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No major controversy over draft

Fazal hopes PTI will extend support for constitutional amendment

On PTI's request, JUI-F chief seeks one more day to vote on constitutional amendment; 26th amendment package will further strengthen Parliament, democracy: PPP Chairman

Monitoring Desk
ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman said that hopefully the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) will extend support on the constitutional amendment.

Addressing the press conference flanked by Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari in the wee hours of Sunday, Rehman said: "Today, we get the PTI's response."

Rehman said: "I got a positive message from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder, on which I express my gratitude."

"We will be able to vote during the parliament sessions. We are waiting for today over the matter," said Rehman.

"There is no major controversy over the draft," said Rehman.

Both the PPP and JUI-F had reached the consensus on the constitutional amendment. The govern-

ment has agreed to withdraw the areas of the initial drafts on which we had raised objections.

Earlier, it was reported that Rehman had sought one day to table the constitutional amendment.

According to details, Rehman's residence had emerged as a political hub as members of both the government and opposition converge to discuss the 26th constitutional amendment.

With unanimous ap-

proval on the horizon, law minister Azam Nazeer Tarar delivered the final draft of the amendment directly to Fazlur Rehman.

The atmosphere at the JUI-F chief's residence had been charged, with various political leaders making intermittent visits throughout the day. INP adds: After holding back-to-back meetings with Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman

Cabinet approves constitutional amendment draft

Monitoring Desk
ISLAMABAD: After day-long rigorous efforts to bring the treasury and the opposition parties on the same page, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led federal cabinet gave approval to the contentious 26th constitutional amendment draft on late Saturday night.

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Two Khawarij killed, five apprehended in two separate IBOs in Balochistan

President, PM laud security forces for successful operation against Fitna al-Khawarij

RAWALPINDI (APP): The security forces on Saturday killed two Khawarij terrorists and apprehended five in two separate intelligence-based operations (IBOs) conducted in different districts of Balochistan province.

The security forces conducted a successful IBO in District Pishin on reported presence of Khawarij and apprehended five of them and a large quantity of weapons, ammunition and explosives including three Suicide Vests were seized, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

Apprehended Khawarij were involved in multiple terrorist attacks and were planning to target security forces as well as innocent civilians, it said.

In another operation in District Zhob on October 17, during a fire exchange with security forces, two Khawarijs were sent to hell.

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Passing out parade of various courses' cadets held at PMA

By Abdul Khaliq Qureshi
KAKUL: Passing out parade of cadets of 150th PMA Long Course, 69th

was awarded to Battalion Senior Under Officer Abdullah Afzal of 150th PMA Long Course. The President's Gold



Integrated Course, 24th Lady Cadet Course and 36th Technical Graduate Course was held at Pakistan Military Academy (PMA) Kakul on Saturday.

The Cadets from several friendly countries including Iraq, Jordan, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Palestine, Sudan and Yemen were also graduated from Pakistan Military Academy. Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS) General Sahir Shamshad Mirza graced the occasion as chief guest and reviewing dignitary of the parade.

The CJCS reviewed the parade and gave awards to distinguished cadets. The coveted Sword of Honor

Medal to Battalion Senior Under Officer Babar Ullah Aman of 150th PMA Long Course. Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Overseas Gold Medal to Friendly Country Senior Under Officer Kshirij Gurung of 150th PMA Long Course from Nepal. Chief of Army Staff Cane was awarded to Course Junior Under Officer Muhammad Umar Sheraz of 36th Technical Graduate Course.

Commandant's Cane were awarded to Course Junior Under Officer Muhammad Suleman of 69th Integrated Course and Course Under Officer Pakeeza Yaqoob of 24th Lady Cadet Course.

No party blackmailing govt over constitutional amendment: Asif

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Asif said on Saturday that the government desired to pass the 26th Constitutional Amendment with broad-based consensus.

Speaking to the media outside the Parliament, he said, "We have the required numbers for the passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment, but we seek to develop a broader consensus in the

National Assembly and the Senate."

The minister said that the primary objective of the amendment is to establish the supremacy of Parliament, which guarantees the Constitution of the country. "We want to put an end to the encroachment on Parliament and ensure that the supremacy of this forum, as promised by the Constitution of Pakistan, is upheld," he added.

PM, Chairman PPP discuss political situation of country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari along with a delegation called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the PM House on Saturday.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the overall political situation of the country.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, Pakistan People's Party leaders Sherry Rehman, Syed Naveed Qamar and Murtaza Wahab were also present in the meeting.

NA session adjourned till today

Monitoring Desk
ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly met briefly on Saturday with Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah in the chair. The chair adjourned the House till today (Sunday) at 03:00 p.m.

Police files interim challan of GHQ attack case against PTI founder, others

RAWALPINDI (Online): R.A Bazar police has filed interim challan of GHQ attack case against PTI founder, former chief minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi and others in the court.

The challan said statements by PTI former chairman on social media provoked PTI workers against the army that the workers should take every possible illegal step and carry out action in the form of bands that top military leadership and federal and provincial governments are forced to resign. Due to it May 9 incident took place.

On August 01, 2022 during talk show of private TV channel, PTI central spokesperson Dr Shahbaz Gill tried to divide jawans of Pakistan army and officers upto rank of brigadier.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Mir Sadiq Umrani, Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani, Parliamentary Secretary Hadia Nawaz Balcoh and MPAs Farah Azeem Shah, Shahnaz Umrani and Shahida Rauf holding a meeting



QUETTA: CEO and MD PPL Imran Abbasi meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti

'Our senators were abducted,' Mengal refuses to support constitutional amendments

BNP leader Akhtar Mengal demands the safe return of missing senators before any talks on amendments

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Akhtar Mengal, leader of the Balochistan National Party (BNP), has alleged that two of his party's senators have been abducted along with their families, adding that he will not support constitutional amendments currently being discussed in Pakistan.

Speaking to the media outside Maulana Fazlur Rehman's residence in Islamabad, Mengal expressed outrage over the government's handling of the situation, questioning why the constitutional changes were being rushed without public transparency.

Mengal further claimed that the family of a female senator had been held hostage to force her attendance at a luncheon with the Prime Minister.

"Is this what respect for the vote looks like?" he asked, adding that it is unacceptable for members of parliament and their families to be subjected to threats and intimidation.

The BNP leader vowed not to participate in any talks on the amendments until his missing senators are safely returned.

He criticised the secrecy surrounding the proposed changes, calling it an attack on democracy and questioning the role of external forces in the matter.

CNS visits Netherlands, meets top military leadership

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf called on the Military and Naval Leadership of Netherlands during an official visit to Netherlands.



The Naval Chief held combined meeting with top Military and Naval Leadership of Netherlands at Ministry of Defence, a Pakistan Navy news release on Saturday said.

Professional matters of mutual interest including bilateral defence collaboration were discussed. The Naval Chief underscored the importance of enhancing interactions between the armed forces of both countries through exercises and training exchange programmes.

The Deputy Chief of Defence, Vice Admiral Boudewijn Boots while acknowledging the significance of strong bilateral military cooperation in diverse realms, stressed on enhancing collaborations in expanded military domains.

CM appreciates successful targeted operations against terrorists in Zhob & Pishin

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has appreciated the successful operations against the terrorists of Fitna Alkhawarij conducted in Zhob and Pishin areas.

In a statement issued here on Saturday, the Chief Minister appreciated the targeted operation for restoration of peace and said that our brave security

forces foiled the nefarious designs of terrorists by conducting successful operations. While praising the jawans of security forces, the Chief Minister said that our brave forces are fighting for elimination of the menace of terrorism bravely.

He said that our security forces would succeed with support and prayers of the nation and ultimately, would defeat the terrorists.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari along with a delegation called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

CM directs PPL, provincial authorities to finalize Sui extension agreement with mutual understanding

CM & CEO PPL discuss exploration of new reservoirs of oil & gas, better utilization of natural resources in Balochistan; Directs to settle all issues between PPL administration & provincial government; prepare better & comprehensive CSR plan for province especially Sui; says it's provincial Govt.'s & PPL's joint responsibility to resolve public issues in Dera Bugti

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL), Imran Abbasi called on the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti here on Saturday.

During the course of meeting, they discussed about exploration of new reservoirs of oil and gas and better utilization of the natural resources.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister stressed that search of new exploration blocks for finding oil, gas and other miner-

als is necessary. He on the occasion directed to ensure better use of the social welfare funds of the PPL.

In this regard, the provincial government would extend every possible cooperation to PPL.

While emphasizing on better use of the social sector funds of PPL, the Chief Minister directed to prepare better and comprehensive CSR plan for the province especially Sui.

He also directed to finalize the extension of Sui agreement soon with mutual understanding and in this regard, adding he di-

rected to the concerned high ups to settle the issues between the PPL administration and the provincial government.

He directed to decide acceptable formula for resolving the two-sides issues.

In this regard, preference should be given to resolve the public issues, he maintained.

He stressed that it is joint responsibility of the provincial government and PPL to resolve the public issues in Dera Bugti. Such viable projects of social

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Attaulah Tarar says

Despite having numbers, efforts being made to create broader consensus on constitutional package

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaulah Tarar said on Saturday that despite having numbers, the coalition government was making all-out efforts for the creation of a broader consensus on the proposed constitutional package.

Talking to the media outside Parliament House along with the senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Haneef Abbasi, he said the process of consultations for the constitutional package was ongoing and Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto held meetings with Jamiat Ulama-e-Pakistan Amir Fazlur Rahman and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

"We are democratic people, we try to create a consensus among all political stakeholders," he said

adding that in democratic societies, efforts were made for consensus building through consultations.

He said that by changing the rules within Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), the powers of posting and transfer of police officers have been taken over by the Chief Minister from the IG. The minister said that the PTI aimed to obtain political objectives from the police.

He alleged that the KP Government wanted to control the people of the province politically.

Tarar said that the people from Punjab were also kept in KP and blame was shifted on the institutions for what they called their disappearance. The KP chief minister invaded the capital and used government resources against the

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ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaulah Tarar along with PML-N leader Hanif Abbasi talking to the media

Four killed in fireworks explosion in Multan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Four people were killed and six injured on Saturday when a three-story building collapsed due to a fireworks explosion in Aghapura area of Multan.

According to Rescue 1122, the team of rescue pulled out the bodies as well as the injured from underneath the rubble and shifted them to a hospital, a private news channel reported.

The deceased were identified as 55-year-old Safia, 40-year-old Mansha, 22-year-old Irsa, and a man whose identity could not be established till the last reports came in.

PTI backs Fazl on constitutional amendments after Adiala meeting with Imran

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan revealed on Saturday that former prime minister Imran Khan praised Maulana Fazlur Rehman for his support in standing up for judicial independence, even in tough times.

During a press conference at K-P House in Islamabad, Gohar demanded that Imran Khan's rights be respected. He shared that he had a 45-minute meeting with Khan and highlighted the poor conditions in which the PTI leader is being held.

"There has been no electricity in Khan's cell for five days. Keeping him in isolation and in a small cell violates his human and constitutional rights," Gohar stated. He also mentioned that Khan has been deprived of access to TV and newspapers for two weeks, leaving him unaware of recent constitutional developments. "We updated him on

these matters," Gohar added.

Addressing Khan's personal situation, Gohar noted, "He expressed sorrow over the arrest of his sisters, but reaffirmed that he and his family are always ready to make sacrifices." Gohar also conveyed Khan's appeal for the nation to remain peaceful.

The meeting, which took place in Adiala Jail, included five PTI leaders who informed Imran Khan of the progress made on constitutional amendments. Gohar reported that Khan received the discussions with a positive attitude, particularly praising Maulana Fazlur Rehman's commitment to judicial independence.

The PTI delegation, including Barrister Gohar, met Khan after receiving security clearance. They were delayed in entering Adiala Jail due to initial refusal from prison authorities, but permission was eventually granted following Maulana Fazlur Rehman's intervention.

Talal advocates for empowering parliament through constitutional amendments

ISLAMABAD (APP): PML-N Senator Talal Chaudhry here on Saturday outside of the Parliament House said that the main purpose of constitutional amendments was to make the Parliament more powerful for the interest of the public and it was the vision of both dynamic leaders Ex premier Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and former Prime Minister Shaheed Benazir Bhutto.

Talking to the media persons, he said that all these constitutional amendments were the desire of all political parties but unluckily due to the vested interest of Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI) opposing these amendments and not taking into the part of

the country's development.

Talal underlined that in the past Parliament was powerless and failed to protect the sitting prime ministers and some institutions were hanged and disqualified the sitting prime ministers all these things were on the record, but after this 26th amendment, these things could not be repeated.

Senator Talal also appreciated the role of Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto for developing a consensus among all political parties for the sake of the country.

To a question, Talal said that Nawaz Sharif was ready to

sacrifice everything for the development of the country but unfortunately, PTI was doing politics for its vested interest and not for the country.

He said that Imran Khan has been receiving special treatment including separate kitchen facilities and opportunities to hold political meetings.

Imran Khan was 'history's VIP prisoner' who enjoyed all facilities but attempted to disrupt the SCO conference and CPEC project, he said adding that PTI's actions are a threat to Pakistan's economic stability and national security. He reiterated the government's commitment to protecting Pakistan's respect and dignity.



QUETTA: Different delegations meeting with Provincial Advisor for Environment and Climate Change Naseem Rehman Mulakhail

Dr. Qaiser Khan Kakar achieves academic milestone

Independent Report

QUETTA: Dr. Qaiser Khan Kakar, son of Aurangzeb from Tunji, Ziarat District, has successfully completed his Ph.D. in Zoology and defended his research at the University of Balochistan.

Dr. Kakar's research has been published in three international journals and marks a significant breakthrough in the field. Notably, his study reports the first-ever recording of the Gonia Ornata fly, published in the Bio-Diversity Data Journal.

His research also pro-

neers DNA barcoding for agroforestry insects in Ziarat District, providing valuable insights into future insect pest management and forestry practices.

Dr. Kakar attributes his success to his parents, teachers, and the International Barcode of Life, Canada, for their support and collaboration.

This achievement reflects the growing academic excellence in Balochistan and highlights the importance of scientific research in addressing regional and global challenges.

CM directs....

Continued from page 1

welfare should be formulated under the CSR that directly benefit the poor people.

Besides, he directed to provide gas to two colonies of Sui on priority basis while making the efforts for resolving public issues fruitful.

Similarly, the provision of education, health and basic facilities should be given priority in the projects of social welfare, adding he stressed.

He said that restoration of public trust on the national companies is possible by resolving the issues facing general public.

He said that PPL is a national organization with which every possible cooperation would be extended.

Fazal hopes PTI will extend support....

Continued from page 1

Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Saturday said that his party and the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) chief have reached a 100% consensus on the proposed constitutional amendment.

The statement comes as the PPP chief is making last ditch effort to evolve a consensus on the judicial package among all political parties including the PTI.

Talking to journalist following his fresh meeting with JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Bilawal said that he was in consistent contact with the latter on the matter related to constitutional amendment.

"We have reached consensus over legislation on judicial reforms."

The PPP chairman said that he wished Maulana Fazl to table the 26th constitution amendment bill in parliament as "the draft is the same as Maulana Fazlur Rehman wanted".

Responding to a question, he said: "We are waiting for PTI's delegation [to discuss the draft]."

All political forces, including PML-N and PTI, will soon agree on the judicial reforms, he hoped.

Meanwhile PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, BNP-M chief Sardari Akhtari Mengal and a delegation of senior PTI leaders held back-to-back meetings with Maulana Fazlur Rehman at his residence in Islamabad on Saturday with focus on the proposed constitutional amendments.

He was of the view that PTI should have introduced judicial reforms during its tenure instead of him and added that the government should not table the constitutional amendment bill in parliament.

To another query, the PPP chairman said: "Both the parties [PPP and JUI-F] have agreed on constitutional reforms. The joint draft was authored by the JUI-F chief."

At the same time, Bilawal lauded the PML-N led federal government for showing patience over the matter.

For his part, JUI-F spokesperson Aslam Ghauri confirmed that both parties have agreed on a joint draft of the constitutional package and lauded Bilawal's efforts in this regard.

Responding to a question, he said: "We are waiting for PTI's delegation [to discuss the draft]."

All political forces, including PML-N and PTI, will soon agree on the judicial reforms, he hoped.

Meanwhile PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, BNP-M chief Sardari Akhtari Mengal and a delegation of senior PTI leaders held back-to-back meetings with Maulana Fazlur Rehman at his residence in Islamabad on Saturday with focus on the proposed constitutional amendments.

PTI founder, others acquitted in Azadi March case

ISLAMABAD (INP): PTI founder Imran Khan and several other party leaders, including KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur have been acquitted in the Azadi March case.

As per details, the civil judge Shehzad Khan announced the verdict and acquitted Raja Khurram Shehzad, Imran Ismail and Ali Nawaz Awan.

It is to be noted that several Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders, including former prime minister Imran Khan and Shah Mahmood Qureshi, were booked by police in various FIRs related to Azadi March.



QUETTA: Tribal elders and delegations of people from Dera Bugti meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti

Despite having numbers, efforts...

Continued from page 1

Federation, he said.

The minister said the PTI has the habit of blaming others but they did not look into their behaviour.

Attaulah Tarar said that the PTI leadership threatened that the homes and businesses of those members would be set ablaze who would cheat the founder chairman of the PTI. He said the PTI had no problem with those working against the interest of the country, but they want to punish those who ditch Imran Khan.

Foremost was the interest of the country, political leaders and political parties come second, he opined.

He said if any legislator was attacked, the state would take action and culprits would be given exemplary punishment.

The minister remarked that the PTI was crying hoarse for political face-saving, otherwise, they knew the ruling alliance had secured the numbers needed for the amendment.

Replying to media person questions, he said there are other options within the constitution and law but the PML-N leadership and party thought that a consensus should be created on the amendments.

The information minister said the government had an open mind in moving ahead with constitutional amendments.

He maintained that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leaders were nervous about meeting their leader.

In terms of judicial reforms, efforts were being made for consensus in the wider national interest, but if that was not possible,

Kundi visits Moin Khan Academy; emphasizes for modern sports academy in Peshawar

KARACHI (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Saturday visited the Moin Khan Academy located at the DHA Sports Club in Karachi and emphasized for establishment of modern sports academy in Peshawar.

Established in partnership with renowned former cricketer Moin Khan and DHA Sports Club, the academy has emerged as a premier institution for sports training in Pakistan.

Governor Kundi emphasized the need for a similar modern academy in Peshawar.

He was welcomed by the club's secretary, Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Zaka Raja, and former cricketer Moin Khan, who guided him through the club's various facilities.

During the visit, the Governor was briefed on the state-of-the-art amenities and various aspects of modern sports training provided at the academy.

He proposed the establishment of a state-of-the-art academy modeled after Moin Khan Academy, to which Moin Khan and the club's administrators expressed their agreement.

Appreciating the facilities offered by Moin Khan Academy and DHA Sports Club, Kundi remarked that the institution provides an excellent platform for sports development and training of young athletes.

He specifically thanked the club for the support provided to athletes from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and praised their efforts.

During the visit, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi reiterated his commitment to promoting sports in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and facilitating the establishment of a modern academy for training young athletes.

He said the immense talent among the youth in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, adding that such an academy would play a crucial role in honing their skills.

Pakistan to host int'l Forum & Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians

ISLAMABAD (INP): National Assembly of Pakistan will host the 45th Annual Forum of Parliamentarians for Global Action and the 13th Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians on the International Criminal Court on 28th and 29th of this month in Islamabad.

The event will bring together parliamentarians from around the world to engage in open dialogue with their parliamentary peers, experts, academics, government officials, representatives of the International Criminal Court and international organizations. The focus of the sessions will be on advancing domestic and international criminal justice, promoting the rule of law, and upholding human rights.

The event will also delve upon Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. As the current President of Parliamentarians for Global Action, Syed Naveed Qamar, a seasoned Pakistani politician and Member of the National Assembly, will lead this important gathering.

Two Khawarij... Continued from page 1

In ensuing sanitisation of the area, weapons and ammunition were also recovered in large quantity.

"Security forces of Pakistan remain steadfast in their commitment to eradicate terrorism from the country and protect innocent civilians from this menace," the ISPR said.

Meanwhile President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday paid tribute to security forces for their successful operations against terrorists in Balochistan districts of Pishin and Zhoab.

The president, in a statement issued by the Presidency, lauded the professional skills of the security forces for conducting operations against Khawarij terrorists.

He expressed resolve to continue operations against the terrorists, saying, "We will continue actions till complete eradication of Fina al-Khawarij".

President Zardari said the security forces were bravely fighting against terrorists.

"The entire nation stands united with security forces in war against terrorism," he concluded.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday commended the officers and soldiers of security forces for successful operation against Fina al-Khawarij in districts Pishin and Zhoab.

In a statement, the prime minister congratulated the security forces for their commendable efforts, which resulted in the arrest of five Khawarij, and killing of two others. The operation also led to the seizure of a large amount of weapons and explosive materials.

"The entire nation including myself, pays tribute to the brave Pak army soldiers and officers for purging the country from Fina al-Khawarij." He said the entire nation stood united with the Pakistan Armed Forces in their mission to thwart the ambitions of Pakistan's enemies, who aim to spread unrest and instability in the country.



Women are carrying empty drinking water cans pass through a street for searching drinking water due to shortage of drinking water in Muslim Bagh

Petroleum Minister calls for collective action against tobacco use

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Petroleum Musadik Masood Malik has underscored the need for collective action against tobacco use.

He expressed these words in his address at a seminar titled 'Sustainable Tobacco Control Policies: A Way to Healthier Pakistan' organized by the Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) at a local hotel the other day.

The event aimed at bringing together government officials, public health advocates, civil society members, anti-tobacco activists, and youth leaders to address the growing tobacco epidemic in Pakistan and advocate for comprehensive policy reforms.

Musadik Malik stated, "Smoking is causing overall harm rather than any benefit. The fight against smoking will not be easy, but it is crucial. The real fight against smoking is a fight against the mafia."

Highlighting the severe health implications, he added, "Smoking has the deepest connection with cancer, and there is hardly any disease that isn't linked to it. Every year, 150,000 to 200,000 people

die from smoking. Why can't we see the faces of our people in those numbers?"

Former caretaker minister of information and broadcasting Murtaza Solangi also spoke on the occasion.

He emphasized the need to take tobacco as a national issue.

"First of all, we have to see it as an issue; this is not even yet seen as an issue," he remarked.

He called for a unified approach, stating, "We have to create an ecosystem where media and everything around us reflects an anti-tobacco stance."

Dr. Khalid Ahmad, Program Manager at SPARC, while addressing a seminar, emphasized the deadly toll of tobacco use in Pakistan, explaining, "Tobacco use is costing 166,000 lives each year, which equates to almost 450 deaths per day."

He urged the government to take critical steps to curb tobacco consumption, particularly among the youth.

Dr. Mati ur Rehman from the Health Services Academy, Muhammad Sabir, an economist from the Social Policy and Development Centre (SPDC), Khalida Ahmad.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan shooting at the target during the Tactical Pistol Shooting Competition 2024, while his son, Prince Jam Muhammad Khan, receives the award from DIG Operations Islamabad on his behalf for securing second place.

Ayaz calls for coordinated efforts to combat breast cancer

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Saturday called for coordinated efforts at both government and community levels to combat breast cancer.

In his message on the occasion of World Breast Cancer Day, the Speaker assured that the National Assembly would continue to support policies and awareness campaigns focused on prevention and treatment. Sardar Ayaz highlighted the serious threat of breast cancer posed to women's health both

in Pakistan and globally and pointed out that in developing countries, it was the leading cause of death among women. The Speaker underscored the necessity of early diagnosis and adequate medical facilities for effectively managing breast cancer. He stressed the importance of raising public awareness about the disease, emphasizing that education is crucial. Sardar Ayaz encouraged preventive measures to help control the spread of this life-threatening illness and stressed that women should regularly

undergo medical check-ups to safeguard their health. The Speaker also acknowledged the essential role of media in raising awareness about breast cancer, adding that print, electronic and social media can play a significant part in saving lives by sharing vital information on this health issue. He urged relevant agencies to improve access to better treatment options for breast cancer and concluded by emphasizing that collective national efforts are crucial for enhancing public health and well-being.

PTI files petition in SC seeking formation of larger bench in PTI intra party election case

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI has filed petition in Supreme Court (SC) seeking formation of larger bench in PTI intra party election review case. In the petition Election Commission (EC) and others have been made respondents.

The petitioner has taken plea the point of constitutional interpretation is there in the case. The bench while hearing case earlier dismissed the objection wrongly. The constitution of this bench for hearing constitutional objection is not legal.

Dr Khalid says: Pneumonia cases among children mounted

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Secretary General of Pakistan Pediatrics Association, Dr Khalid Shaif, on Saturday said that the cases of pneumonia increased in October, November, and December in Karachi.

Talking to a private news channel, he said, "More than 70,000 deaths are caused by pneumonia every year in Pakistan, and children under two years of age and people over 65 years of age are at high risk of pneumonia."

IG Islamabad reviews new projects and recruitment process

ISLAMABAD: The Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi presided over an important meeting at the Central Police Office regarding the recruitment process and ongoing projects in Islamabad Police.

The meeting was attended by AIG Establishment and General Abdul Haque Umrani, along with other senior officers.

During the meeting, IG Islamabad reviewed the on-going recruitment process in Islamabad Police. AIG Es-

tablishment Abdul Haque Umrani provided a comprehensive briefing on all matters related to recruitment and other projects.

IG Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, directed the senior police officers to initiate new projects and enhance existing ones, while ensuring transparency.

He further emphasized that the recruitment process in Islamabad Police would continue to meet all legal requirements, and merit and transparency would be strictly ensured in all processes.

Shooting competition organized at Police Lines Headquarter

ISLAMABAD (INP): Islamabad Police shooting competition was held at the Police Lines Headquarters, Islamabad, a public relations officer said.

The competition was attended by the Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, as the chief guest. Senior police officers from Islamabad Police and members of the Shooting Club were also present.

Out of the 274 members of the Islamabad Police shooting club, 45 participants took part in the competitions, where they showcased their expertise

in categories such as SMG, MP5, MP4, and pistols.

In the pistol category, Nauman Ali Khan won first place, followed by Jam Kamal Khan in second place, and Khuram Adil in third place. In the rifle category, Irfan Jan secured first place. Khushhal Khan came second, and Dr. Zaid took third place.

At the conclusion of the event, AIG Complaint & Investigation Inayat Ali Shah distributed shields to the shooters who demonstrated outstanding performance in the competitions and appreciated their professional skills.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary, MoFE&PT, Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani interact with students during 3-day "Girls Sports Carnival 2024" organized by Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training at Pakistan Sports Complex.

Abid lauds NAVTTC's newly designed mountaineering, snow guiding courses

ISLAMABAD (APP): An Experienced Mountaineer from Sadpara, Abid Asad Saturday lauded the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission

(NAVTTC) newly designed courses in mountaineering and snow guiding to empower local climbers.

"NAVTTC's new professional mountaineering courses are a game-changer for climbers in Pakistan, raising our standards to an international level," said a press release issued here.

He further said that he was very grateful to NAVTTC for empowering the local climbers and paving the way for a brighter future in adventure tourism.

Abid Ali began his climbing journey with a 6000m peak and later submitted K2 in 2021 and Nanga Parbat in 2023.

Ashraf Hussain, son of renowned mountaineer Ali Raza Sadpara, praised NAVTTC's initiative to design mountaineering and snow guide courses. He encouraged young people to take admission in these courses which would help new generations in learning advanced skills and assist experienced mountaineers in acquiring new techniques.

He said that the present government was also supporting the mountaineering field both locally and internationally.

Abbasi says: PTI's politics of chaos, an attempt to weaken Pakistan's institutions

ISLAMABAD (APP): Muhammad Hanif Abbasi, a senior leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and MNA from Rawalpindi, claimed on Saturday that the PTI is orchestrating a conspiracy to create chaos in the country and undermine its institutions.

Speaking to the media outside the Parliament House, he remarked that the PML-N will not allow the politics of anarchy to take roots in the country.

He added that the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is aware that the end of anarchy will mark the end of his political career.

The government is

working to build consensus for the constitutional amendment package, and PTI was also given the opportunity to consult their leader.

He also mentioned that the founder of PTI is expected to oppose the constitutional amendment. Additionally, the PML-N leader pointed out that the PTI founder has never spoken out against Israel, and that PTI had not taken part in the All Parties Conference (APC) organized in support of Palestine. He added that the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is aware that the end of anarchy will mark the end of his political career.



ISLAMABAD: A trawler shifting the ready-made bathrooms in the federal capital.



ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi presides over important meeting at the Central Police Office regarding the recruitment process and ongoing projects in Islamabad Police.

PTV ensured seamless coverage of SCO summit through cutting edge technology

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Television (PTV) on Saturday announced its successful live coverage of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit, which was held in Islamabad on October 15 and 16 here. This significant achievement highlights the dedication and seamless collaboration of the entire organization.

The coverage was made possible through the deployment of cutting-edge equipment at Nur Khan Airbase, Islamabad International Airport, Jinnah Convention Centre and all key routes, supported by DSN units, FPUs, fibre optic connectivity, and HD cameras to ensure a top-quality broadcast, a news release said.

In preparation for the summit, PTV World was upgraded from SD to HD, allowing foreign media outlets and other TV broadcasters of the world to access high-quality signals, further enhancing Pakistan's global image.

A live feed was provided to foreign media at the Pakistan-China Friendship Centre (PCFC), and the broadcast featured multi-lingual feeds to accommodate international audiences. Additionally, sign language interpretation was included in the broadcast of the leaders' addresses, and major events, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility for all viewers.

Alongside the live television broadcast, extensive coverage was provided on

PTV's social media platforms, offering a wide-reaching and engaging online presence. Real-time updates and highlights of the summit were shared across PTV's digital platforms, expanding the audience reach and enhancing overall engagement. Importantly, this comprehensive coverage was successfully executed using available resources, with no additional expenses incurred. The in-depth analysis, reporting, and social media engagement during the summit reflect our strong commitment to excellence in broadcast. The success of the SCO 2024 coverage underscores the professionalism and dedication of PTV in elevating the nation's profile on the global stage.

Integrated efforts urged to combat poverty and climate change nexus

ISLAMABAD (APP): Executive Director Devcom-Pakistan Munir Ahmed on Saturday said that climate change intensifies posed a significant threat to natural resources, disproportionately affecting poor populations and contributing to a cycle of increasing poverty.

Speaking as guest speaker at the Islamabad Crescent Lions Club monthly meeting here Saturday, he said that the depletion of vital natural resources such as water, soil, and biodiversity, droughts, floods, and changing weather patterns disrupt agricultural production, which is often the primary livelihood for improv-

erished communities. This resource depletion means less food, reduced income, and greater insecurity for those who rely on these resources for survival, said a press release.

Munir Ahmed said, "Poor communities typically have limited economic diversification.

When climate change negatively impacts sectors like agriculture, fishing or forestry, these populations face immediate economic challenges. Loss of income can lead to heightened poverty levels, as families struggle to meet basic needs like food, shelter, and healthcare.

3 members of thief gang held; valuables recovered

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police, Shahzad Town police station arrested three wanted members of the thief gang involved in numerous theft activities and recovered cash and mobile phone from their possession.

A police spokesperson told APP, on the directives of Inspector General Police (IGP) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the ICT Police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate crime from the city.

In this regard, the Shahzad Town police team used technical and human resources and succeeded in apprehending three wanted members of the thief gang.

ECP establishes EEMCC to handle KP LG bye election complaints

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has established a four-tier Election Monitoring and Control Centres (EMCC) to register and resolve public complaints during the local government by-elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on October 20.

According to the ECP spokesperson, "These control rooms are located at the provincial, divisional, and district levels, as well as at the Election Commission Secretariat in Islamabad to address region-specific

complaints efficiently. Trained personnel are stationed at the centers to provide swift and efficient solutions to public grievances." "This multi-level approach ensures efficient complaint resolution and provides easily accessible support to the public," he added.

"The Election Commission of Pakistan is committed to maintaining the integrity of the electoral process and addressing concerns in a timely manner," the spokesperson said.

Labourers, the unsung heroes who transformed Islamabad for SCO Summit

ISLAMABAD (APP): As Islamabad hosted the 23rd Council of Heads of Government (CHG) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit this week, a dedicated team of workers and labourers transformed the city into a vibrant spectacle.

Their efforts in decorating, illuminating, and maintaining the city's landscape created a striking backdrop for the prestigious event, capturing the attention of visitors and residents alike.

Behind these impressive transformations were the unsung heroes, labourers who worked relentlessly, often under challenging conditions, to prepare the city for the global summit. Over the past few weeks, teams of workers, contractors, and planners,

hailing from various regions of the country, worked late into the night, sometimes risking their safety amidst peak-hour traffic congestion, to ensure that the capital met the high standards required for the summit.

Amanat Ali, a painter working on footpaths, shared his experience, "For the past 30 to 40 days, I've been decorating bridges, footpaths, and railings. It's been a tough job, working around the clock and at dangerous heights, often putting our lives at risk." Thanks to their hard work, Islamabad's roads and bridges now sparkle with vibrant decorations, colorful lights, and fresh flowers, giving the city a welcoming ambience.

Fayaz Hussain, a contractor overseeing the illu-

mination of overhead bridges, praised the team's resilience, "Despite challenging weather and tight deadlines, the workers stayed determined. Their extended hours and teamwork ensured we met the summit's timeline."

Farooq Ahmed, a motorist on the Islamabad Expressway, marveled at the transformation, "These bridges used to look so dull. Now, thanks to the SCO event, they look amazing and the whole city shines."

Adil Baloch, a site supervisor at the Zero Point Bridge, remarked that the beautification was not just for the people of Islamabad, "This project is about improving the city's beauty and enhancing the quality of life for our citizens," he

said. Umar Saeed, a painter from Lahore working on overhead bridges, took pride in contributing to the city's transformation: "It's fulfilling to know that our work has contributed to the nation's honour at such a significant event." However, the labourers also faced financial struggles. Baba Razaq, an elderly worker, highlighted the difficulties of making ends meet with his daily wage of Rs 1,200, "It's tough to cover food and accommodation costs in Islamabad on such low pay, even though some of us earn a bit more based on expertise."

Asiya Malik, a journalist, stressed the importance of acknowledging the labourers' contributions: "As the spotlight shines on the summit, they are still

engaged in the completion of remaining job. We must recognize the dedication of those working behind the scenes. Their efforts embody the spirit of resilience and community, proving that Pakistan can host major events with greater honour and prestige." Zara Khan, a local resident, expressed her support for the beautification efforts, "The transformation of Islamabad has been incredible. It not only reflects the city's hospitality and readiness for the summit but also uplifts the everyday experience of citizens. These improvements—bright lights, painted bridges, and well-maintained roads—make the city feel more vibrant and organized. It's clear that these beautification projects benefit everyone."



ISLAMABAD: Metro Bus Service resumed in the twin cities.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent
Sunday October 20, 2024

Explosive mix

When unverified claims on social media, the heavy-handed response of the state, and mistrust between the rulers and the ruled come together, the results are explosive, as borne out by the protests across Punjab.

The disturbances began on Monday, after social media reports claimed a college student had been raped in Lahore. Students have been at the forefront of the demonstrations that have since spread to many cities in the province. The Punjab administration denied the incident and has blamed the PTI for fanning the flames.

In order to quell the protests, the administration shut down educational institutions and banned demonstrations. Nearly 400 people were arrested, including students, though some were later released. The FIA is now hunting down journalists, TikTokers and YouTubers that it believes spread the allegedly fake rape story.

Whenever allegations of a heinous crime, such as rape, emerge, the state must address them with utmost seriousness and fully probe the matter so that it can punish the guilty if the crime is established. Unfortunately, the Punjab government's reaction, including that of its chief minister and her team, has left much to be desired. Dealing with rape claims and the anger of agitated youngsters, the state's response should have been characterised by empathy. But this was not the case, with the CM herself drawing condemnation for using "regressive language", as pointed out by the Aurat March.

Yet it is also true that when disinformation spreads on social media, it can set a society on fire. Up till now, no victim has emerged, and the family of the student who was allegedly raped has denied she was assaulted. In fact, some of the students involved in spreading the news of the 'crime' have backtracked on their words. To counter doubtful claims, the best course for the state is honesty, and giving all the facts to the public in a respectful manner. Threatening the people and unleashing brute force via the police will only make matters worse.

Another aspect of the unfortunate episode that deserves deep thought is the widening distrust between the state and its citizens. Despite the government's denial of the incident, many people believe that a 'cover-up' is underway. Even if the government is correct in this case, its mistreatment of the public in various ways — through political persecution, the denial of fundamental rights, and economic pain — has sparked anger.

In such circumstances, all it takes is a social media post to further rile up an irate public. While there should be no room for violence in any situation, and protests must remain peaceful, unless the state rebuilds its trust with the populace and starts respecting their rights and freedoms, we can expect to see more societal strife, triggered by rumours or half-truths.

A New Chapter for Balochistan's Youth: Skills Development and Overseas Employment Program

By Manzoor Ahmed Magsi

Balochistan is embarking on a transformative journey with the launch of the Youth Skills Development and Overseas Employment Program, a comprehensive initiative aimed at addressing one of the most pressing challenges in the province: unemployment. Through this program, 30,000 young people will be trained in various trades and industries, opening doors for them to secure employment opportunities abroad. The program is a crucial step forward in empowering the province's youth, developing their potential, and contributing to the broader national economy.

Balochistan has long grappled with high unemployment rates, compounded by limited opportunities in the local job market. With a population where a significant portion is young and eager to work, the lack of employment opportunities has been a persistent issue. Government jobs are

scarce, and the private sector is not sufficiently developed to absorb the growing workforce. In this context, the Youth Skills Development Program offers a practical solution by focusing on skill-building and creating pathways to international job markets.

This program reflects a recognition that traditional employment avenues may no longer suffice. Instead, equipping young people with the necessary skills and knowledge can make them competitive in the global labor market. Training in fields such as Information Technology, healthcare, hospitality, electrical work, and general labor will not only prepare them for a range of sectors but also help reduce reliance on local job creation, which is limited.

A commendable aspect of the program is its emphasis on merit-based selection and equal representation from all districts of Balochistan. By ensuring that candidates are selected based on their qualifications and suitability for the training, the program

avoids the pitfalls of favoritism and ensures that every district in the province has a fair share of opportunities. This is essential for a province like Balochistan, where disparities in development and access to resources can vary significantly from one region to another.

Moreover, the program's commitment to providing equal opportunities for both male and female participants reflects a progressive approach to gender equality. By actively encouraging female participation, the initiative sends a clear message that women are equally vital to the province's economic growth and development.

One of the most significant features of this program is its focus on overseas employment. In the first phase, over 2,300 young people will be sent abroad by November, with destinations including European countries such as Germany and Romania, as well as Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations like Qatar, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia.

This global outreach not only provides immediate job opportunities but also enhances the skill sets of participants, making them more marketable in the long run.

The provision of two-year work permits in these countries will enable participants to gain valuable international experience in sectors where there is demand for skilled labor. This move is expected to generate long-term benefits, not only for the individuals and their families but also for the province's economy through foreign remittances.

A key strength of the program is the level of support provided to participants. The government is covering all costs associated with training, visa arrangements, job placements, and even language training. This holistic approach ensures that financial barriers do not prevent talented individuals from seizing these opportunities. By taking on the burden of expenses, the program is designed to make overseas employ-

ment accessible to a wide demographic, particularly those who may not have the financial means to pursue such opportunities on their own.

The potential impact of this program extends beyond mere job creation. By sending a significant number of skilled workers abroad, Balochistan is poised to benefit from increased foreign remittances, which are a critical source of income for many households in the province. These remittances can play a pivotal role in alleviating poverty, improving living standards, and stimulating local economies.

Additionally, the social impact of this initiative should not be underestimated. Young people from Balochistan will have the chance to become ambassadors for their province and country, showcasing their skills and contributing positively to the international workforce. This opportunity for global exposure is invaluable, as it promotes cultural exchange

and broadens the horizons of participants.

The Youth Skills Development and Overseas Employment Program marks a significant milestone in Balochistan's efforts to uplift its youth and address systemic unemployment. It represents a forward-thinking approach to development, where skill enhancement, equal opportunity, and international engagement are prioritized.

While the program is still in its early stages, its potential to transform the lives of thousands of young people in the province is clear. If implemented effectively and sustained over time, this initiative could be a game-changer for Balochistan, setting a precedent for other regions facing similar challenges. By investing in the skills and future of its youth, Balochistan is not only addressing immediate unemployment but also laying the groundwork for long-term economic growth and prosperity.

Amendments past & present

Ahmed Bilal Mehboob

This is not the first time that a package of multiple constitutional amendments is being contemplated.

The package of amendments under the umbrella of the Eighth Amendment was passed by the National Assembly in November 1985. It modified as many as 65 articles of the Constitution and incorporated most of the provisions of the Revival of the Constitution of 1973 Order promulgated by military ruler Gen Ziaul Haq.

The amendment, which included the validation of Zia's martial law, was passed almost under duress, as its passage was tied to the revival of the Constitution and democratic order. The amendment significantly changed the form of government from a parliamentary to a quasi-presidential one. Although the National Assembly was elected in 1985 on a non-party basis and was still under the shadow of martial law, it extensively debated the amendments for 41 days and even managed to amend 18 articles of the Constitution included in the amendment.

The second major exercise of wholesale amendments to the Constitution was undertaken during the rule of another military dictator, Gen Pervez Musharraf, who, following in Zia's footsteps, made the passage of the 17th Amendment and validation of his unconstitutional acts a condition for lifting military rule. The 17th Amendment incorporated the Legal Framework Order, 2002, promulgated by Musharraf, which had amended almost 29 Articles of the Constitution. The National Assembly elected in 2002 passed the 17th Amendment in December 2003, after more than a year of political wrangling between Musharraf's supporters and opponents.

The 18th Amendment passed in 2010 during the PPP's rule was yet another effort to pass a large package of constitutional amendments. The objectives behind their passage were the restoration of the parliamentary character of the 1973 Constitution, which had been distorted by the 17th Amendment, and to ensure enhanced autonomy for the four provinces, respecting the aspirations of the smaller prov-

inces. The package included a total of 102 amendments, which amended, substituted, added or deleted various provisions of the Constitution.

The Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Reforms held 77 meetings over 10 months, spent 385 hours in deliberation, and reviewed 982 public proposals invited by the committee through newspaper advertisements, but all these in-camera proceedings were not a substitute for open debate, which is the essence of a democratic process leading to a durable consensus. The debate in the National Assembly and the Senate lasted for just two and four days, respectively.

Although the PPP did not have the requisite strength in the National Assembly and Senate, the amendment was unanimously passed, which shows that the changes addressed some real problems facing the country at that time and that the PPP had the ability to build broad consensus among different parties.

Now, the ruling PML-N and its allies, such as the MQM and PPP, are fervently working to get an-

other package of constitutional amendments (the 26th Amendment) passed by parliament, possibly before Oct 25. Although the final text of the proposed amendments was not available at the time of writing, some proposals had found their way to news reports and social media.

The initial draft had 53 amendments in almost as many articles of the Constitution. The PML-N led the effort to muster the required two-thirds majority for the passage of the amendments. It was so optimistic that it could achieve the required numbers that it summoned the two Houses of parliament around the last week of August.

Despite the fact that the Supreme Court's interpretation of Article 63-A, which prohibited the counting of the votes of defecting members in parliament, was still valid (the court later reversed this) and the coalition parties themselves lacked the requisite numbers, the parliamentary sessions were kept going till midnight in the hope of securing a two-thirds majority.

While many independent and opposition mem-

bers complained of strong pressure and offers of inducements to vote for the amendment, the sessions had to be prorogued indefinitely on Sept 16, without even formally introducing the proposed 26th Amendment. This was a huge setback for the ruling coalition, but the silver lining is that despite all resources being employed to apply pressure on other parties and independent members or tempting them through inducements, no headway could be made without holding meaningful discussions with the opposition parties and independent members in an attempt to forge a consensus.

The PML-N has apparently failed to convince parliamentarians in favour of the proposed amendments; first, because the political divide across parties is very wide — it needs to be bridged through continuous dialogue over a long period; and second, the proposed amendments don't seem to be addressing any real public issue.

Apparently, these amendments are being proposed and supported because the sponsors do not want to see certain judges in powerful positions and

the amendments seem to weaken their chances of assuming those positions. To the opponents, the amendments seem to block the way of their favourite judges. It is a simple game of promoting the careers of respective favourites and no major principle or question of public welfare is involved.

The central point of the proposed amendments is the creation of a constitutional court or division which may dilute the powers of the incoming chief justice of the Supreme Court. As a sideshow, a dangerous amendment has also been introduced to extend the term of the existing chief election commissioner and four members of the commission and even reappoint them for a second term.

As a result of the hectic exchange of views over the past two weeks, a leaner draft covering 24 points has emerged. Irrespective of the final outcome, the healthy trend is that political parties are talking to each other and accommodating each other's point of view. Sometimes, the process is more important than the outcome.

Climate finance at COP29

Imaduddin Ahmed

COP26 in Glasgow served as a forum to grill developed country governments for failing to fulfil their cumulative pledge of \$100 billion annually in climate finance for developing countries. COP29 in Baku will serve to scale the ambition, and improve the quality of climate finance. This might seem far-fetched. But progress made at COP28 in Dubai, together with fresh ideas, provide grounds for optimism.

At COP28, 15 national governments, spanning the Americas, Africa, Europe and Asia, signed the Global Climate Finance Framework. To their voices, the Climate Justice Committee of Liberal International, a federation of liberal political parties across 120 countries, adds its own.

The Global Climate Finance Framework built on its predecessors, the Paris Pact for People and Planet, the Bridgetown Initiative, the Accra-Marrakesh Agenda, the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, and the African Leaders' Nairobi Declaration on Climate and Call to Action. The Framework provides a blueprint for mobilising trillions of dollars by 2030 to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius, and to support developing countries manage the repercussions of climate change.

First, developed country governments should finance developing country-owned platforms, so that they align with local needs. A Pakistan-owned platform would allow better integration of climate funding into agriculture, water management and disaster resilience.

Second, multilateral organisations charged with disbursing climate funds must ease access. They must simplify and

harmonise their criteria amongst themselves, speed up approvals, and make processes more transparent. This would assist Pakistani government agencies in raising the necessary funding for infrastructure projects that protect against flooding and drought, and would also allow them to begin the recovery from climate emergencies quicker.

To fully serve their public purpose, multilateral development banks must also disburse more of their capital, and take greater risk.

Third, developed country governments need to increase public finance for adaptation to developing countries. Liberal International foresees climate displacement as a universal issue. The 2022 floods left eight million Pakistanis displaced. It is only a matter of time before developed and less climate-vulnerable countries start seeing mass migration if they do not balance their emissions reductions commitments with addressing resilience in climate-vulnerable countries.

Markets already exist to enable emissions reductions, and to the extent that their integrity can be enhanced, governments, independent standard setters, verifiers, carbon credit rating agencies, carbon insurance companies and technology companies should step forward.

Fourth, developed country governments should broaden the sources of finance for climate action. For adaptation and resilience, every government can use regulation to mobilise private capital for projects that reduce long-term value of risk, and that reduce default risk. Governments should also require insurance companies and pension funds to invest a portion of their assets under management into adapta-

tion and resilience, and emissions reductions and removals.

Developed governments should also expand carbon pricing and taxes to guarantee the portfolios of multilateral loans and recapitalise multilaterals.

Finally, developed governments should help highly indebted developing countries manage their debt. The global pandemic, the invasion of the Ukraine, and escalated cost-of-living crisis have increased developing countries' indebtedness. We need a proliferation of judicious debt-for-climate swaps, sustainability-linked bonds, a rechanneling of IMF Special Drawing Rights, and the full implementation of the Common Framework for Debt Treatments Beyond the Debt Service Suspension Initiative. These would reduce Pakistan's debt burden and enable new investment into climate adaptation and mitigation.

The Global Climate Finance Framework can be leveraged to derisk outcomes of the official UN text to be negotiated at COP29. Its coherent and broad proposed package can reduce the time required to successfully negotiate outcomes that work for both developed and developing countries.

The Pakistani government would do well to add its signature to the Framework. At COP27, Pakistanis showed that we pull our weight in mobilising developing country opinion within the G77, and persuading developed country counterparts. At COP29, we have the opportunity to bring the global community closer to a consensus on how to scale climate finance ambitions, get the money out quicker, and make it work. -- Courtesy Dawn

Fallen angels

Ammar Ather Saeed

Pakistan's judiciary has always been something of a pendulum, swinging between periods of independence and moments of deep political influence. Over the years, we have seen judges make bold, autonomous decisions, standing as guardians of the Constitution. Yet, at other times, the judiciary has found itself swayed by political forces — sometimes supporting the government, sometimes leaning towards the opposition, and at other times yielding to the influence of the establishment. The balance between independence and control has always been fragile, fluctuating with the political tides.

Today, however, Pakistan faces an alarming development: an overt attempt to consolidate political control over the judiciary, threatening to extinguish whatever remains of its independence. The proposed Federal Constitutional Bench or Division, along with the shift in how judges are appointed, is not merely a procedural reform — it is a deliberate effort to undermine the judiciary's autonomy. Politicians seem to believe that by appointing judges through more politically influenced processes, they can guarantee decisions that align with their interests. But history has shown us time and again that this belief is dangerously short-sighted.

The judiciary in Pakistan is not easily bent to political will. Even now, there are judges on the bench who remain fiercely independent, while others clearly align with political factions or the establishment. This internal division underscores the complexity of the judicial system. But by attempting to impose greater political control over judicial appointments, the government is effectively suffocating what little independence the judiciary has left. The danger here is that by weakening the courts' ability to function without interference, the ruling powers are setting themselves up for a future they may not foresee.

In the short term, political forces might enjoy the benefits of a judiciary that bends to their will, particularly through handpicked judges who owe their positions to the ruling party. But as history shows, this strategy rarely works out as planned. Judges, once seated, have often found themselves rediscovering their independence, ruling in ways that defy the expectations of those who appointed them. A judiciary that is manipulated today can become a force of resistance tomorrow, as political power shifts and new governments find themselves at the mercy of the same courts they once tried to control.

Moreover, this destruction of the judiciary's independence goes beyond any one government. It represents a systemic weakening of Pakistan's legal framework, where the Supreme Court — a body that once acted as the final protector of constitutional rights — is being relegated to the role of an appellate court, with its constitutional authority diluted by the establishment of the Federal Constitutional Bench or Division. This fragmentation of judicial power will have long-lasting effects, eroding the public's trust in the judiciary as a fair and impartial institution.

In time, the consequences of these changes will likely force a return to the old system, where judges are appointed through a process insulated from political influence. By then, however, the damage may already be done.

The judiciary may no longer command the same respect or wield the same power as a guardian of constitutional rights. And the politicians who sought to control it will be left grappling with a legal system that is fragmented, unpredictable, and ultimately uncontrollable.

This attempt to curb judicial independence, to reduce the courts to mere extensions of political power, will come back to haunt those behind it.

The lesson from Pakistan's history is clear: the judiciary, when pushed to the brink, fights back. And when it does, it is often those who sought to control it who suffer the most.

The government may find that in their desire for short-term control, they have triggered long-term chaos — where the courts, far from serving their interests, become their greatest challenge. -- Courtesy Dawn

Punjab CM seeks plan to eliminate environmental patterns of poliovirus

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has called for a sustainable and actionable plan to eliminate polio environmental samples from the province.

Chairing a meeting on polio eradication here on Saturday, she directed the health authorities that a robust vaccination campaign be launched at all entry points into Punjab to achieve the complete elimination of the polio virus.

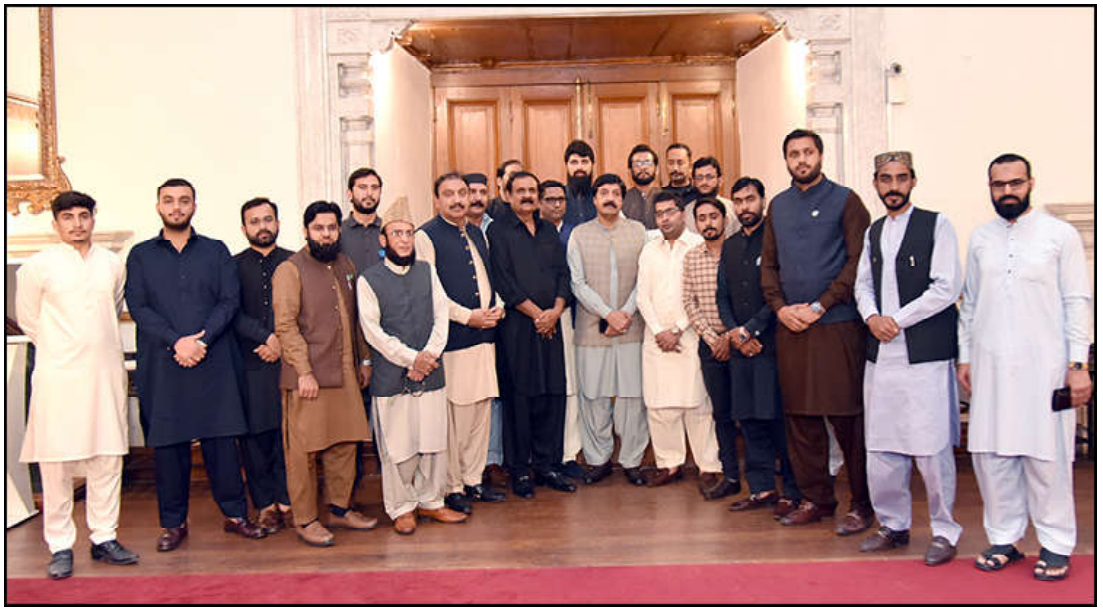
In the meeting, it was decided to track and register mobile and migrant populations across Punjab to ensure comprehensive vaccination coverage.

The CM also stressed the need for accurate data collection on missing children during vaccination drives, aiming to ensure that no child is overlooked. Proposals for enhancing the vaccination campaign's effectiveness through a detailed micro-plan were reviewed, with the ultimate goal of making Punjab polio-free.

The CM said "Our commitment is to completely eradicate polio from Punjab, and I am personally monitoring the vaccination efforts. Public cooperation is key to achieving this goal." She stressed the importance of maintaining the cold chain in line with SOPs during the campaign and expressed concern over the rise in virus circulation in the province.

The chief minister also highlighted the need to focus on districts where vaccination efforts have been weaker, calling for immediate attention and reinforcement.

Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Health Ministers Khawaja Salman Rafique and Khawaja Imran Nazir, Parliamentary Secretary Uzma Kardar, Sania Ashiq, Dr. Adnan Khan, the Chief Secretary, and other senior officials attended the meeting.



LAHORE: A delegation of various student organizations in a group photo with Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House.

Punjab Governor says: Miscreants want to spread chaos in country, youth should be cautious of nefarious designs

LAHORE (APP): A delegation of various student organizations met Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore. The students apprised the governor of Punjab about the various problems faced by the students. They also demanded transparent investigation on the Punjab College incident and lifting of ban of the student union.

Talking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that People's Party has always taken steps for the welfare of the youth. On the question of the students regarding the Punjab College incident, Governor Punjab said that there should be an investigation on merit,

adding that youth will also show responsibility. He said that student organizations should take delegations to educational institutions and play a positive role in solving the Punjab College matter. Governor Punjab said that the miscreants want to spread chaos in the country, however, the youth should be cautious of their nefarious designs. Governor Punjab said that the survival and stability of the country is the most important for us. He said that the youth should present their viewpoint with logic and reason. Governor Punjab said on the demand for the lifting ban on student union that PPP has always been a supporter of the election of the student union. He

said that the last election of the student union was also held during the government of the People's Party. Governor Punjab said that he will write to the Punjab government for lifting ban on the student union.

On this occasion, the students said that the facts of Punjab College incident should be shared with the students. They also demanded to lift ban from students' union in educational institutions, adding that students unions were the nurseries from where leadership emerged in the past. Students appreciated Governor Punjab's measures to prevent drugs in universities and protect female students from harassment.

Tug of war over constitutional amends sets new record: Liaquat

LAHORE (APP): Jamaat Islami leader Liaquat Baloch on Saturday said that the tug of war over the proposed constitutional amendments have set a new record.

Jl Naib Ameer in a statement said that the parliamentary parties' tug of war for contentious amendments and the entire process has become disputed and shameful.

He said the Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf and the JUI should not become the part of this contentious process of the proposed amendments in the constitution.

Jl leader said that the special seats have been made a joke adding that the amendment in the Election Act was based on malicious intention.

Liaquat Baloch urged for accepting the Supreme Court's decision over the issue.

Jl leader also said that the Punjab government, becoming a party, has adversely affected the girl student's case. He was opined that the facts of the case will surface with the high court's full bench hearing.

constitution.

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KARACHI: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Faisal Karim Kundi addresses to media persons during World Culture Festival Karachi 2024 organized by the Arts Council of Pakistan, held at Arts Council building in Karachi.

Polling materials handed over to polling staff for 2nd LG by-poll on Oct 20

PESHAWAR (APP): The Provincial Election Commissioner, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Saturday handed over polling staff to polling staff for conduct of second by-elections in 53 village and neighborhood councils of 17 districts of the province on October 20.

According to the spokesman of provincial election commission, the by-election would be held on vacant seats reserved for general, women, laborers, farmers and youth in districts Peshawar, Nowshera, Charsadda, Khyber, Swabi, Kohat, Karak, Lakki Marwat, DI Khan, Tank, Abbottabad, Mansehra, Kolai Plus,

Swat, Shangla, Buner, Dir and Bajaur.

The Provincial Election Commissioner said that the polling for the by-elections would be held at the level of Village Council and Neighborhood Council.

It said that by-elections would be held on 54 seats in neighborhood councils and 53 in neighborhood councils.

A total of 260 polling stations both male and female and 787 polling booths had been set up for 345,604 registered voters.

Security cameras had been installed at all the polling stations to ensure free and fair conduct of the polling.



HYDERABAD: Sindh Tariqi Pasand Party Chairman, Dr. Qadir Magzi addresses to media persons during press conference, at Qasimabad in Hyderabad.

Dr. Ishaq Samijo says: Survival of civilization and culture possible only by staying connected

HYDERABAD (APP): Renowned Sindh poet and writer Dr. Ishaq Samijo has said that the survival of civilization and culture would be possible only by staying connected; cutting off one's own language was equivalent to cutting off the earth. He expressed these views during the certificate distribution ceremony to Sindhi language learners.

He further said that it was a matter of pride for him when Urdu-speaking brothers and sisters speak Sindhi after learning Sindhi from the Sindhi Language Authority. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Anwar Mansoor Mangiro said, "The learning program by Sindhi Language Authority has proved to be very effective, which needs

more publicity so that more people are connected with Sindhi language and the teachers of private schools are better."

In this event, the students of Sindhi who were taking the basic learning course of other languages delivered speeches in Sindhi.

On the occasion, the trainers Sattar Sarohi, Elahi Bakhsh Ajhan, Shaukat Chachar, and the learners Prof. Asif Zahoori, Adnan Soomri, Momina Musrat, Ghulam Rasool Sodhar, Faizan Siddiqui, Ashar Shahid, Zohaib Bharri, and others also expressed their views. Certificates were given to the five successful candidates of the three-month course of basic learning of Sindhi.

Governor KP terms Karsaz tragedy dark day

HYDERABAD (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Saturday asserted that the blood of the martyrs would not go in vain and the sacrifices made by the people for democratic principles would always be remembered.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi said this in a memorial gathering held in Hyderabad to commemorate the martyrs of the Karsaz incident. He described the Karsaz tragedy as a dark day in Pakistan's political history, during which countless innocent lives were lost.

Kundi emphasized that the incident strengthened the struggle for democracy and the rights of the people in the country.

He paid tribute to the late Benazir Bhutto, saying that she sacrificed her life for the establishment of peace, the supremacy of democracy, and the realization of prosperity and development for the citizens.

Kundi highlighted the Pakistan Peoples Party as the only political party whose leadership has embraced martyrdom, recalling that their founder, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was

also martyred. He reiterated that Bhutto's successor, Benazir Bhutto, fought for the supremacy of democracy and that President Asif Ali Zardari's slogan of "Pakistan Khappay" resonated during tough times.

Today, he said, Bhutto's grandson and chairman of the party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is leading the charge for constitutional governance and democratic stability.

Kundi urged the public to work together for the country's development and prosperity.

Parliamentary secretary attends ceremony for CM Talent Scholarship Program

MULTAN (APP): Parliamentary Secretary for Higher Education Ajmal Khan Chaudhary said on Saturday Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz was committed to removing barriers between talented students and their education.

Speaking at a reception held at the UET Auditorium Complex in honor of students selected for the Chief Minister's Talent Scholarship Programme for 2024 session here, he highlighted that the programme aimed to eliminate financial obstacles for deserving and talented students.

He announced that the Punjab government would cover the educational expenses of the students

for four years. Under this program, scholarships will be awarded annually to 30,000 students across 68 disciplines, benefiting students from 50 public sector universities.

The scholarship program, worth Rs. 130 billion is a significant investment in education. Chaudhary emphasized that students were the brand ambassadors of their institutions and adding that many graduates from UET Lahore have achieved prestigious positions in the country which reflects the institution's success.

Earlier, Vice Chancellor Dr. Shahid Munir praised the scholarship scheme in welcome address to the new students.

Tessori stresses awareness of breast cancer

KARACHI (APP): Governor of Sindh Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori has said that raising awareness of breast cancer among women is a need of the hour.

In his message on World Breast Cancer Day, he said that timely diagnosis and effective treatment were essential.

Tessori said that the current government was committed to preventing cancer.

He said that early diagnosis of breast cancer could save many lives. He also expressed his commitment to providing better cancer facilities.

CM takes notice of murders in Lee Market

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has taken notice of murder of three women and a girl child in a house in Lee Market here on Saturday.

He said that the incident was very sad, "I want the murderer behind bars."

Murad directed IGP Sindh to arrest immediately the murderers, a CM's Spokesperson said.

He said that such incidents create an atmosphere of fear and psychological problems in the society.

Merciless killers deserve no concessions, he said adding that the killers should be immediately arrested and reported to me.



HYDERABAD: Members of District Bar Association are holding protest demonstration against arrested of senior lawyer and demanding for releasing, outside District and Session Court premises in Hyderabad.

Farmer killed over fodder cutting issue

FAISALABAD (APP): A young farmer was shot dead over fodder-cutting dispute in the area of Saddar Jaranwala police station. A police spokesman said here on Saturday that Arif Rasheed of Chak No. 115-GB had a dispute over fodder cutting with Sajjad of the same locality. During altercation, Sajjad got enraged and opened fire, killing Arif Rasheed on-the-spot. The police took the body into custody and dispatched it to mortuary of Tehsil.

KP Info Secretary visits Pakhtunkhwa Radio Mardan

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Secretary Information, Arshad Khan on Saturday visited Pakhtunkhwa Radio Mardan and inspected its various sections. He was accompanied by Press Registrar, Ansarulhah Khilji and concerned officials. He visited various sections of Pakhtunkhwa Radio and met with staff.

Station Manager Pakhtunkhwa Radio, Sajid Mehmood briefed the

secretary about the working and administrative matters of the station.

The secretary appreciated the standard of programs being aired from the station and said that the government would take steps for the welfare of artists and writers.

He also directed radio staff to highlight steps being taken by the government under Chief Minister Awami Agenda programme.



LAHORE: Advisor to CM for Health Major General (retd) Dr. Azhar Kiyani being briefed by Executive Director Professor Asif Bashir during his visit to Punjab Institute of Neuro Sciences.

14 dead, 1,437 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): Fourteen people were killed and 1,437 others injured in 1,321 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours.

As many as 621 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 816 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams.

The data analysis showed that 750 drivers, 67 underage drivers, 190 pedestrians, and 511 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes.

The statistics showed that 269 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 306 people, placing the provincial capital at top of the list,

Bed capacity of Children Hospital to be increased from 314 to 450

FAISALABAD (APP): The capacity of Children Hospital Faisalabad would be increased from 314 to 450 beds by completing its up-gradation project on war-footing, said Divisional Commissioner Madam Silwat Saeed.

Presiding over a meeting at Children Hospital Jhang Road here on Saturday, she said that the government was committed to improve health sector on most modern lines.

In this connection, the development and up-gradation projects were being completed on urgent basis so that the people could be provided quality treatment facilities near their doorsteps. She said that Children

Hospital was one of the important healthcare institutes in this region which was providing treatment to pediatric patients in number ailments.

She directed to improve universal health insurance system in the hospital and said that comprehensive report should be prepared and submit in her office for recruitment of ad-hoc doctors in this hospital.

She also took briefing on the establishment of state-of-the-art Child Development Center, availability of medicines, rehabilitation of lawns, smog counter, command and control center, activation of ventilators and angiography machine.

Commissioner visits SOS Village, stresses welfare, edu. of children

SARGODHA (APP): Sargodha Divisional Commissioner Jahanzeb Awan visited the SOS Village on Saturday to assess the facilities provided for orphaned and underprivileged children.

He interacted with children, showing affection and care towards them. He emphasized that children residing at SOS Village deserved special attention,

and it was the collective responsibility of society to ensure their well-being.

The commissioner said character-building of orphaned children was a national duty, and "we all must contribute to it". He praised SOS Village for its vital role in supporting vulnerable children and stressed the importance of education. Addressing students, he urged them to

make education their top priority, including technical skills, and to work hard towards realizing their dreams. Jahanzeb Awan also mentioned that the divisional administration was committed to supporting institutions like SOS Village and would assist children in securing employment for them once they complete their education.

Govt, IFAD, WFP, FAO committed to enhance food security, nutrition for underserved communities

ISLAMABAD (APP): The United Nations-affiliated organisations, the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) along with the Government of Pakistan and the local community are committed to enhancing food security and nutrition for underserved communities.

In rural Pakistan, food insecurity and climate change are pressing challenges that threaten the well-being of communities. United Nations-affiliated organizations are actively working to ensure that everyone has access to affordable and nutritious food. Their efforts are particularly focused on vulnerable populations, aiming to strengthen food systems and enhance resilience against the impacts of climate change.

Representatives of WFP, IFAD and FAO while talking to APP in a panel interview.

WFP Country Representative Coco Ushiyama said the WFP ensures access to help safe and nutritious diet with the support of its partners. She highlighted the importance of social protection systems, such as the Benazir Nashonuma Programme, which aims to prevent stunting among children by combining nutrition services with health education. Additionally, WFP's school meal programs are being implemented across several provinces, including a new initiative in Balochistan, providing children with nutritious meals sourced from local produce. To a question, she said the WFP's extensive experience in school meal programs has shown success in improving school attendance and academic performance. Furthermore, the organization is fortifying staple foods by collaborating with local wheat mills to produce fortified flour, particularly partnering with women-owned mills, she said adding that these initiatives not only enhance nutrition but also support local livelihoods through improved water access and kitchen gardening.

She also mentioned that in addition to these efforts, WFP is supporting local livelihoods by addressing community-specific issues. For example, she said that it is working with partners to improve water access and promote kitchen gardening, enabling families to grow their nutritious produce.

Through a combination of these efforts and ongoing nutrition education, she said that WFP hopes to make healthy, safe, and nutritious diets accessible for all Pakistanis, especially those in rural and underserved communities, she maintained.



ISLAMABAD: People are busy buying and selling in the I-9 Fruit and vegetable market of the federal capital.

Pakistan emerges as leading Global Tech Hub at GITEX: Shaza Fatima

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Saturday Pakistan's emergence as a global technology hub was solidified as the country was named "Tech Destination of the Year" at GITEX.

The minister in her congratulatory message extended congratulations to all the participants, delegates and companies who represented Pakistan at GITEX Global 2024 held in Dubai.

She said, "Your dedication and hard work have made this event a huge success for Pakistan, showcasing the remarkable potential of our IT industry on the global stage."

Shaza Fatima said Pakistan's growing influence as a global technology hub was firmly established as Pakistan was named Tech Destination of the Year at GITEX.

"Our remarkable participation, with over 200 companies, startups, and industry experts, reflects Pakistan's unwavering commitment and the immense potential of our IT industry," she said. "I also want to congratulate all the Pakistani companies that signed MoUs and established key partnerships with international tech leaders. These collaborations mark an important step forward for our IT industry, opening doors to new markets, and creating opportunities for innovation," she maintained.

The minister said the success of GITEX will not only fuel the growth of Pakistan's IT industry but also contribute significantly to our nation's economy. The government remains fully committed to supporting the IT industry, fostering innovation, and ensuring that the momentum gained at GITEX continues to fuel both technological and economic progress, she added.

Grow Green Network demands ADB to revisit Fossil Fuel Financing

NAWABSHAH (APP): The Grow Green Network has called on the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to revisit funding fossil fuel projects in Pakistan, urging the bank to align its investments with the country's climate commitments.

This demand was made during a public forum held by NDF Pakistan in Nawabshah in collaboration with the Indus Consortium, which works on environmental, humanitarian, and development initiatives.

The event drew participation from political party activists, civil society representatives, media personnel, and the general public.

Key speakers included Abid Lashari President NDF, Shahid Shah Consultant Indus Consortium Tariq Hussain Channar, Asma Munir and others discussed the urgent need for reforms in Pakistan's energy sector.

Speakers emphasized the challenges facing the country's energy supply, including its heavy reliance on costly imported fuels and inefficiencies in the power system. The public forum also urged the Pakistani government to invest in flood-resilient infrastructure to empower communities and bridge the \$19.1 billion funding gap required for the rehabilitation of flood-affected areas.

Participants rejected a further expansion of LNG and fossil fuel dependence, instead advocating for energy independence through solar and wind power investments, especially for marginalized communities without access to the national grid.

The forum ended with a strong call to action for multilateral banks (MDBs) to address the critical funding gaps and for Pakistan to accelerate its transition toward a sustainable, renewable energy future.



QUETTA: Woman selecting and purchasing warm clothes from roadside vendor after change weather in provincial capital.

ICCI to nurture business academia ties for nation building: Nasir Qureshi

ISLAMABAD (INP): Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), emphasized the Chamber's commitment to nation-building by fostering academia-business linkages. Addressing a visiting student delegation of Metropolitan United College (MIUC) headed by its Principal Nadia Sultan, he stressed that higher educational institutions must go beyond degree awards and equip graduates with comprehensive training for entrepreneurial success. To empower youth, we need to make them entrepreneurs instead of job seekers, Qureshi said, adding that the Chamber is dedicated to facilitating students' growth into successful businessmen and the plans include organizing event competitions in various business hubs, with awards for top performers.

Qureshi urged Universities to introduce business role models, incorporating their success stories into syllabi which will encourage students to match these leaders.

The ICCI will establish a Think Tank and R&D cell, inviting interested students also to contribute practical ideas for business growth, he concluded. Nadia Sultan, Principal Metropolitan International University College (MIUC), expressed her desire to strengthen coordination with the Chamber to showcase ICCI's best practices to MIUC students and enable them to align their future course of action with market needs.

Gold prices up by Rs.900 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased by Rs.900 and was sold at Rs.281,800 on Saturday compared to its sale at Rs.280,900 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.772 to Rs.241,598 from Rs.240,826 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs.221,465 from Rs.220,758, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola silver increased by Rs.50 to Rs.3,150 whereas that of ten gram silver went up by Rs.42.87 to Rs.2,700.62.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$9 to \$2,721 from \$2,612, the Association reported.

Farmers urged to sow wheat by Nov 15

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Agriculture Department, Government of Punjab has urged farmers to sow wheat by November 15, 2024 to get benefits from suitable conditions of the weather.

According to a spokesperson, an advisory was issued by the agriculture department for farmers of Bahawalpur region.

It said that the suitable weather and conditions for sowing wheat would remain continuous by November 15, therefore wheat should be sowed by 15th of November.

They further said that timely sowing of wheat would give record yield of the crop.

The peasants were also advised to first throw nitrogen fertilizer into the field at the time of sowing of wheat.

SWCCI organizes awareness session

SARGODHA (APP): The National Bank of Pakistan and Sargodha Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SWCCI) Saturday jointly organised an awareness session on "NBP Women Financing".

In the awareness session, the women belonging to every field of life and students attended the workshop in which they were imparted awareness regarding National Bank of Pakistan Women Financing Scheme so that women that are willing to start their own business could get loan with five percent markup and tenure of the loan would be fine years.

General Secretary SWCCI Sargodha Saira Rehan said that this awareness session would definitely benefit the women want to establish their business and students who have the skill and want to explore their abilities in industrial sector. The Sargodha Women of Chamber of Commerce and Industry is striving hard, and providing platform to the women to encourage them for doing their own business to make them self-dependent, he added. Regional Executive Liabilities NBP Regional Office Sargodha Muhammad Tanveer Awan and Regional Manager Commercial Business Small and Medium Enterprises.

PFA seizes 800kg expired biscuits, confectionery items

MULTAN (APP): The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) foiled the shifting of a large consignment of expired food products, here on Saturday.

The operation led by Director Operations South, Zubair Ahmed Ijaz, was conducted at a warehouse located on Tulamba road Mian Channu. During the raid, approximately 800 kilograms of expired biscuits and confectionery items were seized and promptly disposed of.

According to PFA Director General Muhammad Asim Javed,

LCCI offers mediation to govt as transporters announce strike from 22nd

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) has stepped forward to mediate between the government and the Pakistan Mini Mazda Association, following the transporters' announcement of an indefinite nationwide strike starting October 22 if their demands remain unmet.

During a meeting held at the LCCI, President Mian Abuzar Shad and former President Muhammad Ali Mian appealed to the government to resolve the situation quickly, fearing of significant losses to both the business community and the government if strike starts.

The transporters, led by representatives Sher Ali and Tanveer Jutt, outlined the critical challenges facing the sector and rendered their operations unsustainable under current circumstances. They demanded immediate cessation of the Rs 10,000 fines imposed by the Motorway Police, recognition of Mazda vehicles with two axles for road transportation, elimination of unjust fines, FIRs, and unethical behavior by the Patrolling Police, reinstatement of canceled Mazda vehicles, removal of the Goods Transport Trade Mark Board tax imposed by the TMA ranging from Rs 20,000 to Rs 50,000, withdrawal of FBR's SRO 1619 etc.

PPC delegation calls on President SCCI

PESHAWAR (APP): President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), Fazal Moqem has praised the media for highlighting genuine issues of the business community and downtrodden segments of the society. He was talking to a delegation of the Peshawar Press Club (PPC) that called on him at Chamber House. The delegation that was led by PPC President Arshad Aziz Malik included PPC General Secretary Irfan Musazai, Vice President Tayyab Usman, Finance Secretary Rizwan Sheikh, senior member Farman Lala and senior photojournalist Muhammad Shahzad. The SCCI eulogized the sacrifices and services of journalists and said that they have played a crucial role in the improvement and transformation of society.



QUETTA: A vendor selling sack of apple from roadside in provincial capital.

LCCI President meets DC to discuss City's key business issues

LAHORE (INP): A productive meeting held at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry between LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad and Deputy Commissioner Lahore Syed Musa Raza.

The meeting focused on strengthening collaboration between the city's administration and the business community to resolve critical issues such as the installation of water hydrants, encroachments, lack of parking and smog control measures. Former LCCI president Muhammad Ali Mian, former Senior Vice President Ali Hussain Asghar, Executive Committee Members Asif Khan, Syed Salman Ali, Imran Saleem, Rana Nisar, Shoban Akhter and Asif Malik were also present on the occasion. Mian Abuzar Shad praised the efforts of the City District Government to maintain constructive relationships with the business community and also pointed out several urgent issues that require immediate attention. He mentioned shortage of water hydrants in key Lahore markets, which poses significant risks in case of fire emergencies and stressed the importance of including LCCI in city district administrative committees. He also underscored the urgent need for the construction of parking plazas in densely populated business areas, including Brandreth Road, Mall Road, Ichra and Circular Road suggesting that these projects be implemented through public-private partnerships. The LCCI has already identified suitable locations for such projects and is prepared to collaborate with the government to move them forward. The LCCI President said that the encroachments not only hinder business operations but also contribute to traffic congestion and diminish the overall aesthetics of the city's commercial zones.

Mian Abuzar Shad proposed a joint campaign between the City District Government and the LCCI to raise awareness about encroachments and implement measures to address the problem more effectively. On the environmental front, the LCCI President highlighted the growing threat of smog during the winter season and called for a more coordinated response.

Over 3.1m cotton bales arrival recorded at ginneries till Oct 15

MULTAN (APP): The seed cotton (phutti) equivalent to over 3.1 million (3,101,743) bales have reached ginning factories across Pakistan till October 15, 2024, registering a decrease of 48.27 per cent compared to corresponding period of last year.

According to a fortnightly report of Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA), issued to media on Friday, over 2.7 million (2,736,449) bales have undergone the ginning process i.e converted into bales.

Cotton arrivals in Punjab were recorded 1,185,647 bales registering a decrease of 53.38 per cent as compared to the corresponding period of last year when arrivals were recorded 2,543,100 bales. Sindh generated 1,916,096 bales registering a decrease of 44.51 per cent as compared to corresponding period of last year when arrivals were recorded 3,452,986 bales. Arrivals in Balochistan were recorded at 94,850 bales. Exporters/traders bought 3,200 cotton bales while textile sector bought total 2,590,977 bales.



ISLAMABAD: Vendor arranging and displaying traditional sweets item at roadside in the Federal Capital.

Wheat to be cultivated on five lakh acres in Khanewal

KHANEWAL (APP): In line with the directions of the Punjab government, the district administration has initiated pre-measures to achieve the wheat cultivation target for the upcoming season.

The Agriculture Extension Department has been tasked with cultivating wheat on 504,000 acres across the district.

A district-level wheat committee meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner Bukhari directed the Agriculture department to achieve the set cultivation target.

meeting was attended by ADCG Ghulam Mustafa, officials from the Agriculture Extension and Irrigation departments, fertilizer dealers, and representatives of the farming community. Discussions focused on the steps necessary to meet the cultivation target, as well as the availability of quality wheat seeds and fertilizers.



MULTAN: Workers are busy stitching quilts at their workplace as demand increases in the winter season.

Israel drops leaflets over Gaza showing Sinwar's body and message to Hamas

Monitoring Desk
 CAIRO: Israeli planes dropped leaflets over southern Gaza on Saturday showing a picture of the dead Hamas chief Yahya Sinwar with the message that "Hamas will no longer rule Gaza", echoing language used by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The move came as Israeli military strikes killed at least 32 people across the Gaza Strip and tightened a siege around hospitals in Jabalia in the north of the enclave, Palestinian health officials said.

"Whoever drops the weapon and hands over the hostages will be allowed to leave and live in peace," the leaflet, written in Arabic, read, according to residents of the southern city of Khan Younis and images circulating online.

The leaflet's wording was from a statement by Netanyahu on Thursday after Sinwar was killed by Israeli soldiers operating in Rafah, in the south near the Egyptian border, on Wednesday. The Oct. 7 at-

tack Sinwar planned on Israeli communities a year ago killed around 1,200 people, with another 253 dragged back to Gaza as hostages, according to Israeli tallies.

Israel's subsequent war has devastated Gaza, killing more than 42,500 Palestinians, with another 10,000 uncounted dead thought to lie under the rubble, Gaza health authorities say. In the central Gaza Strip camp of Al-Maghazi, an Israeli strike on a house killed 11 people, while another strike at the nearby camp of Nuseirat killed four others.

Certainly, after the killing of Yahya Sinwar, a new perspective is open and we have to use it in order to reach a ceasefire, to release the remaining hostages and to look for a political perspective.

Five other people were killed in two separate strikes in the south Gaza cities of Khan Younis and Rafah, medics said, while seven Palestinians were killed in the Shati camp in the northern Gaza Strip.



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, US President Joe Biden and French President Emmanuel Macron before their meeting in Berlin.

Iran's supreme leader says Hamas leader's death will not halt 'Axis of Resistance'

Monitoring Desk
 TEHRAN: Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Saturday the death of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar will not halt the "Axis of Resistance" and that Hamas would live on.

"His loss is undoubtedly painful for the Axis of Resistance, but this front did not cease advancing with the martyrdom of prominent figures," Khamenei said in a statement. "Hamas is alive and will remain alive."

Britain, China strike conciliatory note during top diplomat's visit

Monitoring Desk
 BEIJING: China and Britain took steps towards further reconciliation on Friday, with Beijing heralding the new Labour government's plan to develop "pragmatic" bilateral ties as a "new starting point."

British Foreign Secretary David Lammy is only the second top UK diplomat to visit China in six years, and his trip seeks to demonstrate that Britain is taking a strategic approach to building ties with Beijing, despite areas of sharp disagreement.

Italy warns G7 defence ministers of 'incompatible' world visions

Monitoring Desk
 NAPLES: Defence ministers of the Group of Seven (G7) wealthy democracies kicked off their meeting on Saturday with host country Italy warning the global security framework is growing increasingly precarious due to competing visions of the world.

The G7 gathering marks the group's first ministerial meeting dedicated to defence and comes a few days after Israeli forces killed Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, whose death some Western leaders said raised the chances of an end to the conflict in Gaza.

UN envoy proposes Western Sahara partition plan

Monitoring Desk
 NEW YORK: The UN envoy for Western Sahara, Staffan de Mistura, has floated the idea of dividing the territory between Morocco and the Polisario front as a solution to the near five-decades-old dispute, according to remarks seen by Reuters.

The long-frozen conflict, dating back to 1975, pits Morocco, which considers Western Sahara its own territory, against the Algeria-backed Polisario Front independence movement, which seeks a separate state there.

Putin says Brics, not West, will drive global economic growth

Monitoring Desk
 MOSCOW: The Brics group will generate most of the global economic growth in the coming years thanks to its size and relatively fast growth compared with that of developed Western nations, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday.

Putin hopes to build up Brics — which has expanded to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates as well as Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa — as a powerful counterweight to the West in global politics and trade.

The Kremlin leader is due to host a Brics summit in the Russian city of Kazan on Oct 22-24.

No consensus on long-range weapons for Ukraine: Biden

Monitoring Desk
 BERLIN: US President Joe Biden said on Friday that there was no consensus for giving Ukraine long-range weapons that President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has been requesting. Western nations for months to conduct deeper strikes into Russia.

"Right now, there's no consensus for long-range weapons," Biden told reporters in Berlin. At the same time, he urged the West to sustain its support for Ukraine as Kyiv faces a bleak winter and a looming US presidential election raises worries about the strength of Washington's own resolve.

Biden's trip comes just 18 days before the US presidential vote, in which Donald Trump is seeking re-election in a close race against Vice President Kamala Harris. Trump has signalled he would be more reluctant than Biden to continue to support Ukraine. Earlier on Friday, Germany's President Frank-Walter Steinmeier referred to previously strained Euro-pean-US ties under Trump's 2017-2021 presidency during a ceremony to award Biden Germany's highest order of merit.

North Korea says it recovered crashed South Korean military drone, KCNA says

Monitoring Desk
 SEOUL: North Korea said on Saturday it had discovered the remains of a crashed South Korean military drone, suggesting it was on a propaganda mission in the latest confrontation between the two involving cross-border flying objects.

"In light of the drone's shape, the presumptive period of flight, the leaflet-scattering box fixed to the underpart of the drone's fuselage, etc, it is quite likely that the drone is the one which scattered leaflets over the center of Pyongyang Municipality. But the conclusion has not yet been drawn," said state news agency KCNA.

South Korea's government has declined to say if such drones were flown, and if they were, whether they were flown by its military or civilians. It said to comment on the North's claim would be to get drawn into a play.

Early trading on Wall Street is mixed as markets hover near recent highs

Monitoring Desk
 NEW YORK: Trading on Wall Street was slightly mixed early Friday as markets try close out another week of gains with companies continuing to post their most recent profits.

Futures for the S&P 500 were up 0.2% before the bell, while futures for the Dow Jones Industrial Average retreated a modest 0.1%.

CVS Health slid about 11% in premarket trading after the retail pharmacy chain and health care company announced that CEO Karen Lynch has stepped down. Lynch will be replaced by David Joyner, who will attempt to steer the health care giant through a worsening environment of rising medical costs.

CVS cut its financial expectations for the third time in August with all major pharmacy chains attempting to navigate a drastically changed landscape, facing competition online and elsewhere.



Palestinians inspect the site of an Israeli strike on a house, amid the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict, in Al Maghazi refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip.

Ukraine's former armed forces chief endorses 'victory plan' in first speech since his dismissal

Monitoring Desk
 LONDON: Ukraine's former commander-in-chief, Valerii Zaluzhnyi, on Thursday expressed his support for President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's "victory plan," despite the tensions between the two that led to his dismissal.

"Ukraine must clearly follow the plan," Zaluzhnyi said in his first public appearance since his appointment as ambassador to the U.K.

He told an audience at London's Chatham House think-tank: "But this list of steps primarily concerns those countries that should ultimately be interested in stopping the war."

Moldova says its citizens were trained in Russia to stage riots

Monitoring Desk
 CHISINAU: Moldovan police said on Thursday they had uncovered a programme in which hundreds of its citizens were brought to Russia to undergo training to stage riots and civil unrest, the latest in a slew of meddling allegations ahead of Sunday's election.

The police said earlier this month that Russia-backed crime groups had bribed a swathe of voters and plotted to disrupt this weekend's presidential election and referendum on the country's European Union membership aspirations, going as far as a plan to seize state buildings.

Thai election commission begins probe into ruling Phue Thai party

Monitoring Desk
 BANGKOK: Thailand's Election Commission will launch an investigation into the ruling Phue Thai party that could lead to its dissolution, multiple local media outlets reported on Friday.

The Election Commission has set up a committee to look into complaints against the party that alleged it allowed former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra to influence or direct party activities, media reported, citing unidentified sources.

The probe into Phue Thai comes months after Move Forward - the country's former main opposition party that won last year's election - was dissolved by court order in August, following an investigation by the Election Commission.



Migrants, who were intercepted at sea and later detained at a reception facility in Albania, board an Italian coast guard vessel to leave for Italy after a court in Rome overturned their detention orders, in Shengjin, Albania.

Hunger experts say the risk of famine in Gaza remains high

Monitoring Desk
 NEW YORK: The Gaza Strip is still at risk of famine more than a year into the Israel-Hamas war, even as the number of people facing the most extreme level of hunger has declined in recent months, the international authority on hunger crises said Thursday.

The findings come after the United States warned Israel that it might cut off military aid if its ally does not do more to address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Hundreds of thousands of people there are displaced from their homes and packed into squalid tent camps and schools-turned-shelters.

Big Tech's energy needs mean nuclear power is getting a fresh look from electricity providers

Monitoring Desk
 NEW YORK: Nuclear power is garnering renewed attention amid growing demand for power and cleaner energy. The power source has seen a resurgence as nations focus on reducing emissions in an effort to combat climate change. At the same time, the technology sector's energy needs are growing in the form of data centers and powerful advances in artificial intelligence.

Those factors have prompted companies and governments to look more closely at a power source whose potential hazards made it unpopular only a few decades ago. The U.S. is the fastest growing market for data centers, according to McKinsey, which forecasts demand to more than triple by 2030 to 80 gigawatts. Constellation Energy plans on re-opening Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania under a deal with Microsoft. Oracle plans to use new technology in the form of small modular nuclear reactors to power its data centers, while Google is purchasing nuclear energy from small modular reactors in development by Kairos Power. Amazon bought a data center powered by nuclear energy in Pennsylvania earlier this year and is also investing in small nuclear reactors.

China launches survey to understand 'fear of having children'

Monitoring Desk
 HONG KONG: China's National Health Commission (NHC) is surveying 30,000 people to understand factors influencing their attitudes towards childbearing and the "fear surrounding having children", as authorities struggle to boost a flagging birthrate.

The survey will include people from 150 counties in China and 1,500 different communities, the state-backed Global Times said late on Thursday, citing the China Population and Development Research Center, which falls under the NHC.

Philippine political rift widens as VP Duterte accuses Marcos of incompetence

Monitoring Desk
 MANILA: Philippine vice-president Sara Duterte accused President Ferdinand Marcos Jr of incompetence and a lack of leadership in a scathing attack on Friday that showed the deepening rift between the two powerful families ahead of mid-term elections. Duterte, the daughter of Marcos' predecessor, resigned from cabinet in June, signalling the collapse of a formidable political alliance that helped her and Marcos.



Supporters hold signs during a campaign event by Democratic presidential nominee U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris in Waterford township, in Oakland County, Michigan, U.S.

President, PM urge media to raise awareness about breast cancer

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has urged media to educate people about breast cancer to save thousands of precious lives.

In his message on International Day against Breast Cancer, being observed today, he stressed on the need to raise awareness about this disease by addressing misconceptions and prioritizing healthy lifestyle adjustments.

The President said one in every nine women is

at risk of breast cancer in Pakistan and the late diagnosis of the disease considerably contributes to the high mortality rate.

He said Pakistan needs broader level efforts to educate women about breast cancer, regular self-examination and mammographic screening.

Asif Ali Zardari urged country's policymakers and health officials to plan and prioritize disease control activities, including improved treatment and indi-

vidual patient care.

He emphasized the need to ensure that our women have access to screening and early detection services which are critical in diagnosis of breast cancer early and saving lives. Meanwhile Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday emphasized the importance of raising awareness and promoting early detection of breast cancer, particularly among women.

Highlighting the global

prevalence of breast cancer as the most common form of cancer affecting women, he noted that a significant number of deaths occurred in low and middle-income countries, including Pakistan.

In a message on the occasion of International Day against Breast Cancer, the prime minister acknowledged the challenges the country faced in providing adequate screening and treatment facilities for breast cancer.



NETHERLANDS: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf calls on Dy Chief of Defence.



ISLAMABAD: NDMA held coordination meeting for humanitarian assistance for Gaza and Lebanon

Constitutional amendment needs threadbare consultations: Hafiz Naem

LAHORE (INP): Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Emir Hafiz Naemur Rehman said on Saturday that the government should hold threadbare consultations on the matter of much-touted constitutional amendment.

Holding a press conference in Lahore, the JI emir said that sale and purchase of votes had become a common practice in the parliament. "This practice resumes whenever a new amendment is forced to be passed by those who actually orchestrate these moves. The politicians are made figureheads, the Su-

preme Court must summon those who are behind this amendment," he mentioned.

Taking potshots at political parties, he said people didn't have any trust in whatever political parties said, adding that mere 3 to 4 judges won't be able to address issues when a whole parliament was unable to redress the grievances of people. He said people didn't have access to justice in Pakistan as the judiciary lacked trust by the masses. The JI emir also condemned the martyrdom of Hamas leader Yahya

Sinwar.

Farooq Leghari's 14th death anniversary to be observed today

Independent Report D. G. KHAN: The 14th death anniversary of Pakistan's former President Farooq Leghari will be ob-



served today, October 20, 2024. Born on May 29, 1940, in Choti Zareen, Dera Ghazi Khan, Leghari served as the country's eighth president from November 14, 1993, to December 2, 1999. Leghari's family has arranged a ceremony to mark the occasion, as per media reports. During his presidency, Leghari played a crucial role in the country's politics, including dismissing Benazir Bhutto's government in 1996. Before becoming president, Leghari held various positions, including Minister for Water and Power and Foreign Minister. He was also a member of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and later joined the Pakistan Muslim League (Q). Leghari passed away on October 20, 2010, at the age of 70, due to cardiac arrest. His legacy continues to be remembered and honored on his death anniversary.

Naqvi praises security forces for operations against 'Fitna al Khawarij'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has commended Pakistan's security forces for their successful counter-terrorism operations against the notorious group 'Fitna al Khawarij' in the regions of Pishin and Zhob. These operations resulted in the elimination of two high-profile terrorists and the capture of five others, a critical step towards restoring peace in these areas. In a statement, Minister Naqvi praised the professionalism and bravery of the security forces, crediting them with once again thwarting the nefarious plans of 'Fitna al Khawarij'.

He emphasized the significance of these operations in dismantling the network of terrorists, who

have long posed a threat to national security.

"Once again, the brave security forces have thwarted the nefarious plans of the terrorists of 'Fitna al Khawarij' through successful operations," Naqvi said, recognizing the dedication and skill demonstrated by the forces during the challenging mission.

He added that these victories are a testament to the unwavering commitment of the security personnel in safeguarding the nation from those who seek to destabilize it. The Minister specifically lauded the courage of the soldiers involved in the operations, stating, "We salute the brave soldiers of the security forces who conducted successful operations against the terrorists of 'Fitna al Khawarij'."

LHC restrains EC from giving final decision in PTI intra party election, electoral symbol case

LAHORE (Online): A larger bench of Lahore High Court (LHC) has stopped Election Commission (EC) from giving final decision in PTI intra party election and electoral symbol case.

The LHC issued written order on PTI petition against non allotment of electoral symbol of bat and PTI intra party election.

A five members larger bench of LHC presided over by Justice Shams Mehmood Mirza issued written order.

It has been said in the

written order that election commission requested for adjournment of the case.

It was further said in the court's order that Assistant Attorney General (AAG) should file written statement on next hearing. EC should not give final decision on April 30, 2024 notice regarding PTI intra party election.

The court adjourned further hearing of petition on PTI intra party election and non allotment of electoral symbol bat till December 13.

Pakistan reaffirms commitment to timely delivery of relief goods for Gaza, Lebanon

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-level coordination meeting was held today at the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to review and plan Pakistan's ongoing humanitarian relief efforts for the war-affected populations of Gaza and Lebanon here on Saturday.

The meeting was co-chaired by Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, and Chairman NDMA, Lt Gen Inam Haider Malik, a news release said. Senior officials from the Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and NDMA were also present at the meeting in Islamabad, while the Ambassadors of Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq participated via Zoom.

Discussions during

the meeting focused on the immediate needs of the people of Gaza and Lebanon and the logistical challenges related to dispatching relief consignments. The Ambassador of Lebanon expressed deep appreciation for the timely assistance provided by the Government of Pakistan and highlighted that Pakistan is among the first three countries to send relief to the people of Lebanon during this critical time.

To date, Pakistan has dispatched a total of 12 consignments comprising 1251 tons of relief items to Gaza and Lebanon. Of these, 10 consignments were directed to Gaza, while two were sent to Lebanon. The relief packages included essential items such as tents, tarpaulins, food packs, winterized bedding, medicines, hygiene

kits, and other supplies necessary for those affected by the ongoing conflict.

During the meeting, Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal emphasized that the Prime Minister of Pakistan had personally directed the provision of relief to both Lebanon and Gaza. In line with this directive, the "Prime Minister's Relief Fund for Gaza and Lebanon" has been established to facilitate contributions from the people of Pakistan for their brothers and sisters in need.

The Minister also received a briefing from Pakistan's Ambassadors to Lebanon, Palestine, and Syria on the active humanitarian organizations in each country and their aid distribution channels for war-affected areas.

Delegations of Tribal elders & people from Dera Bugti meet CM

Independent Report QUETTA: The tribal elders and delegations of people from Dera Bugti met the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti here on Saturday.

During the meeting, the members of delegations and tribal elders apprised the Chief Minister about the issues of their areas.

The Chief Minister issued orders to resolve the public issues immediately.



QUETTA: CEO and MD PPL Imran Abbasi presenting souvenir to Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti

RDMC launches training program for Balochistan graduates with SIFC

QUETTA (INP): In collaboration with the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), the Reko Diq Mining Company has launched the second phase of its "International Graduate Development Program" for 2024.

As part of this initiative, 18 graduates from Balochistan have been selected for a two-year on-the-job training program aimed at developing their skills for successful careers in the mining industry.

The selection process, based on a merit-driven approach, saw more than 3,000 applicants competing for the 18 available spots. Notably, the group includes four women, underscoring the company's commitment to gender inclusion in its workforce.

The selected graduates hail from various districts of Balochistan, where the company operates its mining projects. The program, facilitated by Barrick Gold, Reko Diq's parent company, will provide training in Argentina and Zambia. The initiative aims to empower Balochistan's youth by equipping them with essential skills in the mining sector.

Speaking at the program's inauguration in Karachi, Barrick Gold CEO Mark Bristow encouraged the students to seize this opportunity: "Learn with dedication and make a meaningful contribution not only to the Reko Diq project but to the bright future of your province and country."



KARACHI: Supporters of the Jamaat e Islami gather for an absentee funeral prayer for Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar killed in Gaza

India subjecting detained Hurriyat leaders, activists to political vendetta: APHC

SRINAGAR (INP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has condemned the Indian authorities for not releasing Kashmiri Hurriyat leaders, activists, and youth unlawfully detained under false charges, despite court orders, calling the situation deeply troubling.

According to Kashmir Media Service, in a statement in Srinagar, APHC spokesperson Randhir Jaisal during a press briefing in New Delhi, Minhas emphasized, "Kashmir belongs to Kashmiris and will always remain theirs; this is our narrative and our stance. No contrary claims can alter this reality." He criticized Indian authorities for attempting to mislead both the Indian public and the international community through illogical and unrealistic assertions regarding Jammu and Kashmir.

main imprisoned in jails and detention centers. He expressed serious concern over the conditions faced by these detainees and called on international human rights organizations to apply pressure on India for their release. Responding to remarks made by Indian Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaisal during a press briefing in New Delhi, Minhas asserted that the detained leaders are being subjected to worst political vendetta for spearheading the Kashmiris' right to self-determination movement. He pointed out that thousands of Kashmiris — including Hurriyat leaders, activists, youth, human rights and civil society workers, lawyers, and journalists — re-

CTD arrests seven terrorists during 129 operations

LAHORE (APP): The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Punjab arrested seven terrorists in operations in various cities of Punjab. According to a CTD spokesperson, 129 intelligence-based operations (IBO) were conducted in various cities of the province and terrorists were arrested. These operations were carried out in Lahore, Bhakkar, Attock, Vehari, Bahawalpur and Jhang, he added. Two most wanted terrorists of Fitna-Al Khawarij, along with weapons and explosive material, were arrested from Lahore and Bhakkar. The recovered items included explosive material, nine detonators, 9-foot protective fuse wire, bullets, weapons, two IED bombs, mobile phones, banned pamphlets and cash were recovered from the terrorists.

Arrested terrorists were identified as Hayatullah, Sheen Khan, Muhammad Saddique, Zahoor Ahmed, Akram Khan and Mubashar Khan.



QUETTA: A delegation of health specialists and consultants of Naseerabad Division meeting with Provincial Advisor for Women Development Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi

Dr Rubaba calls for addressing health issues of women, children in Naseerabad Division urgently

Independent Report QUETTA: Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi, Advisor to the Chief Minister for Women Development, has emphasized the urgent need to address the health issues of women and children in the Naseerabad Division, particularly malnutrition and the high mortality rates of mothers and children. She stressed the importance of adopting a comprehensive strategy to tackle these critical challenges.

She expressed these views during a meeting with

a delegation of health experts and consultants from the Naseerabad Division. The delegation discussed various health issues affecting women, especially malnutrition in women and children, and exchanged suggestions for potential solutions.

Dr. Rubaba Buledi pointed out that reducing maternal mortality rates in the Naseerabad Division requires not only improvements in healthcare infrastructure but also the provision of social and economic opportunities for women to ensure their overall well-being.

She further noted that empowering women through skills training and social development would contribute positively to their health. She also expressed deep concern over the high child mortality rates and emphasized the need to implement expert recommendations to achieve significant improvements and progress in the health sector.

CM condoles deaths of Mir Humayun Marri & Sultan Nasar; offers fateha

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti visited the residences of former Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Humayun Marri and former Additional Chief Secretary Sardar Sultan Khan Nasar and expressed condolence with their bereaved families over their deaths here on Saturday.

At first, the Chief Minister visited Marri House in Sariab where he condoled the death of Mir Humayun Marri with his sons and other members of the bereaved family, and offered fateha for the departed soul.

He also paid tributes to the late Mir Humayun Marri and expressed sorrow over his death.

Later, the Chief Minister visited Nasar House where he condoled death of former Additional Chief Secretary Sardar Sultan Khan Nasar with his bereaved family. He expressed condolence and grief over his death and prayed for the departed soul. Also accompanied with the Chief Minister were Provincial Ministers Ali Madad Jatak, Bakht Muhammad Kakar and Mir Asim Kurd, member of the Provincial Assembly, Asghar Khan Tareen.



QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Quetta Lt. (Retd) Saad bin Asad addressing a ceremony in connection with World Polio Day

UK mayor celebrates Pakistani and Kashmiri contributions abroad

MIRPUR-AJK (APP): The Mayor of Keighley in the UK, Chaudhry Gulfranz Hussain emphasized the vital role of the Pakistani and Kashmiri diaspora in enhancing the reputation of their homeland abroad.

During a visit to the Kashmir Press Club in Mirpur on Saturday, he referred to the community as unofficial ambassadors, highlighting their significant contributions including billions of rupees in foreign remittances to Pakistan.

Gulfranz was there to congratulate newly elected Press Club President Syed Abid Hussain Shah and other office bearers who were elected unopposed.

He called on the Pakistani government to establish dedicated desks for overseas Pakistanis and Kashmiris in major cities to address their issues more efficiently.

He stressed the importance of addressing the challenges faced by immigrants in the UK and urged for priority solutions through the proposed community desks.

Gulfranz praised the media's role in national development, noting that journalists help identify and voice the concerns of the public. Accompanied by fellow council members, he expressed pride in the active participation of the Pakistani and Kashmiri diaspora in UK politics, citing the election of several individuals from these communities to mayoral and parliamentary positions. Reflecting on his own journey, Gulfranz, a former Deputy Mayor and journalist expressed gratitude for his rapid success in politics, viewing his mayoral position as a significant honor.

Bodies of 4 women found in flat in Karachi

KARACHI (Online): Bodies of 4 women have been found in a residential building located in market of Liyari Karachi and head of the family and both of the sons have been arrested.

Beheaded bodies of 4 women including a 13 years old girl have been found in a flat at 7th storey of residential building. When head of the family reached home till late night he found bodies of wife, daughter, grand daughter and daughter in law in different rooms of the house.

Police had collected evidence from home after shifting the bodies to civil hospital. The killer escaped from the scene with murder weapon.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti offering Fateha for the departed soul of former Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Humayun Marri. Provincial Ministers are also present