

QUETTA VOICE

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Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif signs the advice for the assent of 26th Amendment, to be sent to President Asif Ali Zardari for final approval. — PM Office

CM Balochistan Orders Certificate Submission for DDOs' Salary Release

Staff Reporter:
QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan has directed that the salaries of all Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) in Quetta will only be released after providing a certificate confirming that all employees under the respective DDOs are present on duty.



According to the order, any DDO who has not yet submitted their certificate to the Accountant General (AG) Balochistan must do so by October 22. Failure to comply will result in the withholding of salaries for the month.

All DDOs are urged to submit the required certificates promptly to avoid salary delays.

Gandapur vows action against those who stood with govt on constitutional amendment

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has issued a stern warning to those who, whether they voted for the 26th constitutional amendment or simply stood by the government, will face consequences. "We won't spare anyone aligned with the government, regardless of whether they cast a vote," he stated during his address to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly on Monday.

Gandapur strongly criticized the amendment, describing it as an unconstitutional move benefiting only the elite. He added that the judiciary has been placed under control of this elite class.

"This government, which lacks a legitimate mandate, has attacked the judiciary," he said. "First, we will reclaim our mandate through the public, and then we will reject such amendments."

Highlighting the ongoing political struggle, he stated, "This is a battle of ideologies. Some may try to force us to retreat, but through this difficult time, we've come to know who the traitors, cowards, and corrupt are, and who stands firm for our cause. We will continue to stand firm, God willing."

ICJ derides 'blow to judicial independence' as 26th Constitutional Amendment becomes law

ISLAMABAD: The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) derided Monday's passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment into law following the approval of both houses of parliament as a "blow to judicial independence".

Pakistan politics saw a second "working weekend" in as many months, where the ruling coalition finally succeeded in passing the much-fought "Constitutional Package" with a two-thirds majority in both the Senate and the National Assembly.

The 26th Amendment brings changes to the Constitution, most of which pertain to the judiciary. Some main reforms include taking away the Supreme Court's suo motu powers, setting the chief justice of Pakistan's (CJP) term at three years, and empowering the prime minister to appoint the next CJP from among the three most senior SC judges.

Constitution (Twenty-sixth... by Dawoodcom

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

the NA also passed it with a two-thirds majority. The NA-approved version had 27 clauses after incorporating suggestions made by the Senate.

Following the conclusion of parliamentary procedures, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, according to Radio Pakistan, sent his advice to President Zardari for his assent on the newly enacted law — titled "The Constitution (26th Amendment) Act, 2024".

An NA secretariat notification published in the Gazette today, a copy of which is available with Dawn.com, read that the Act with 27 clauses "received the assent of the President on the 21st October, 2024".

In a statement shared on its X account, state broadcaster PTV News said: "According to the Constitutional Amendment, the new chief justice will be appointed by the parliamentary committee."

"The federal government has decided to constitute the parliamentary committee to appoint the chief justice," it added. Under the Amendment, the country's top judge will now be "appointed on the recommendation of the Special Parliamentary Committee. From amongst the

three most senior" Supreme Court judges. Reacting to the development, the ICJ said the amendment was "a blow to judicial independence, the rule of law, and human rights protection".

In a statement issued today, ICJ Secretary General Santiago Canton said the changes brought an "extraordinary level of political influence over the process of judicial appointments and the judiciary's own administration. They erode the judiciary's capacity to independently and effectively function as a check against excesses by other branches of the State and protect human rights."

The ICJ criticised the swiftness with which the bill became an act, saying that draft amendments were kept secret, and there were no public consultations on the proposals before they were introduced in and passed by parliament. "It is alarming a Constitutional Amendment of great significance and public interest was passed in such a secretive manner and in less than 24 hours."

"The core principle of the rule of law and the separation of powers according to which citizens. NEWSDESK.

German Consul General, Balochistan Governor Discuss Investment and Technology Opportunities

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: Newly appointed German Consul General in Karachi, Dr. Ruediger Lotz, met with Governor Balochistan, Jafar Khan Mandukhel, to explore investment opportunities and discuss matters of mutual interest. The meeting focused on Balochistan's rich resources, including its valuable minerals, and potential areas for economic collaboration between Germany and Pakistan.

Governor Mandukhel highlighted the longstanding friendly relations between Pakistan and Germany, emphasizing the need to strengthen bilateral ties in line with modern demands. He expressed confidence that enhanced cooperation between the two countries would positively impact peace and development across the region.

Governor Mandukhel specifically underscored the importance of

Germany's collaboration in education, health, technology, and capacity building. He mentioned that Germany's support, particularly in providing scholarships for Balochistan's youth, could significantly boost the province's economic prospects.

He also hoped for continued German assistance in Pakistan's development initiatives, especially in the finance and technology sectors. The Governor further emphasized the importance of equipping the younger generation with modern technical and vocational skills to meet the evolving economic landscape in the region. He expressed optimism that such initiatives would yield positive results and attract more foreign investment in Balochistan's emerging industries.



BUITEMS: VC's Study Leave Freeze Sparks Outrage Among Faculty Members

News Desk:

In a move that has sparked widespread discontent among faculty members, the Vice Chancellor (VC) of BUITEMS has halted all study leave applications. Despite two months having passed since the decision, there remains no clarity regarding the future of study leave, leading to accusations of anti-teacher behaviour.

Harassment of Faculty on Study Leave: Faculty members who are already on study leave have also been subjected to various forms of harassment. One notable case involves a faculty member pursuing a PhD in the United States, whose salary was abruptly stopped in May.

The university justified this action by claiming unsatisfactory progress reports and introducing a new reporting format. Despite submitting reports in the required format, the faculty mem-

ber continues to face objections. **Escalating Tensions:**

The situation has reached a boiling point with the recent sending of an email to the US university president and supervisor, with a copy to the US ambassador, demanding a progress report. This move is widely seen as a blatant act of harassment and a deliberate attempt to sabotage the scholar's career.

Impact on International Reputation:

The BUITEMS Staff Association believes that the university's actions are not only harmful to individual scholars but also damaging to the institution's and the country's reputation. Such behaviour could create significant problems for Pakistani scholars studying abroad and may lead to diplomatic tensions.



PTI stance leaves many scratching their heads

ISLAMABAD: The PTI has chided the government for its "ulterior motives" behind the 26th Constitutional Amendment and announced protests against the legislation.

A statement, issued by a party spokesperson after the Senate passed the amendments with four votes against the bill cast by PTI and its allies, was in stark contrast to the remarks made earlier on Sunday by the PTI chairman, who said his party had "no objections" to the final draft but would not vote for it in parliament. Gohar Ali Khan spoke to the media in the afternoon after what was probably the last of his numerous visits to the residence of JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman for deliberations on the constitutional amendments.

"Our leader Imran Khan will always have the final say on party decisions, so we act on his instructions and recommendations," the PTI chairman said, adding Mr Khan had instructed the party to have more consultations before voting "since this legislation is so serious".

Judicial System Collapsed After Recent Constitutional Amendment, Claims Kurd

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: Senior lawyer Ali Ahmed Kurd has claimed that Pakistan's fragile judicial system has collapsed following the recent constitutional amendment.

"Only the debris of the judicial system is remaining," Kurd stated during a press conference in Quetta on Monday. He was accompanied by President of the Balochistan High Court Bar Association, Afzal Hanif Advocate, and prominent lawyers Rahib Buledi Advocate.

Kurd criticized the lawmakers behind the amendment, stating, "Very few members of the National Assembly and senators have actually read the constitution."

Those who adopted this amendment will be questioned and held accountable.

"He accused political parties, including the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), and Jamaat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F), of deceiving the public and facilitating the amendment."

Kurd also announced a potential nationwide protest campaign against the amendment,



which he believes has weakened the judiciary.

He asserted that the new amendment grants unprecedented power to session judges, making them more influential than judges of the High Court and Su-

preme Court.

"An illiterate lawmaker will now have the power to nominate a chief justice and judges," Kurd warned, expressing deep concern over the future of the judicial system.

Misplaced Priorities In Balochistan

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Focusing on foreign and domestic policies

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

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EDITORIAL

Editor: Asim Khan
Misplaced Priorities In Balochistan

Editorial: The ongoing hunger strike by professors and lecturers from the University of Balochistan and BUTEMs outside the Quetta Press Club is a sobering reflection of the government's misplaced priorities. These dedicated educators protest unpaid salaries and rampant corruption within their institutions, the Balochistan government has inexplicably allocated Rs. 5 billion for the construction of a new provincial assembly. This stark contrast raises fundamental questions about the government's commitment to education and the welfare of its citizens.

Education is the backbone of any society, and the deteriorating conditions in Balochistan's universities signal a growing crisis. Faculty members, led by esteemed professors such as Kaleemullah Barach, Farooq Akhavan, and Hasrat Hussain Shah, are fighting not just for their livelihoods but for the future of education in the province. Months without salaries have left these educators struggling to support their families, while institutional corruption further cripples the academic environment. Yet, the government's response has been indifferent at best, neglecting the very people responsible for shaping the next generation of leaders.

Professor Barach's poignant statement, "We have not received our salaries for months. How are we supposed to sustain our families and continue our work under such conditions?" echoes the frustrations of many across the province. Meanwhile, Professor Achakzai's allegations of corruption within the universities, where funds intended for academic development are being siphoned off, only add to the sense of injustice. These are not minor grievances, they are symptomatic of a failing system that urgently needs reform.

Yet, instead of addressing these pressing concerns, the government has chosen to funnel an astonishing Rs. 5 billion into constructing a new assembly building. While the need for infrastructure in governance is understandable, it pales in comparison to the immediate and critical needs of the education sector. What message does it send to the people of Balochistan when their educators must resort to hunger strikes to receive what is rightfully theirs, while such vast sums are spent on a building that, in all likelihood, will benefit only a few?

Professor Hasrat's concerns about the impact on students should be a wake-up call for the authorities. The students of Balochistan are the ones who will ultimately pay the price of the government's neglect. With teachers protesting on the streets and administrative failures plaguing the universities, how can we expect students to receive a quality education? The long-term damage to Balochistan's higher education system will be profound if these issues are not addressed swiftly.

The government must rethink its priorities. Rather than pouring billions into grand construction projects, it should focus on resolving the immediate crises facing the education sector. This means paying the salaries owed to the professors and lecturers involved into the corruption allegations, and ensuring that funds meant for academic development are used for their intended purposes.

If the government continues down this path, it risks not only alienating the academic community but also undermining the future of the province itself. The education of Balochistan's youth should never be compromised for the sake of political monuments. It is time for the government to act decisively, meet the demands of the protesting faculty members, and invest in the future of education in Balochistan. Anything less is a betrayal of the province's students and educators.

Focusing on foreign and domestic policies

By Talat Masood:

Pakistan's turn to host the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit has brought leaders of China, Russia, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and several Central Asian States to Islamabad. Apart from the formal sessions and meetings, the Conference provides a valuable opportunity for delegates of these countries to exchange views on the sidelines and promote their country's bilateral and core interests. It could also be a forum to mend fences, reduce tension among member nations and explore avenues for further strengthening the relationship.

While looking at SCO, it is interesting to look at other major unions of nations. The European Union, a supra-national political and economic union of 27 member states. The Union has a total area of 4,233,255 sq km and a population of over 450 million. Its GDP is estimated to be \$26.64 trillion (PPP), representing around one-sixth of the global economy. Germany has the biggest national GDP of all EU countries followed by France and Italy.

The Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), founded in 2008, is an intergovernmental regional organisation. It includes 12 independent South American states—Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Surinam, Uruguay

and Venezuela. It has not been very successful due to differences between member states. In particular, political differences and rivalry between Brazil and Argentina have weakened the organisation.

Fear of domination by these two major powers has been another important reason for the other member states to be cautious. When SAARC was conceived it had similar aims as that of European Union or that of South American Nations (UNASUR). It was perhaps too ambitious a goal considering the adverse relationship between India and Pakistan and the lukewarm attitude of former prime minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina towards Pakistan. It was a serious barrier in normalising ties with Bangladesh. How and certainly the benefits that would have accrued through increased mutual trade, tourism and new reduction in defence expenditure have not been possible.

Pakistan's relations with India's hegemonic designs apart from strengthening its defence, political and strategic assets by getting closer to Beijing and strengthening ties with the Muslim world, Pakistan's influence and involvement with South Asian countries has increased over the years. However, it has wisely decided to serve as chief adviser of the interim government. Hopefully, with the major changes in the top

leadership of Bangladesh, relations with Pakistan that have remained frozen are expected to improve. Equally important would be to increase trade and commerce and ease travel between the two countries. A normal stable relationship between Pakistan and India is critical for the two countries and the region. Unfortunately, the opposite has been the case for most of the time since the two countries achieved their independence in 1947. The relationship for the last few years has been practically frozen as it seems to be the deliberate policy of PM Modi to isolate and weaken Pakistan.

But hurting Pakistan and soiling its reputation also has adverse consequences for India and the region. India's image has suffered and certainly the benefits that would have accrued through increased mutual trade, tourism and new reduction in defence expenditure have not been possible. Pakistan's relations with India's hegemonic designs apart from strengthening its defence, political and strategic assets by getting closer to Beijing and strengthening ties with the Muslim world, Pakistan's influence and involvement with South Asian countries has increased over the years. However, it has wisely decided to serve as chief adviser of the interim government. Hopefully, with the major changes in the top

improve the relationship, notably the Shimla summit, the Agra summit and the Lahore summit, as well as various peace and co-operation initiatives. Despite those efforts, relations have remained rigid, following repeated acts of cross-border terrorism.

The United States, China, the European Union and other friendly nations should encourage Pakistan and India to engage in dialogue. It is not surprising that the US finds the inimical relationship between the two south Asian neighbours against its broader strategic interests. The US would like Pakistan and India to normalise their relations, thereby helping India to enhance its economic power and political influence in the region and globally. It would be wrong to assume that China is against Pakistan and its normalising relations. It does not serve its broader strategic and economic interests. For China, India is a major export destination and the India-China trade is on the rise, at a rate of 9.6% annually. In 2022, China's exports to India were \$110 billion, with main products being computers, integrated circuits and broadcast equipment, according to the data available. And India's exports to China the same year were \$15.38 billion, with refined petroleum and iron ore being the main

products. It is interesting to note that despite political differences and strategic rivalry, the China-America, China-India and China-Taiwan trade and commercial relations continue to grow, benefiting both nations. The strong economic and trade relations have contributed significantly to maintaining a stable world order.

There are lessons for Pakistan and India to draw from this. If they had remained engaged in trade and commercial activities, there would have been visits of businessmen and entrepreneurs seeking new opportunities. It would have contributed to easing tensions while also opening avenues for export-import, thereby giving a boost to their economies.

Personalised policies that has become the norm should be avoided and instead critical national issues should be seriously addressed in the national assembly and Senate. The security situation demands special attention. Left to the army leadership only. Regional and global developments especially those in the Middle East have consequences and need to be closely monitored. China's rise as a super power, its artificial intelligence, integrated circuits and broadcast equipment, according to the data available. And India's exports to China the same year were \$15.38 billion, with refined petroleum and iron ore being the main

Undemocratic peace

By Imran Jan:

Proponents of the democratic peace theory argue that democracies never or almost never go to war with one another. This theory has not been one without critique but recent developments in the world and a better awareness of conflicts around the world mainly due to the advent of social media have left a major dent in the idea that democratic states almost never go to war with each other.

One of the critiques of the theory also argues that war may not have been defined properly. Definitions of conflicts is another major problem. For instance, the Obama administration had indulged in a global assassination campaign using drone strikes, violating the sovereignty of nations around the world, compromising their communications infrastructure, making cyber-attacks against Iranian centrifuges, and so forth. If the powerful states always stuck to the definitions of conflicts that they themselves wrote then these acts and many others not mentioned here would

be called acts of war and acts of aggression. Instead of going into the details of flaws in the idea of democratic peace and pointing out every single weak link in the chain, I would rather argue that there are far stronger cases of undemocratic peace rather than weak examples of democratic peace.

Many nations have accepted the superiority of certain nations and never go to war with each other. The entire Arab world is a case in point, as are nations in them, avoid angering Israel, for instance - not because of the Jewish-Christian ideals shared by both the countries, it has rather been a relationship established pretty recently. In the 1967 war, Israel was mainly supported by France and England. It was also to some extent an Israeli ally. The US, being a democracy where free speech thrives, is also home to some of the most sophisticated propaganda on earth. Americans are bombarded with this mass propaganda campaign that Israel is this victim state that needs to be protected by the US muscle. This narrative gets repeated endlessly and unquestioningly, instilling in the minds of the American citizens as this absolute truisms.

Rights review

By Rabiya Javeri Aga:

Like any country in the world, Pakistan is host to multifaceted and complex human rights issues. The country's marginalised groups, women, minorities, and children frequently face systemic human rights violations, as enshrined under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), will impact with links to the UN Human Rights Committee. The committee will engage in a constructive dialogue with the government, at the end of which a list of recommendations will be issued. While Pakistan has ratified the core UN human rights treaties, its concern is violence against women. Despite constitutional and legal provisions, 23 per cent of married women in Pakistan report physical abuse, while 26pc face emotional abuse. These human rights issues point to systemic flaws in law enforcement and the judiciary, where patriarchal norms limit justice for victims. With only 18pc of reported rape cases reaching court, the path to justice is fraught

with challenges. The economic cost of this violence, estimated at \$189.7 million annually, is a further burden Pakistan can ill afford. Strengthening legal frameworks, providing better protection, and empowering women must become national priorities. Religious minorities in Pakistan also face escalating violence and discrimination. The misuse of blasphemy laws led to 705 people being jailed by mid-2024, and continues to cause concern, while forced conversions—especially of Hindu girls—underline the vulnerabilities of marginalised communities. While legislative measures exist, enforcement is weak, leaving minority groups exposed to socioeconomic and religious persecution. The NCHR has worked diligently to address these issues but recognises that more comprehensive reforms are urgently needed, particularly in tackling extremism and reforming religious education. Torture and ill-treatment by law enforcement

remain troubling realities. Despite the passage of the Tor-Ur and Custo-dial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act in 2022, implementation has been slow. Torture is not only a violation of human dignity, but a symptom of larger institutional flaws. Inhumane prison conditions, exacerbated by overcrowding and inadequate medical care, contribute to the suffering, with pre-trial detainees making up a significant portion of the prison population.

Pakistan's international human rights obligations are not just boxes to be ticked—they represent the rights and dignity of its people. As we approach the next ICCPR review, the NCHR will continue to advocate for reforms that bring us closer to fulfilling these commitments. The government must act decisively to improve conditions for women buties, and the incarcerated, ensuring that no one in Pakistan is left behind. The future of human rights in Pakistan depends on meaningful action. It's time to turn rhetoric into reality.

By F.S. Aijazuddin:

SOMEONE in the IMF is not familiar with Dr Samuel Johnson's witty definition of a second marriage: "a triumph of hope over experience". The IMF and Pakistan have been in and out of wedlock not twice, but multiple times. One would have imagined that an institution such as experienced as the IMF would spot a habitual offender amongst a pack of its financial delinquents. Apparently not. No IMF Board member had Pakistan digested the Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) of \$3 billion extended by the IMF in 2023-24, than it applied for a new loan of \$7bn. Even addicts draw a breath before the next snort.

Recall our predicament in 2023, as we waited desperately for the release of the last \$1.1bn tranche of the SBA. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif assured the IMF MD Mme Georgieva that, if re-elected, he stood "committed to turning over the economy with the help of IMF and development partners".

Apparently, Mme Georgieva reminded him that, although he had "built a very convincing case", the IMF Board recalled "the past trust deficit" and reiterated its scepticism about the IMF Board's intentions. She then mollified her Board with the assurance that Pakistan would "deliver on its commitments... as loan and its first tranche

Hope triumphant

of \$1.1bn, Pakistan assured the IMF that it will implement "radical changes which will test the public's patriotism and the sinews of our federation".

The new programme comes with several conditions, or "bitter pills", these include bringing undertaxed sectors into large-scale export, industrially, and including retail, local and export agriculture. The Government has agreed to reduce "non-transparent support for privileged sectors like real estate, agriculture, manufacturing, and energy, as well as, towards the proliferation of Special Economic Zones".

The IMF demands the abolition of SEZs by 2025. CPEC, however, plans into 2030 the expansion of SEZs and Free Trade Zones, especially Gwadar Port.

The IMF programme repeats a familiar mantra—earn more, spend less, and minimise borrowing. The IMF recognises the inherent contradiction in Pakistan's political structure: "Political economy considerations and pressures from vested interests could delay or weaken the reform momentum and put at risk still-fragile stability". The IMF also expects Pakistan to be supported by "development and bilateral partners like the World Bank, ADB, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and China".

The CPEC is the IMF's bugbear. The IMF sought transparent disclosure, Pakistan had begun a process in 2022, the IMF capped that Pakistan owed more to China than the IMF itself. Pakistan owed China \$26.6bn, and the IMF about \$7bn.

The IMF's staff report supporting the \$7bn loan approval contains an odd justification: "Reputational risks would arise if the Fund were perceived as treating Pakistan differently from other members". The IMF also expects Pakistan to be supported by "development and bilateral partners like the World Bank, ADB, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and China".

election windfall. The latest IMF loan is spread over the next three years, with periodic reviews. Whoever candidate—Donald Trump or Kamala Harris—wins the White House in November, our \$7bn IMF lifeline will definitely come under scrutiny.

President Trump gave a previous prime minister a personal tour of the White House. Will he be inclined to extend a similar courtesy to his successor? Kamala Harris knows Pakistan as India's irascible neighbour. Her DNA could colour her judgement. Meanwhile, to paraphrase Herbert Hoover: accused are the young, and the inheritance of advantage of a pre-US national debt.

Senior Israeli commander killed in north Gaza

GAZA (INP): The Israeli military announced the death of a brigade commander in a blast in northern Gaza, where Israeli forces have been engaged in a sweeping assault targeting Hamas.

Colonel Ahsan Daksa, commander of the 401st Brigade, was killed in the Jabalia area when an explosive struck him as he left his tank, military spokesman Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari said in a briefing. Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said in a

separate statement that Daksa was killed "while fighting Hamas terrorists". Hagari said that another battalion commander and two officers were highly wounded in the incident.

They stepped outside "to observe the area and were struck by an explosive," he said. Daksa, 41, was a member of the Druze community and was appointed brigade commander four months ago. He was one of the most senior army commanders

killed in the year-long Gaza war. His brigade "was leading the offensive" in Jabalia, said Hagari.

Israeli forces launched a withering assault on Jabalia and other parts of northern Gaza on October 6, which the military says aims to prevent Hamas militants from regrouping.

The civil defence agency in the Hamas-run territory said that more than 400 people have been killed in the two-week assault, which was still underway on Sunday.

Daksa had been decorated for rescuing wounded soldiers during Israel's 2006 war against Hezbollah. The two sides are currently again at war in Lebanon.

Israel's President Isaac Herzog called Daksa "a hero", saying his death was a "loss to Israel and for Israeli society".

Israel's military fatalities to 358 in the Gaza campaign since the start of the ground offensive in the Palestinian territory on October 27, 2023.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Ahsan Iqbal, inaugurates Data Fest 2024, an event organized by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

Question of jurisdiction to arise every day in SC following legislation on constitutional benches:

ISLAMABAD (INP): On the heels of the 26th Amendment's passage, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah on Monday remarked that the question of jurisdiction would "arise every day" in the Supreme Court (SC) following legislation on constitutional benches.

In the wee hours of Monday, the much-awaited 26th Constitutional Amendment became law after approval of both houses of the Parliament, which was then given assent by President

Asif Ali Zardari. The 26th Amendment brings changes to the Constitution, most of which pertain to the judiciary.

Some main reforms include taking away the Supreme Court's suo motu powers, setting the chief justice of Pakistan's (CJP) term at three years, and empowering the prime minister to appoint the next CJP from among the three most senior SC judges.

On Monday, while hearing a case related to the Competition Commission

of Pakistan, Justice Shah passed a light-hearted remark, saying: "Will this case now go to the constitutional bench or can we hear it?"

"It seems now that this question will arise every day in the Supreme Court, whether the case will be heard by the normal bench or constitutional bench," Justice Shah said.

Advocate Farogh Naseem responded by saying that political cases have now become constitutional cases. At this,

Justice Ayesha Malik said, "Now it's up to you and your constitutional benches."

Justice Shah then adjourned the case for three weeks, saying that by then they would have more clarity on the situation. Justice Ayesha cautioned him to read the new amendment since Article 199 cannot be heard in this case.

To this, Justice Shah remarked that it would take some time for them to understand things anyway.



ISLAMABAD: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman addressing a press conference.

Toll from attack in India-occupied Kashmir rises to seven: reports

SRINAGAR (INP): Gunmen in India-occupied Kashmir raked a construction site work camp with bullets, killing seven people and wounding several others.

Indian media reported on Monday, updating an earlier toll. The attack on Sunday is one of the latest in this year targeting civilians.

The contested territory's chief minister, Omar Abdullah, called the attack late Sunday "dastardly and cowardly", while India's interior minister Amit Shah vowed those responsible would face the "harshest" response.

Attackers targeted workers from outside the Himalayan region, who

were reported to be building a tunnel connecting held Kashmir with the northern Ladakh region. Among the seven killed was a doctor, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported on Monday, adding several others were wounded.

Abdullah, who was sworn in as the region's chief minister on Wednesday after his first local elections for a decade, said he strongly condemned the attack on "non-local labourers".

Soon after the attack, Abdullah confirmed two people had been killed but had warned there were also "a number of injured labourers, both local and non-local".

At least 500,000 Indian troops are deployed in occupied Kashmir, bat-

tling resistance fighters with tens of thousands of civilians, soldiers and fighters killed since 1989.

India's home minister Amit Shah called the killings "a despicable act of cowardice", in a statement.

"Those involved in this heinous act will not be spared, and will face the harshest response from our security forces," Shah said. The attack took place in Gaggar in Sonamarg region, where Nitin Gadkari, India's minister of roads said the "innocent labourers had been working on a 'vital infrastructure project'".

Gunmen fired automatic weapons at the camp from forested hills around, Indian newspa-

pers reported. India regularly accuses Pakistan of supporting and arming the fighters in a charge Islamabad denies.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government cancelled Kashmir's limited autonomy in 2019, accompanied by mass arrests and a months-long communications blackout.

His administration says the decision has allowed it to stem resistance fighters, but critics have accused it of suppressing political freedoms.

Nine Indian Hindu pilgrims were killed and dozens more wounded in June when a gunman opened fire on a bus carrying them from a shrine in Reasi district.

I have not voted for constitutional amendment: Zain Qureshi

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Zain Qureshi stated that he had not voted in favour of the 26th constitutional amendment.

In a video statement issued following the approval of the constitutional package in the parliament, Qureshi asserted: "Propaganda is

being done against me over the matter."

"I would like to assure the PTI leadership and masses of my constituency that I cannot even imagine voting in favour of this constitutional package," he maintained.

Meanwhile, Opposition Leader in National Assembly Omar Ayub

asserted that the constitutional amendment is an attempt to "weaken" the judiciary.

Expressing his thoughts during the NA session in the wee hours of Monday, Ayub said: "Interzar Panjto no date is missing. Riaz Fatayana's son had been abducted twice."

Ayub lamented: "Why

not the constitutional amendment could be passed on October 31?" Was the country would have closed if the amendment passed subsequently?"

The constitutional amendment's draft should have been dispatched to the standing committee and law and justice," he stated.

We are considering legal grounds to challenge 26th amendment: Hafiz Naeem

ISLAMABAD (INP): Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Hafiz Naeem Rehman has called for a challenge the newly passed 26th constitutional amendment.

Addressing a press conference, he alleged that a conspiracy was going on for a long time to attack and influence the judiciary.

Hafiz Naeem disclosed that he was considering legal mechanisms and

moving to the Supreme Court to challenge the 26th amendment in the constitution.

He halted the PTI move to boycott the amendment saying some opposition members did vote in support of the amendment un-der the influence of horse trading.

Parliamentarians who hardly secured seats and won elections in favour of the amendment, Naeem criticised. JI Emir be-

lie proposes a series of constitutional amendments, including setting a three-year fixed term for the chief justice, establishing constitutional benches, restructuring the Supreme Judicial Council, and forming a Special Parliamentary Committee, to recommend names from among the three senior-most judges of the apex court for the chief justice's appointment.

PTI Founder seeks access to personal doctors for medical checkup

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran has filed a petition in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) seeking permission for his personal doctors to conduct a medical checkup.

As per details, the petition was filed through Imran Khan's counsel, Barrister Salman Siddiq and Khadija Younis. Chaudhry, PTI Founder requested that his personal doctors be allowed to examine him, citing their familiarity with his medical history.

Earlier, PTI chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan expressed concern over Imran Khan's access to information,

stating that the party founder is not being provided with newspapers and updates on the constitutional amendments. Barrister Gohar Ali Khan stated that PTI founder is in good physical condition and high-spirited during their meeting at Adiala Jail. He said that the PTI founder is resilient in his stance, vowing to prioritise the rule of law and national dignity. "I will spend 100 years in jail if needed, but I won't compromise on the Constitution and national sovereignty," the PTI chairman said quoting Imran Khan. It is important to note here that on October 15, PTI chief Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said that party founder Imran Khan had undergone a medical checkup at Adiala Jail. In a statement issued here, Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said that the medical checkup confirmed that Imran Khan is in good health and even exercised for an hour.

formed by the government about Imran Khan's medical checkup at Adiala Jail. The PTI chairman, citing the government's sources, said that two doctors, an ENT specialist, and a medical expert examined Imran Khan at about 4 pm. Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said that the medical checkup confirmed that Imran Khan is in good health and even exercised for an hour.

BEFORE THE JUDGE BENCH COURT QUETTA OFFICE AT DISTRICT COURT/KACHEHRY SHARA-E-IQBOL QUETTA SUIT NO.28/2024 Plaintiff: United Bank Limited, 1.1 Chundrigar Road Karachi. Defendant: Muhanimal Shahan S/o Tagin Khan, CNK No. 53201-3017899-7, R/o DAKhan, Dera Allah Yar, Rupa shehr. Jhat Pat, Jaffrabad.

NOTICE UNDER FORM IV APPENDIX B OF C.P.C. 1908. Notice to: The above noted defendant. WHEREAS the plaintiff has instituted a suit against you under section 9(5) of the Banking Companies Ordinance XLVI of 2001 for RS. 61,262,96/- balance of principal & interest mark up rent due to him of which copy can be obtained from this court, on or, hereby summoned to obtain leave from the court within 30 (thirty) days, from the service hereof to appear and defend the suit, and within such time to cause an appearance to be entered for you.

TENDER NOTICE. The Balochistan Board of Intermediate & Secondary Education Quetta invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-24210517271 Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, it is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of EPBPA GOB. TFPA Not Required.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER. The Executive Engineer, Urban Planning & Development Department, Kalat Division invites sealed tenders based on Composite Schedule of Rates 2022, Government of Balochistan, amended up-to-date from conditions and Clauses mentioned in the Bidding Documents, for the following works:

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER Urban Planning & Dev. Department Kalat Division. PRJ No.154421-10-2024. The tender processing fee of Rs. 2,000/- each tender fee must be deposited in the government treasury under the name of account C-208719 through the Open Cheque Form at the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP). Deadline of Submission: The Bidding Documents duly filled and attached with copies of supporting documents must be delivered in sealed envelope by hand or through registered mail to the address mentioned above on or before 07/11/2024 at 12:00 P.M. Opening: The bids will be opened on 07/11/2024 at 12:00 pm, before the procurement committee in the presence of all bidders or their authorized representatives/agents. Place of location and submission will be: - Address: Office of the Executive Engineer Urban Planning & Dev. Department, Kalat Division. Telephone No. 094813967. Bid Validity Period: Ninety (90) Days. Email: eepubtds2021@gmail.com

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

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

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

"Long live democracy, long live Parliament," declared the Chief Minister, congratulating the nation on this achievement. She highlighted

that the 26th amendment is a "clear message for the people to raise their voice" and stands as a pivotal reform for ensuring justice is not only served but also seen to be done in a timely manner.

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

She praised the introduction of reforms that would open a new chapter in the judicial system, saying, "With this amendment, justice will be delivered efficiently."

Public access to justice has

been secured, and the independence of the judiciary has been enhanced, she remarked, while also welcoming the termination of the interest clause.

Maryam Nawaz expressed her confidence that these reforms would lead to a stronger, more equitable democratic system in Pakistan, ensuring justice and restoring dignity to Parliament.

The 26th Constitutional Amendment, with its wide-reaching judicial and environmental reforms, has been met with widespread support, and Maryam Nawaz believes it will serve as a foundation for future democratic growth.



SINGAPORE: Pakistan's High Commissioner, Ms. Rabia Shafiq calls on Singapore's Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan in Singapore.

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

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

The government clinched 225 votes of the required 224 with the crucial support of a handful of independent MNAs, including those backed by the PTI.

Zahoor Qureshi Aurangzeb Khichi, Usman Ali, and Mubarak Zeb were the PTI-backed independent MNAs who voted in the tweak's favour, while Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q)'s Chaudhry Ilyas also supported the legislation.

Under the judicial reforms passed during a late-night session of parliament, the chief justice of Pakistan will now be selected by a parliamentary committee and have a fixed term of three years. A new constitutional bench will also be formed.

"Those who voted [in favour of the bill] have com-

mitted treachery against the party and its founder," said Qaiser during a media talk. Emphasising that the votes cast were not in line with the party policy, Qaiser, a former speaker of the lower house, stated, "These were not their votes, they were votes for the founder of PTI."

He accused the government of ignoring parliamentary rules and procedures in pushing through the bill. "The government did not adhere to the proper rules and processes for this bill," he claimed.

The former speaker of the National Assembly further alleged that what transpired in the Parliament was unconstitutional and that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was not given proper representation in the Senate.

"What happened was unconstitutional, and there is no representation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the Senate," he added. Qaiser condemned the tactics used by the government, accusing them of "forcibly buying loyalties." "It's shameful that they think they have done something democratic or legal by forcibly buying loyalties," he remarked.

Calling for public action, he urged the nation to raise its voice against this betrayal. "I hope the nation will raise a strong voice," Qaiser said, while affirming that PTI will follow Imran's directives moving forward.

"We will continue our protest and make it even more effective," he added. Qaiser announced that PTI no longer recognises the current assembly without the mandate of the people. "This assembly does not have the public's mandate, and we do not consider its legislation valid," he asserted.

He also warned of legal action against those who showed disloyalty to the party. "There will be legal action against those who showed weakness," he said, adding that Zain Qureshi did not vote, and Shah Mahmood Qureshi is making sacrifices for the party.

Qaiser appealed to the public to boycott the dissident members, stressing that PTI would conduct a full inquiry and take action against those involved. "The party will carry out a complete inquiry, and those found guilty will face action," he concluded.

IHC summon IG Islamabad in Intizar Panjtoha missing case

ISLAMABAD, Oct 21 (INP): The Islamabad High Court summoned the Capital Police IG in personal capacity tomorrow, in the PTI's missing lawyer Intizar Hussain Panjtoha's recovery case.

Chief Justice IHC Justice Aamer Farooq asked about any progress in the case. "We have received the footage and photographs, but no more progress," lawyer Faisal Chaudhry said. "The court had summoned the Intelligence Bureau's report," the lawyer further said.

"We have contacted on the court order, two front pictures found, which have been handed

over," concerned SHO said. "You have to investigate the matter, not them," Chief Justice told the SHO.

"A car seen in footage at 2:02 hours," police officer said. "Move ahead from two minutes," Justice Aamer Farooq said.

"The cameras ahead were defective, we went to the airport but found nothing," SHO replied.

"Their request came to us, we are still looking into it," an IB officer said on the question of the court. "Do something yourself, it is none of the court's business," Justice Aamer Farooq said.

Deputy Attorney General said that the IB was not a party. "We had directed the IB, don't misstate before the court," the

bench retorted. "There must be a limit of misstatement, I will ask again, where is the I.G, he must appear in the court tomorrow," Justice Farooq said.

"I am repeatedly asking about the report. I want the report to be submitted to me today in the case file, at any cost," the court said.

"Ten days have passed, kidnapped person must be recovered and presented in the court tomorrow," Justice Aamer Farooq said. "It is the issue of a lawyer, we are in a state of torment," Riasat Ali Azad advocate said.

"Thus, the court has summoned the IG tomorrow," chief justice said.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja addressing SANOG-42 Conference.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif attending the session of the National Assembly convened to pass the 26th Constitutional Amendment.

Chinese solar technology powers lead towards green revolution

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chinese solar technology powers are leading towards green revolution, in unpopulated areas of Attock district, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday.

Investors from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province have long been purchasing low-cost uncultivated land in the unpopulated areas of Attock district, with the aim of transforming these barren fields into agricultural and livestock farms.

However, this trend has gained momentum in recent years following the introduction of affordable yet efficient Chinese solar technology in the country.

Frederick from the limitations of grid electricity, which has a sparse network in these areas, and lacking an irrigation system, farm investors are now opting for even cheaper land off roads to develop larger farms with the help of this solar technology.

Faheem, from Mardan district in KP, has purchased 2,500

kanals of inexpensive land for as little as Rs20,000 per kanal in an uninhabited hilly area along the bank of the River Indus, several kilometers away from the Injra-Kalabagh road in Jund teshil.

He has installed several solar plants to irrigate his olive saplings using a drip irrigation system.

"The land is difficult to access, but look at the size of the farm and the expected yield once these trees mature and start producing olives," Faheem told Gwadar Pro during a recent visit to his farm.

Many others have also developed various farms in the surrounding areas, powered by Chinese solar technology, while corporate agricultural investors are beginning to take notice.

A few years ago, Arshad Hussain from Swat purchased over 300 kanals of neglected land a few kilometers off the Jund-Attock road and cultivated citrus plants, irrigated by a tube well powered by Chinese solar technology.

"I intend to purchase more land here to establish an apricot orchard," he said. He also owns a buffalo farm spanning over 100 kanals in the area.

This trend has intensified further since the completion of the Hakla-D.I. Khan Motorway, part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative, which has provided convenient access for investors from KP. Several families from different districts in KP have relocated to Attock to manage their farmlands.

There are numerous stories illustrating this vigorous trend of bringing uncultivated land under cultivation with the aid of Chinese solar technology.

"The trend is so powerful that it could mitigate the negative impacts of rapid urbanization on agricultural land in Punjab," one observer noted.

The scale of cultivation of these deserted lands, made possible by Chinese solar technology, is so significant that it arguably surpasses the rate of urbanization, he added.

Will file reference against 'defectors', says Mengal

ISLAMABAD (INP) Sardar Akhtar Mengal, the head of his own faction of the Balochistan National Party (BNP-M), has announced his intention to file a reference seeking the disqualification of two senators who voted in favour of the 26th Constitution Amendment Bill, in violation of the party line.

BNP-M senators Muhammad Qasim and Naseema Ehsan had voted in support of the bill, enabling the ruling coalition to complete its tally.

BNP-M chief claims he was expelled from Senate visitors' gallery before vote.

The move appears to be

that he was expelled from the visitors' gallery and the members' lobby of the Senate by the sergeant-at-arms before the start of the voting process so that he could not meet the two party dissidents.

He said he had gone to the Senate just to have an eye contact with the two senators and in an effort to at least make them feel embarrassed, but security officials told him that he could not sit in the gallery and the lobby as per the directives of Senate Chairman Yousuf Raza Gilani.

BNP-M chief claims he was expelled from Senate visitors' gallery before vote.

The move appears to be

part of extra security measures taken by the government ahead of the crucial vote in both houses of parliament, on Sunday.

Earlier, reports suggested that unidentified men had allegedly abducted the husband and a son of Naseema Ehsan from Parliament Lodges. During the Senate session on Oct 17, when the opposition members criticised the government for alleged harassment, Ms Ehsan took the floor, but she was so disturbed that she found it difficult to narrate details and just said:

"The sanctity of chaohr and chaar diwari had been violated".



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

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

KARACHI (INP): The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) investigation unit, acting on a tip-off, has arrested three suspected terrorists from the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) involved in the killing of a police officer.

According to details, CTD's investigation unit conducted a raid in Sohrab Goth, apprehending three suspects identified as Farhad, Haji Rehman, and Sagheer.

The authorities recovered three pistols and organizational literature from their possession.

DSP CTD Investigation, Chaudhry Safdar, confirmed

that the TTP had claimed responsibility for the attack on the police.

The arrested suspects are from the Maulana Bastari group of the TTP.

During interrogation, the suspects revealed that they were recently tasked by the TTP to carry out attacks on police personnel. The recovered weapons are being sent for forensic analysis, and the investigation is ongoing, with further significant revelations expected.

It is worth noting that on June 3, 2024, unknown assailants attacked a police post near Jamali Pull in Sohrab

Goth. The police officers were stationed there for the security of citizens heading to the cattle market. The attack resulted in the martyrdom of officer Yasir, while another officer, Salman Abbas, was injured.

Earlier in July, the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) anti-terrorism financing unit arrested two terrorists in Karachi for funding TTP. The CTD carried out an operation in Karachi's Janjal Goth area, resulting in the arrest of two terrorists affiliated with the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) Hafiz Gul Bahadur group.