came after President Asif Ali Zardari on the advice of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, signed 26th constitutional amendment bill into law. Following President Zardari's signature on the bill, the gazette notification of constitutional amendment has been issued, which means the 26th amendment has been made part of the 1973's constitution of Pakistan. The National Assembly and Senate earlier passed the bill with a two-thirds majority under which the term for the Chief Justice of Pakistan has been set

at three years. A 12-member parliamentary committee will select the new Chief Justice from a panel of the three most senior judges. 26th constitutional amendment Under the constitutional amendment, the term for the Chief Justice of Pakistan has been set at three years. A 12-member parliamentary committee will nominate the new Chief Justice of Pakistan from a panel of the three most senior judges. The committee, comprising eight members from the National Assembly and four from the Senate, will propose the name to the Prime Minister, who will then forward it to the President for final approval. Besides, a Judicial Commission of Pakistan, led by the Chief Justice and including three senior judges, two members each from the National Assembly and Senate, the Federal Minister for Law and Justice, the Attorney General, and a nominee of the Pakistan Bar Council, having not less than fifteen years of practice in the Supreme Court, will be responsible for appointments of the judges of the Supreme Court.

**CORRIGENDUM**  
Reference to Tender Notice (TSE: 242510569271) AB No. 368/8-10-2024 published in "Daily newspapers Quetta" and others dated 9th October, 2024. Wherein, the "Eligibility Criteria for Bidders" has been amended. The conditions of BRA and PEC registration contained in the Eligibility Criteria have been amended and omitted from the Eligibility Criteria. Bidding documents can be obtained online from BPPRA's website. Furthermore, the E-Bid will be opened on 29th October, 2024 at 12:00 pm. The remaining terms and conditions shall remain the same.

Project Director  
Green Pakistan Initiative (GPI)  
PSDP No. 141 Balochistan, Quetta

AB No. 409/21-10-2024  
www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr\_gob @dpr\_gob @dpr\_gob @dpr\_gob

**TENDER NOTICE**  
TSE-242510577253 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The DIRECTOR ELECTRICITY NORTH invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates  
Tender Fee Rs. 500/- and Bid Security 2%

| S.No | Name of Work/s   | E/Cost     |
|------|--|------------|
| 1    | PROVIDING & FIXING HOME SOLAR SYSTEM AT KILLI SPIN TANGAI, KILLI ZARGHOONAT (DISTRICT HARNAI) PSDP#2108 22024.0679 (2024-25) | 15,000,000 |

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 1 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 15,000,000 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-6 and above (Upto 25 million) In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is EE11(I) (Solar). Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 500 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 07 November, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 07 November, 2024 till 10:30 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 11:30 AM Address: H#108, shah Nawaz kurd street Quetta Phone no: 0812442007 Fax no: 0812442007 Email: ishfaqpr@gmail.com

PRQ No. 1547/21-10-2024  
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**CORRIGENDUM**  
The office nit Published Daily Newspaper date 11/10/2024 under PRQ No 1414/10-10-2024 under TSE 242510570713 which is evaluation Criteria has been change & other term and condition are the same will be open 28-10-2024

Executive Engineer Road  
CWPP&H  
District Chaman

PRQ No. 1542/21-10-2024  
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**TENDER NOTICE**  
THE DIRECTOR GENERAL EXCISE & TAXATION BALOCHISTAN invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-242510577381 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB.  
Tender Fee Rs. 500/-

| S.No | Class of Object                               | Bid Security |
|------|---|--------------|
| 1    | Clothing & Lineries (Total Item(s) Count: 11) | 2%           |

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 5 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 3,000,000 in Previous 5 Years Turn over of at least 2,500,000 PKR in 1 Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payer List Sales Tax Certificate The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan JV is not permissible Submission of the required Bid Security in case Bid Security is not found as required during financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as in-eligible and non-responsive Submission of the required Bidding document Fee Certificate of ISO 9001 last 3 years of audit reports Samples of each item Warranty from bidder certificate of non defaulter Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 500 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 08 November, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 08 November, 2024 till 11:00 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:00 PM Address: Modal Town old pishin stop Quetta Phone no: 0819202929 Email: excise\_balochistan@gmail.com

Deputy Director Excise, Taxation & Anti-narcotics (north Zone) At Quetta

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## Charge d' Affaires Zaidi inaugurates photo exhibition marking Kashmir Black Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Charge d' Affaires Faraz Zaidi on Monday inaugurated a photo exhibition marking Kashmir Black Day at the Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels, highlighting India's human rights violations in the illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The event also underscored Pakistan's commitment to raising awareness about the plight of the Kashmiri people.

The exhibition, which will run for a week, showcased photographic evidence of the ongoing atrocities faced by the people of Kashmir.

Speaking at the inauguration, Zaidi paid tribute to the resilience of the Kashmiri people, who continued their struggle for self-determination despite decades of oppression.

He stressed the significance of October 27, a date remembered as the day when Indian forces illegally

occupied Jammu and Kashmir, initiating an era of violence and repression that continues to this day.

"India's occupation of Kashmir has resulted in countless human rights violations, with the people of IIOJK suffering immense hardships. Their spirit, however, remains unbroken in the face of injustice. The international community must intervene to stop the bloodshed and end the suffering of these defenseless people," a press release quoted Zaidi as saying.

He further emphasized that such exhibitions played a critical role in educating the global audience about the gravity of the situation in IIOJK.

The exhibition allowed visitors to grasp the extent of the human rights abuses inflicted upon the Kashmiris, bringing to light the decades-long oppression they had endured, he added.

Zaidi reiterated

Pakistan's unwavering moral, political, and diplomatic support for the Kashmiri people.

"Pakistan will continue to advocate for the Kashmir cause on every platform until the Kashmiris' right to self-determination is realized. The people of Pakistan stand firmly by their Kashmiri brothers and sisters in their just struggle for freedom from Indian subjugation," he added.

The exhibition at the Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels invited people from all walks of life to engage with the ongoing humanitarian crisis in IIOJK and reflect on the urgent need for global action to address these injustices.

"Through a compelling visual narrative, it portrays the harsh realities of life under occupation, documenting incidents of extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests, and suppression of fundamental freedoms.



Federal Minister for Planning, Ahsan Iqbal, inaugurates DataFest 2024, an event organized by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics in Islamabad

## Bukhari praises Bilawal's key role in passing 26th Constitutional Amendment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Secretary General Syed Nayyar Hussain Bukhari on Monday commended party chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for his relentless efforts and pivotal role in the approval of the 26th Constitutional Amendment by the parliament.

Bukhari, in a news statement, lauded Bilawal's hard work, describing him as a "strong and effective

voice for upholding the Constitution both inside and outside the Parliament."

Bukhari expressed pride in Bilawal's leadership, stating that his commitment to constitutional supremacy reflects the core values of the PPP.

He further acknowledged the contributions of other key leaders, including Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Mian Nawaz Sharif, Maulana Fazlur Rahman, and others, for achieving

another milestone in Pakistan's democratic journey.

The 26th Amendment, approved by both the Senate and National Assembly, he said was presented by a special parliamentary committee, a mandatory part of the parliamentary process.

Bukhari congratulated the government's coalition partners and other political parties for their collective success in passing the amendment.

## FSC hails passage of 26th Constitutional Amendment

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Shariat Court (FSC) hailed the passage of 26th Constitutional Amendment as a landmark achievement, reaffirming Pakistan's commitment in promoting Islamic finance and aligning the country's financial system with Shariah principles.

According to press release issued by the Federal Shariat Court, Senior Adviser Research Dr. Mohammad Matiar Rehman said the passing of this amendment by the Parliament highlighted the collective resolve of Pakistan's lawmakers to advance the country's Islamic banking sector and contribute to the

broader objective of a Riba-free economy. This amendment follows the landmark judgment delivered by the Federal Shariat Court on April 28, 2022, authored by Justice Dr. Syed Mohammad Anwer. In the judgment, the court gave a five-year timeline for the elimination of Riba from the country's financial system. Remarkably, this court decision had now become part of the Constitution, an unprecedented step in Pakistan's legislative history.

The newly amended Article 38 (f) of the Constitution now states, "Eliminate Riba completely before the first day of January 2028."

## PTI moves IHC to seek access to his personal physicians

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI founder Imran Khan has filed petition in Islamabad High Court (IHC) to seek access to his personal physicians.

Adiala jail administration, provincial government and others have been made respondents in the petition.

Imran Khan has filed petition with his medical check up by his personal physicians. Petition has been filed through Suleman Safdar and Khalid Yousaf Chaudhry.

The petitioner has taken plea in the petition that access is not being given to him to his personal physicians.

## IG Islamabad visits Red Zone checkpoints

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, visited the Red Zone checkpoints and reviewed security measures, a public relations officer said.

On the occasion, SSP Security Division, Capt (Retd.) Syed Zeeshan Haider, along with other senior police officials were also present.

During the visit, the IGP Islamabad inspected various duty points within the Red Zone and evaluated the security measures in place. He met with police officers on duty, directed them to perform their duties with alertness.

The IGP emphasized

their patrols and make the search process more effective.

He further directed the officers to brief their lower subordinates on handling any emergency situations and personally monitor all duties. He also emphasized that all officers should be provided with complete safety equipment before being deployed.

Officers were instructed to visit different areas of the Red Zone and the Diplomatic Enclave, ensuring that these directives are strictly followed.

He further said that the Islamabad Police is constantly working to maintain peace and tranquility in the federal capital and ensure



the need for stringent security measures in the Red Zone, instructing the officers patrolling the area to increase the intensity of

the protection of citizens' lives and property. He urged citizens to cooperate with the police and report any suspicious activities.

## Pak Amb. Tipu welcomes cross route motorcycle club rally members

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Pakistan in Iran Muhammad Mudassar Tipu on Monday welcomed the members of the Cross Route Motorcycle Club rally. Pakistan Embassy, Tehran received members of Cross Route Motorcycle Club where the members of Pakistani community along with embassy staff attended the event.

"Lahore to Turkiye friendship" motorcycle rally comprising 11-member started its journey from Lahore. On their way to Turkiye, friendship rally is visiting Iran to explore its beauty and grandeur, a press release said.

The ambassador appreciated the bikers for their efforts to promote adventure tourism between the neighbouring countries, adding that such efforts played great role in strengthening bilateral relations through promotion of tourism attractions, culture and people-to-people contacts.

Ambassador Tipu emphasized on the potential of tourism between both neighbours that shared 900km border and have cultural similarities.

"We are taking measures to explore the commonness of cuisine, language, dress and traditions between Pakistan and Iran," he added.

## CDA vows to fast-track sector development in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Capital Development Authority (CDA) is ramping up efforts to expedite the development of Islamabad's sectors, as announced during a high-level meeting held on Monday.

Chaired by CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa, the session brought together CDA Board Members and senior officials to address ongoing issues such as land acquisition and Built-Up Property (BUP) challenges.

Chairman Randhawa emphasized the need for coordinated efforts between the Engineering and Estate Wings to ensure the smooth execution of development projects. He also committed to personally visiting the sectors to monitor

progress and push for faster resolution of obstacles.

In a progress report, the meeting revealed that 68% of development work in Sector C-14 is complete, with culvert construction underway.

For Sector C-15, resolving possession issues was highlighted as a priority, while major works in Sector C-16 are almost finalized, with only a few streets left.

In Sector E-12, the meeting was informed that 65% of the work in sub-sector E-12/1 is complete, with estimates being finalized for the remaining tasks.

Chairman Randhawa directed immediate land acquisition to move forward with tenders for the unfinished development.



ISLAMABAD: A view of traffic jam at Islamabad Expressway in the Federal Capital.

## ICT Police arrest around 15,000 outlaws in 9 months and recover Rs 1.55 billion

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police carried out an extensive crackdown against criminal elements in the federal capital during the last nine months to maintain peace and tranquility, under the special directions of Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, intensifying efforts to eliminate crime from the city.

In this regard, the Islamabad police arrested a total of 14,926 accused involved in criminal activities of various types and recovered cash and valuables worth over Rs 1.55 billion from their possession, a public relation officer told APP on Monday.

Moreover, 1,318 accused from 557 gangs in-

olved in robbery activities were also arrested, he said.

During the ongoing "Nasha ab Nahi" movement in the federal capital, 1,570 drug dealers were apprehended, and 383 kilograms of hashish, 462 kilograms of heroin, 29 kilograms of ice, 13,226 liters of liquor, and intoxicating pills were recovered from their possession, he added.

Additionally, 3,460 accused involved in tampering activities and property crimes, such as theft, robbery, burglary, vehicles, and motorcycle theft, were arrested.

He said police teams also recovered cash, vehicles, and motorcycles from their possession.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam talking to a delegation of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IRFC) that called on her led by country head, Farid Abdulkadir Mohamed Aiywar to discuss climate resilience and environmental sustainability related matters.

## Its time to halt institutional disruption with full force: Senator Irfan Siddiqui

ISLAMABAD (APP): Parliamentary Party Leader of Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) in the Senate and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Senator Irfan Siddiqui has strongly commended Parliament for taking a decisive step to restore balance and protect the Constitution with full force.

"The time has come for Parliament to halt the path of disruption, restore the balance of constitutional institutions, and uphold the Constitution in accordance with its oath. The 26th Amendment is a determined step by Parliament in this noble direction," he said.

In a statement posted on X on Monday, the senior PML-N leader criti-

cized the long-standing unchecked judicial activism, which, under the guise of judicial independence, has paralyzed the other two pillars of the state, Legislature and Executive. He stated that this activism is now threatening the supremacy and sanctity of the Constitution itself.

"Some parts of the Constitution have fallen victim to the doctrine of necessity or convenience, some deemed unworthy of attention, and others being taken over under the pretext of interpretation."

Senator Siddiqui expressed concern that now the trend of rewriting the Constitution to achieve desired outcomes is becoming a routine.

## Muqam greets nation on approval of 26th Constitutional Amendment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit Baltistan and SAFRON Engr Amir Muqam on Monday extended his congratulations to the nation on the approval of the 26th Constitutional Amendment.

In a statement, Federal Minister Engr Amir Muqam praised the efforts of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Federal Cabinet members, JUI Chief Maulana Fazl Rehman and all coalition parties for their dedication to this crucial constitutional reform.

## TikTok organizes event to empower Pakistani creators, publishers

ISLAMABAD (APP): For the first time, creators and publishers from across Pakistan gathered for the TikTok Experience, a one-day event curated exclusively for the platform's thriving community.

According to a news release on Monday, the event featured an engaging lineup of insightful panel discussions, hands-on workshops, and interactive activities designed to inspire and elevate the TikTok community in Pakistan. Renowned industry experts shared valuable insights on content strategy, community building and navigating emerging trends.

TikTok Experience was also elevated by an impressive lineup of speakers, including The Coke Studio team, representative of Turkish media giants Turkavaz Media Group and the crème de la crème of Pakistan's entertainment industry. The evening climaxed with a surprise musical performance by Young

Stunners.

The event's sessions included 'TikTok My busters,' which debunked common myths about high-quality content, encouraging creators to produce engaging content that resonates with their audience. This was followed by a session on CapCut which showcased cutting-edge editing technologies, empowering creators to enhance their content's production quality. A standout panel discussion, 'How did Blockbuster become a blockbuster,' shared the success story of Coke Studio's 15th edition on TikTok. The Coke Studio team, including Muhammad Imbrahim and singer Umar Butt, provided valuable insights into creating viral content, leveraging creator partnerships, and promoting hero content. Saif Mujahid, Head of Content Operations & Marketing - Pakistan at TikTok, said, "At TikTok, we're committed to empowering local creators and publishers with the tools.

## ICT Police nab female suspect in fraud Case, seize gold

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police, Women police station team arrested a lady accused involvement in fraudulent activities and recovered gold ornaments from her possession.

A public relation officer told APP that, the Women police team used technical and human resources and succeeded in apprehending a lady accused.

He said the accused was identified as Mariam Bibi.

The police team also recovered gold ornaments from her possession, he added.

He said case was registered against the nab accused and further investigation is underway.

DIG Syed Ali Raza, said that the ICT Police is actively working to ensure the safety of citizens' lives and property in the federal capital, emphasizing that no elements will be allowed to disrupt citizens' peace.

## CII to organize seminar on Human Milk Bank

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) on Monday decided to organize a seminar on the establishment of a Human Milk Bank, and present the recommendations of experts, physicians, and scholars at the next meeting.

The 239th meeting of the Council held under the chairmanship of Dr. Raghib Hussain Nacemi and discussed a range of important issues.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Abdul Ghafoor Rashid, Fareeda Raheem, Malik Allah Baksh Kalyar, Muhammad Jalaluddin, Sahibzada Pir Khalid (Retd) Zafar Iqbal Chaudhry, Allama Syed Iftikhar

Hussain Naqvi, Mufti Muhammad Zubair, Allama Yousaf Awan, Dr. Aziz Mahmood Al-Azhari, Pir Shams-ur-Rehman, and Dr. Mufti Intikhab Noori.

During the meeting, the matters including the Supreme Court's revised detailed judgment in the Mubarak Sani case, Criminal Appeal No. 590/2017 regarding blasphemy and the sanctity of Islamic values, a query about the establishment of a Human Milk Bank, the Muslim Family Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, a draft for the preparation of rules under the Waqf Act 2020, and the Dissolution of Muslim Marriages (Amendment) Act, 2024 were came under discussion.

## 74 beggars, 18 shopkeepers arrested during crackdown

ISLAMABAD (APP): The district administration of Islamabad has ramped up its efforts to address growing concerns over illegal activities in the Federal Capital, leading to the arrest of 74 beggars and 18 shopkeepers in separate operations.

The spokesman of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration said that this action was part of a larger initiative to maintain public order and enforce price regulations. Islamabad's district administration continues its aggressive campaign against the alms-seekers in the city and arrested 74 professional beggars over the past 48 hours.

## Grand cultural event "Lok Mela" to be held in Nov

ISLAMABAD (APP): The much-awaited annual cultural mega event of "Lok Mela" will be held at the National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) from November 08-17 in Islamabad, presenting a diverse cultural extravaganza for the art lovers. The event is being arranged by Lok Virsa which is an autonomous cultural organization working under the National Heritage and Culture Division. "The preparations for the Lok Mela are under way to make it a success by adding all the attractions. The festival is set to attract artisans, performers and visitors from across the country", an official of Lok Virsa said.

## BISP, Population Council to initiate efforts for improving maternal & child care facilities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid and Population Council Country Director, Dr. Zeba A. Sattar in a meeting agreed to initiate efforts for improving maternal and child care facilities.

The meeting, held at BISP headquarters, focused on joint efforts to improve women's reproductive health, promote adequate birth control, and support the healthy development of newborns through the cooperation of BISP and the Population Council.

Speaking on the occasion, Senator Rubina Khalid

highlighted BISP's ongoing initiative Benazir Nashonuma to combat malnutrition in children by providing nutritious food to pregnant and lactating mothers and their children under two years of age, along with conditional financial assistance.

She emphasized the importance of maternal health to ensure the birth of healthy children.

Both parties also agreed on the need for consultations with top provincial health officials to enhance measures related to reproductive health, birth control, and newborn care.



ISLAMABAD: Affected of Jamal Group (Real Estate) are protesting outside NPC for their demands.



Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**  
Tuesday October 22, 2024

## 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Maleeha Lodhi

Bob Woodward writes the ultimate 'insider' accounts about American presidents, politics and foreign policy. He is one of the duo of journalists who exposed the Watergate scandal that led to president Richard Nixon's downfall.

Woodward has long enjoyed unique access to America's top political and military leaders. Which is why he is sometimes unflatteringly described as an "access journalist" who shows undue deference to his main, often anonymous sources. His latest book, *War*, belongs to the same genre as earlier works and is based on scores of interviews offering insights into the highest levels of decision-making during Joe Biden's presidency. What gives this book added significance is its publication on the eve of the American presidential election, as he draws comparisons between Donald Trump and Biden in how they dealt with international crises.

Woodward considers Trump as "the most reckless and impulsive president in American history", who "is demonstrating the very

same character as a presidential candidate in 2024". He, therefore, deems Trump to be unfit for a second term in office. These views are no different from what Woodward previously wrote in his trilogy of books on the Trump presidency. The first two, titled *Fear and Rage*, were about the chaos in the Trump White House and depicted the former president as a self-obsessed, ill-informed and impetuous leader. The principal focus of his new book is on how the Biden administration handled the wars in Ukraine and Gaza, although Woodward's disclosures about Trump's relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin — sending him Covid test kits when they were scarce at home — attracted greater pre-publication publicity for the book. *War* covers all these international engagements, but perhaps it is how the American exit from Afghanistan was botched up that might interest readers most in Pakistan.

For Biden, the 20-year US military presence in Afghanistan was "a classic case of mission creep" that he pledged in his election campaign to end. The mis-

sion had lost its purpose and direction and as vice president he warned president Barack Obama that he was being fed "bullshit" by military generals who were taking advantage of his inexperience. When Biden became president, he inherited the 2020 Doha agreement Trump concluded with the Taliban, which committed the US to withdraw from Afghanistan by May 2021.

Three options were presented to Biden: stay on indefinitely, undertake a slower, "gated" withdrawal, or pull out quickly and safely. Like Trump, he wanted an expeditious exit, and accordingly announced that in April 2021. Criticism followed from former military officials, and even ex-president George W. Bush. Biden remained undeterred. His administration, however, "failed to anticipate contingencies and plan for worst-case scenarios", says Woodward. It was taken by surprise by how swiftly the country fell to the Taliban without a fight.

Blaming the Afghan government and military for the debacle, Biden, however, stood by his decision while also passing the buck to Trump, saying he forged

the original deal with the Taliban. None of this obscured the monumental intelligence failure that produced the chaotic exit, which had echoes of the US scramble from Vietnam. This inevitably damaged America's global standing and credibility.

The chapters on the war in Gaza portray a frustrated US president, angry with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his constant lies about his intention to escalate the conflict, which Biden saw as inextricably linked to his political survival. "Defined by distrust", their tense relationship is described in graphic detail. Woodward cites several occasions when Washington's advice was willfully ignored, including on a ceasefire deal, Israel's invasion of Rafah, siege of Gaza, air strikes on Beirut, and on avoiding civilian casualties. He quotes Biden as telling Netanyahu that "the perception of Israel around the world increasingly is that you're a rogue state, a rogue actor". He cites Biden's frequent use of four-letter words for the Israeli leader.

Biden wanted to contain the war to Gaza and,

according to Woodward, told Netanyahu that the US is "not on board" on any preemptive attack on Hezbollah. He also told him Washington would not participate in any Israeli offensive action against Iran. He was concerned that 45,000 US military personnel and contractors stationed across the Middle East would become targets of attack. The Israeli leader repeatedly responded to this by saying he will not allow "a drop or ounce to go into Gaza to help the people".

Netanyahu's refusal to listen to Biden and unwillingness to provide urgent access for aid meant Washington failed to avert a humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza. Despite their many disagreements on the conduct of the war, Biden remained steadfast in his support of Israel. Whatever Woodward's explanation of his inability to prevent Israel from escalating and broadening the war, this failure was a reflection of Washington's strategic compulsion to avoid a rupture with Tel Aviv as well as the

limits of a tired superpower's eroding leverage, with a manipulative Netanyahu getting the better of a lame-duck Biden.

The role of key Arab states is highlighted in anecdotes of several meetings. For example, King Abdullah of Jordan tells US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, "We want Israel to defeat Hamas." Similarly, the UAE ruler conveys to the Americans that "Hamas must be eliminated". Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman says to Blinken in discussions on a future Palestinian state "Do I want it? It doesn't matter that much. Do I need it? Absolutely". Significantly, though, he added he would never betray the Arab or Muslim world on this issue.

The war in Ukraine also receives detailed treatment. The most striking disclosure concerns US intelligence information in September 2022 that Putin was considering using tactical nuclear weapons, and efforts by the Biden national security team to stop him. Direct US warnings to Russian officials are claimed by the book to have averted the danger of nuclear escalation. — Courtesy Dawn

## Constitutional amendments

### Khawaja Ahmad Hosain

Constitutional office holders, including superior court judges and legislators, swear an oath when assuming office. The oath requires them to act in accordance with the Constitution. Does this mean they are bound to act in accordance with, and uphold, any amendments made to the Constitution?

The 1973 Constitution provides by its express terms that it can be amended. For a constitutional amendment, the relevant bill must be passed by two-thirds of the total membership of each House. Thereafter, the relevant bill is presented to the president for assent. Following presidential assent, the bill becomes law and the Constitution stands amended. If this process is not followed, the amendment is procedurally invalid.

For procedural validity, there are three requirements. First, there is the numerical threshold required in each House. Second, the vote must be of individuals who qualify as 'members' of the relevant House. If the required two-thirds majority is contin-

uent on votes of members whose election is subject to dispute, then the amendment is subject to the outcome of the dispute. If, ultimately, it is determined that the relevant individual was not lawfully elected, then the amendment is invalid as it would not have been passed by the requisite majority of members. Third, if the vote has been procured by duress or corruption, the vote is invalid. If established that the required majority was achieved through such unlawful means, the amendment would not have received the requisite support.

Such formulations should be uncontroversial. Constitutional amendments cannot be based on votes of individuals who have not won the election and therefore are not lawful members. Nor can they be based on votes that have been unlawfully procured.

Apart from procedural impropriety, a constitutional amendment can also be challenged on substantive grounds. This principle is set out in the case where the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment was considered by the full court of the Supreme Court (SC).

The plurality of judges held that there is an implied limitation on the powers of parliament to amend the Constitution. Although parliament can amend, it cannot abrogate or substantively alter the salient features of the Constitution. These so-called salient features have been identified as including democracy, parliamentary form of government, and independence of the judiciary.

The minority judgments in this case were troubled with the SC assuming such power. Justice Saqib Nisar, as he then was, stated that allowing the courts to interfere with constitutional amendments would be tantamount to "judicial aggrandisement of power at the expense of the elected representatives of the people".

This view can be contrasted with the view taken by the current chief justice of Pakistan (he was Justice Isa at the time) in the same case. He held that the SC has the power and jurisdiction to examine an amendment made to the Constitution. His view was based on the premise that after the promulgation of the 1973 Constitution,

subsequent parliamentarians do not have the same powers as those enjoyed by the members of the first assembly. They cannot amend the Constitution in a manner that contravenes the Preamble and, in particular, cannot take away or abridge any fundamental rights of the people.

Judges, like all of us, evolve. Those who initially were more inclined to restraint become activists. Activists develop restraint. The current state of the law as interpreted by the SC is that the courts can judicially review constitutional amendments duly passed by parliament and strike them down if they substantively interfere with the judiciary's independence.

The latest draft of the bill providing for the 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment contains three provisions which undermine judicial independence. First, it is contemplated that the chief justice will be selected from the three senior most judges. This selection is to be done by a parliamentary committee with a government majority. Given this provision, the top three judges may be

more concerned about pleasing the government rather than focused on their duty. This conflict of interest in cases where the government is a party would have a material impact on the independent administration of justice. There would inevitably be speculation regarding the motive behind decisions rendered by these judges as the date for selection of the new chief justice by the government approaches. Second, the amendments contemplate constitutional benches within the SC for constitutional matters. These benches will comprise such judges for such term as may be determined by the Judicial Commission from time to time. Although the JC has the five senior-most serving SC judges as members, one-third of the total membership comes from the government. Giving a litigant (like the government) the right to have a say in the selection of judges to hear a case "from time to time" undermines judicial independence and due process.

The government can, through the JC, seek to punish or exclude judges

who have taken decisions against them or change the composition of constitutional benches to suit its partisan interests. There may be a legitimate role for the government or parliament in judicial appointments. They cannot be allowed to decide which judges hear cases in which they are a party.

Third, the amendments contemplate an annual performance evaluation by the JC of high court judges. The government should have no role in evaluating the performance of judges. This discourages independent decision-making.

An independent judiciary is a core value mandated by our Constitution. The state may feel, with some justification, that judicial activism has undermined progress. The solution does not lie in compromising judicial independence. The undeclared aim of some of these amendments is to control the judges. Those who can be controlled are unfit to be judges. Historically, such individuals ultimately haunt their creators. To progress, we must learn from our past and stop repeating it.

## 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 half-way 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 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: "I 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



## CM Murad directs Immediate approval of Rs75.6 bn development schemes for Karachi

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

Janjar, 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.



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

## 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 Mariyum 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.

## 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.

## Rioting case: PTI leaders Helem 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.

## Tessori signs amendment bill enhancing physical rehabilitation services

KARACHI (APP): The Governor of Sindh Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori has signed the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Amendment Bill 2024.

Under the amendment bill, the administrative control of the institution had been transferred from the Sindh Health Department to the Department of Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

a communique said on Monday.

The governor said this was an important development by the Sindh government for the welfare of persons with disabilities. He further said that the Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation will now operate under a new management structure to better serve disabled persons.



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

## 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 (N) 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. He said that in Pakistan many people who are living below poverty, adding that such institutions are rendering great service for suffering humanity.

Zardari and Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto's role in passing the 26th constitutional amendment will be remembered in history.

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. He said that in Pakistan many people who are living below poverty, adding that such institutions are rendering great service for suffering humanity.

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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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 advocate has 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.

He appreciated the role of the PPP chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, PML-N president Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and JUI-F chief

Maulana Fazalur Rehman in the passage of the amendment bill. He said, "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."

Termed 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 of Pakistan.

## Two people killed, 7 injured as truck plunges into deep ravine in AJK

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): At least two persons were killed and seven others were injured when a truck plunged into a ditch near Laska Singhawala, Chahyian in the outskirts of Mirpur city late Sunday, the police said.

The Gujranwala-bound truck bearing No LXP6205 was on way from Mirpur, with nine persons on board, met the accident while negotiating a sharp turn due to over speeding.

One person died on the spot while another succumbed to serious injuries later, while eight injured were rushed to Mirpur Division Teaching Hospital, the added. Rescue 1122 Mirpur shifted eight injured individuals to DHQ Hospital Mirpur, Rescue officer Wajid Rasheed told APP when contacted here on Monday.

"One person was initially missing, but Rescue 1122 recovered the body of Javed from under the truck wreckage, by using heavy machinery", the rescue officer said.

## Sealing his clinic SHC reserves judgment on petition filed by Alvi

KARACHI (Online): Sindh High Court (SHC) has reserved judgment on the petition from former president Arif Alvi against sealing his clinic following the completion of the arguments by the lawyers.

The petition filed by former president Arif Alvi against sealing of his clinic came up for hearing in SHC Monday.

The court inquired from SBCA counsel let the court come to understand what encroachments have been constructed thereon.

SBCA counsel took the plea commercial activities were continuing at that place due to which we had to take action. Several changes were made

by Dr Arif Alvi with reference to construction of building.

The court remarked under what law action is taken on such type of constructions.

The counsel for SCBA took the plea this building was constructed in 1991. Change was made in the building in 2002. No mention has been made in approval plan of this plot that clinic is being constructed at this place. Plan approval for residential building was got here and constructions have been made. When complaints were received by us about this building then notice was issued and law was implemented.



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

## 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.

He expressed these views while chairing a meeting here to lift ban in transfer of properties. 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.

Zubair Ali said that he was well aware of the problems of traders and committed to address those problems on priority basis.



SARGODHA: Dean Faculty of Sciences Prof. Dr. Amir Ali leading a walk on World Statistics Day organized by Department of Statistics University of Sargodha.



## 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

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LAHORE: A vendor displaying and arranging ring stones to attract the customers at his roadside setup in a local market.

## Pakistan's meat exports to China hit \$3.3m from January-Sept 2024

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan's meat exports to China reached an impressive \$3.37 million from January to September 2024, according to the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC). Ghulam Qadir, Trade and Investment Counsellor at the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing said that Chinese consumers are becoming more adventurous in their culinary choices, increasingly interested in trying high-quality meat from countries like Pakistan. The country's rich tradition in meat production, particularly in beef and mutton, aligns

well with the preferences of Chinese consumers. This demand is not merely a trend; it is part of China's broader goal to diversify its meat sources and enhance food security. How did Pakistan achieve this milestone? It comes down to hard work and strategic planning. The government has been supportive, implementing policies to boost export capabilities. Additionally, Pakistani meat exporters have demonstrated their ability to meet China's strict quality standards. Whether ensuring hygiene or delivering a consistent supply, they have proven they can compete on an international level, he told CEN.

## 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 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. Meanwhile, on a year-on-year basis, the petroleum group imports witnessed an increase of 4.33 percent during the month of September 2024 as compared to the same month of last year. The petroleum imports during September 2024 were recorded at \$1,388.420.



FAISALABAD: A worker is busy in a local garment factory on Maqbool Road, in the city.



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.

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.

## SECP expands engagement with provincial governments for 'Insured Pak' initiative

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) continues taking steps to fulfil the vision of insured Pakistan. In this regard, Commissioner Insurance SECP, Aamir Khan held a series of meetings with provincial authorities to discuss steps aimed towards realization of the vision.

In Baluchistan, he met with the Secretary Transport, Mr. Muhammad Hayat Kakar and Director General Excise and Taxation Mr. Zeeshan Raza Gohar, followed by meetings with Advisor Finance to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mr.

Muzammil Aslam and Additional Secretary Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Control KPK Mr. Wajid Ali Khan, said press release issued here on Monday. The outreach is in line with the objectives of the 5-year strategic plan for the Insurance Sector by SECP. This includes taking stakeholders onboard to help promote insurance sector as well as ensuring protection of the citizens of Pakistan through various initiatives under the Insured Pakistan initiative. Similar engagements are planned with key government officials of other provinces in the coming weeks.

## 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. The ICMA & ICAP Best Corporate Report Awards is one of the most reputable platforms in Pakistan for evaluating annual and sustainability reports.



QUETTA: People purchase second-hand accessories from roadside vendor in the Provincial Capital.

## 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 Punjab Chief Minister's smog control programme. She said that farmers were being provided 5,000 super seeders on 60 percent subsidy and this

would help make residues of paddy crop useful. Marriyum said that zero tolerance policy was being implemented against burning of rice crop residues. She further said that anti smog squad would also provide technical guidance to paddy growers, adding that Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz had set up special helpline to control smog. Punjab Agriculture Minister Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani said that Punjab Chief Minister Kisan Card had been activated for purchase process, adding that this initiative would be a game changer for small farmers.

## 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 Eilan 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Pak earns \$584m from IT services' export during July-August 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan earned US \$584.566 million by exporting different Information Technology (IT) services in various countries during the first two months of the current fiscal year 2024-25. This shows a growth of 30.231 percent as compared with the US \$448.930 million earned through the provision of services during the

corresponding months of the last fiscal year 2023-24, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. During the month under review, the computer services grew by 35 percent as it surged from US \$361.500 million last year to US \$488.040 million during July-August 2024. Among the computer services, the exports of software consultancy

services witnessed an increase of 31.14 percent, from US \$127.329 million to US \$166.982 million this year while the export of hardware consultancy services also surged by 33.65 percent, from US \$0.971 million to US \$1.297 million. The export of repair and maintenance services surged by 195.98 percent from US \$0.180 million to US \$0.532 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



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

## PSX holds gong ceremony on listing of BF Biosciences Ltd.

KARACHI: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) held a gong ceremony to celebrate the listing of BF Biosciences Limited (BFBIO). BFBIO is a pharmaceutical joint venture between Ferozsons Laboratories Ltd and Bago Group of Argentina. BF Biosciences has spearheaded Pakistan's emergence in biotech manufacturing. It was also involved in the export of biotech pharmaceuticals especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. BFBIO has been producing biological medicines for Cancer, Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) and Hepatitis-C for both local and international markets. Present at the ceremony to strike the gong were Mr. Osman Khalid Waheed (CEO of Ferozsons Laboratories Limited), Mr. Farhan Rafiq (COO of BF Biosciences Limited), Mr. Rallys Eduardo Pliauzer (Group Director, Grupo Empresarial Bago S.A.) and Mr. Shahid Ali Habib (CEO of Arif Habib Limited, the Lead Manager

to the Issue). On behalf of PSX, the guests were welcomed by Mr. Nihal Qasim (PSX's Director), Dr. Fakhara Rizwan (PSX's Company Secretary & Chief Legal & Corporate Affairs Officer PSX), and senior management of Pakistan Stock Exchange. The Argentinean Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Sebastian Sayus graced the occasion. To expand and enhance production capabilities and to meet post-expansion working capital needs, BF Biosciences Limited planned to raise Rs 1,375,000,000/- from an Issue comprising 25,000,000 ordinary shares of face value worth Rs 3/- each, at a floor price of Rs 55/- per share. The Issue of 25,000,000 ordinary shares were offered through 100% book building method. Initially, 75% of the Issue size, i.e. 18,750,000 shares were allotted to successful bidders and 25% of the Issue size i.e. 6,250,000 ordinary shares, were offered to retail investors.

## Huawei in partnership NIBAF completes training for SBP employees

ISLAMABAD (APP): 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, Deputy CEO of Huawei Technologies Pakistan. Participants were awarded certificates and engaged in discussions on strategic initiatives to further enable and empower Pakistan's banking governance sector. Asim Iqbal expressed appreciation for Huawei's efforts and emphasized the need for continued training to improve human resource capabilities across the organization. "Huawei is proud to partner with the State Bank, and this is just the first step of many more to come. The banking sector has evolved digitally on a global scale, and as industry leaders,

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, Deputy CEO of Huawei Technologies Pakistan. Participants were awarded certificates and engaged in discussions on strategic initiatives to further enable and empower Pakistan's banking governance sector. Asim Iqbal expressed appreciation for Huawei's efforts and emphasized the need for continued training to improve human resource capabilities across the organization. "Huawei is proud to partner with the State Bank, and this is just the first step of many more to come. The banking sector has evolved digitally on a global scale, and as industry leaders,



LARKANA: A vendor displays beautiful artificial jewelry at Resham Gali, drawing customers as high gold prices and the wedding season boost demand in the city.



## 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 property 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.

"Yet again we see direct and apparently deliberate fire on a UNIFIL position," the mission stated at the time.

In addition, last Sunday, 13 October, 15 peacekeepers suffered from "smoke effects", after the IDF fired several rounds some 100 metres from their position, which had been deliberately breached around two hours earlier the same day.

Several UN positions have been damaged, and cameras and lights destroyed.

Top UN officials, including the Secretary-General voiced concern over the situation, reiterating that safety and security of UN personnel and property "must be guaranteed" and that the inviolability of UN premises "must be respected at all times without qualification".

He also warned that attacks against peacekeepers contravene international law and may constitute war crimes.



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

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

**Monitoring Desk**  
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.

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

**Monitoring Desk**  
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 and has recently expanded to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates.

## Expelled Indian envoy blames Trudeau for row

**Monitoring Desk**  
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."

Canada is home to the highest population of Sikhs outside their home state of Punjab and demonstrations in favour of a separate homeland carved out of India have irked New Delhi.



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

**Monitoring Desk**  
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 compassionate 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 — normally a strongly Democratic demographic — delivered a temperate speech, telling the tale of the Good Samaritan but also using it to exhort the crowd to vote and "shine the light in moments of darkness."

## Eutelsat uses SpaceX rocket to launch satellites

**Monitoring Desk**  
STOCKHOLM: Eutelsat, the world's third-biggest satellite operator by revenue, launched 20 satellites for its communications network on Sunday, using Elon Musk's SpaceX in its first move since the merger of two European companies last year.

A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket took off with Eutelsat satellites from California's Vandenberg Space Force Base at 05:13 GMT.

"This is the first OneWeb launch of the satellites since the merger," CEO Eva Berneke told Reuters in an interview.

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

**Monitoring Desk**  
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.

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



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

## Moldova holds election, EU vote dogged by alleged Russian meddling

**Monitoring Desk**  
CHISINAU: Moldovans voted on Sunday in a presidential election and a referendum that could make or break their country's efforts to join the European Union, after allegations of Russian interference. As the war in Ukraine turns the political and diplomatic spotlight on Moldova, the former Soviet republic has sought to escape Moscow's orbit and embarked on the long process of EU accession talks.

Polls show incumbent Maia Sandu, who has championed EU accession in four years as president, has a clear lead over her 10 rivals on the ballot, though the election will go to a Nov. 3 run-off if she fails to reach the 50% mark. The 52-year-old former World Bank adviser is likely to face Alexandru Stoianoglo, 57, a former prosecutor-general backed by the pro-Russian Party of Socialists, if there is a second round.

The referendum will decide whether to insert a clause into the constitution defining EU accession as a goal. A strong "yes" would endorse Sandu's push to join the bloc by 2030.

## Shallow 5.8-magnitude quake hits eastern Indonesia island: USGS

JAKARTA (AFP/APP): A shallow 5.8-magnitude earthquake struck an island in eastern Indonesia on Monday, the United States Geological Survey said.

The onshore quake hit the island of Tapani in the Molucca sea at a depth of 10 kilometres (6.2 miles) at 10:24 local time (0324 GMT), USGS said.

There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage on the island which has a population of around 50,000. Indonesia's meteorology and geophysics agency said there was no tsunami threat.

The vast archipelago nation experiences frequent earthquakes due to its position on the Pacific "Ring of Fire".

## Hurricane Oscar makes landfall in Cuba amid huge power outage

HAVANA (AFP/APP): Hurricane Oscar made landfall on Sunday evening in Cuba, where residents were preparing for more chaos and misery as the country grapples with a nearly nationwide power outage in its third day.

The arrival of Oscar, after the Friday collapse of Cuba's largest power plant crippled the whole national grid, piles pressure on a country already battling sky-high inflation and shortages of food, medicine, fuel and water.

Cuba's government said power would be reinstated for the majority of the country by Monday

evening, with President Miguel Diaz-Canel warning his government would not tolerate public disturbances during the outage.

Oscar, a Category 1 storm, made landfall in eastern Cuba at 5:50 pm local time (2150 GMT) on Sunday, the US National Hurricane Center said.

The storm was packing maximum sustained winds nearing 80 miles (130 kilometers) per hour, the NHC said, and was moving westward at seven miles per hour.

In Baracoa, waves reaching up to 13 feet (four meters) high hit the seafloor.

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

**Monitoring Desk**  
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 Russian warships in the Black Sea have forced Moscow to move ships to Novorossiisk.

Rogozin told the Moscow-based Kommunist, 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.

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## Oil-rich Iraqi Kurdistan votes, shadowed by economic struggles

**Monitoring Desk**  
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 Barzani and the PUK by the Talabani.

Despite holding election rallies and mobilising their patronage networks, experts say there is widespread public disillusionment with the parties, exacerbated by the region's bleak economic conditions. Polls closed at 6PM and official results were expected 24 hours later.

Huri Mohammed, a 66-year-old housewife, said she voted for the KDP which dominates the regional capital Arbil, as it "serves the people". But she expressed hope the next government would "pay attention to the poor classes. The majority of our population has limited means".

Opposition parties such as New Generation and a movement led by Lahur Sheikh Jangi, a dissident from the Talabani clan, may gain from a protest vote, said Sartep Jawhar, a PUK dissident and political commentator.

## UN biodiversity summit opens under guerrilla threat in Colombia

**Monitoring Desk**  
CALI: The world's biggest nature protection conference gets a ceremonial kickoff in Colombia on Sunday with host city Cali on high alert after threats from a guerrilla group.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres will make a video address to guests gathered for the event attended by Colombian President Gustavo Petro, who on Friday said he was "nervous" about security.

The high-stakes UN biodiversity gathering officially opens on Monday under the protection of thousands of Colombian police and soldiers, aided by UN and US security personnel.

Armed police could be seen patrolling the city center, conference venue and airport Sunday. About 12,000 delegates from nearly 200 countries, including 140 government ministers and a dozen heads of state are due to attend the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP16) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), running until November 1.

Themed "Peace with Nature," it has the urgent task of coming up with monitoring and funding mechanisms to ensure that 23 UN targets agreed in 2022 to halt and reverse species destruction can be met by 2030.

But Colombia's EMC rebel group, a splinter of the FARC guerrilla army that disbanded in 2017, has cast a shadow over the event by urging foreign delegations to stay away and warning the conference "will fail".

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## Cuba grid collapses again, hurricane heaps on misery

**Monitoring Desk**  
HAVANA: Cuba's electrical grid collapsed again on Sunday, the fourth such failure in 48 hours, with a hurricane making landfall to compound the island's misery and threaten further havoc on its decrepit infrastructure.

Cuba earlier on Sunday had said it was making headway restoring service after multiple false starts, though millions of people remained without electricity more than two days after the grid's initial collapse.

"Restoration work began immediately," the country's energy and mines ministry said on X. Hurricane Oscar made landfall on the Caribbean island on Sunday, bringing strong winds, a powerful storm surge and rain to parts of eastern Cuba and threatening to further complicate the government's efforts to reestablish service.

Cuba's meteorological survey warned of "an extremely dangerous situation" in eastern Cuba, while the US National Hurricane Center reported winds of 75 miles per hour (120 kph) as the storm made its way across the island.

"On the forecast track, the center of Oscar is expected to continue

moving across eastern Cuba tonight and Monday, then emerge off the northern coast of Cuba late Monday and cross the central Bahamas on Tuesday," the Hurricane Center said.

The Communist-run government canceled school through Wednesday — a near unprecedented move in Cuba — citing the hurricane and the ongoing energy crisis. Officials said only essential workers should report to work on Monday.

The repeated grid collapses marked a major setback in the government's efforts to quickly restore power to exhausted residents already suffering from severe shortages of food, medicine and fuel.

The multiple setbacks in the first 48 hours also underscored the complexity of the work and the still precarious state of the country's grid.

Cuba had restored power to 160,000 clients in Havana just prior to the grid's Sunday collapse, giving some residents a glimmer of hope.

But housewife Anabel Gonzalez, of old Havana, a neighborhood popular with tourists, said she was growing desperate after three days without power.



People protest as they demand lower housing rental prices and better living conditions in Madrid, Spain.



## 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, Naeem ul Zazfar 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: 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 Gov-

ernment 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.

## 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 pub-

lic 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).



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

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

## 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.

## PM concedes 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.

## Current Account records surplus of \$119 million in Sep 24: SBP

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, Botany, Biotechnology, Biochemistry, LLB, B.Ed.

## 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 re-

porters 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: 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.

## 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' 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.

Emphasising 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.

## Commissioner, DC visit DHQ

KHARAN (APP): Commissioner, Rakhshan Division, Mujeeb ur Rehman Qambrani along with Deputy Commissioner, Kharan, Muneer Ahmed Somroo on Monday visited Divisional Headquarters Hospital (DHQ).

The commissioner visited various departments of the hospital and discussed various issues with the hospital's administration.

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



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.

The amendment has been made to occupy judiciary in the darkness of night.

Giving powers to parliamentary committee and prime minister for appointment of Chief Justice (CJ) is tantamount to weaken the judiciary.

It is regrettable that son of Mufti Mehmood and grand son of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto violated the constitution on Sunday.

This parliament is by product of form 47.

He held Nawaz Sharif remains sad every time because he has won the election by getting written 70000 votes on paper. His daughter has also met defeat. Not a single seat has been won by MQM out of 22 seats.

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.



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," de-

clared 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.

## 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.



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