

QUETTA VOICE

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A meeting of the newly appointed Special Parliamentary Committee to deliberate the next chief justice of Pakistan on Tuesday.

Interim order upheld to prevent illegal increases in Sui gas bills

NEWS DESK: The Sindh High Court has upheld an interim order to prevent the Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) from taking illegal actions against consumers regarding increases in gas bills and meter charges.

A two-member bench led by Chief Justice Muhammad Shafiq Siddiqui heard the petition against the rise in gas bills and the collection of meter charges. Advocate Tariq Mansoor argued that the SSGC had altered gas bills and attempted to categorize consumers into different slabs, dividing them into protected and non-protected categories.

He contended that the SSGC had illegally fixed a meter rent at Rs460, which is to be charged for the winter months and applied to other months of the year. Charging each consumer an additional Rs460 is unjust, as over Rs11 billion have been collected from Karachi alone.

The court upheld the interim order against illegal actions by the SSGC towards consumers. The court remarked that after amendments, a constitutional bench would examine the matter further. The hearing was adjourned for three weeks.

'We reject the constitutional amendment and will block the country in protest': Gandapur

NEWS DESK: Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur stated that they do not recognize the constitutional amendment and will block the entire country in protest. Speaking to the media in Peshawar, he said, "We reject the constitutional amendment and will protest against it. We will develop a major plan for a final protest and will demonstrate nationwide."

During the protests, those who face obstacles will continue their demonstrations there because overcoming those obstacles is not possible for everyone.

He added, "We will call for protests and block the whole of Pakistan, with people joining from across the country. We will have a meeting with Inran Khan regarding this and will move towards Islamabad. Anyone who cannot join the protest due to obstacles will still be part of it. We will not stop protesting until we are free from this government."

Committee meeting to nominate next CJP put off for tonight as SIC skips proceedings

NEWS DESK: A meeting of the newly appointed Special Parliamentary Committee (SPC) to nominate the next chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) from among the three most senior Supreme Court judges has been delayed for later tonight after members associated with the PTI-Sunnitahad Council (SIC) skipped proceedings. CJP Qazi Faez Isa is set to retire as the top judge on October 25. Senior justice judge Justice Mansoor Ali Shah was previously set to be the next CJP under the seniority principle.

However, the newly enacted 6th Constitutional Amendment has brought numerous changes pertaining to the judiciary, among which is the process of appointing the CJP. Under amendments to clause 3 of Article 175A, instead of the president appointing the "most senior judge of the Supreme Court" as the CJP, the top judge will now be "appointed on the recommendation of the Special Parliamentary Committee from amongst the

three most senior" SC judges. After Justice Shah, the next two senior apex court judges are Justices Muneer Akhtar and Yahya Afandi. Under a new clause 3C of Article 175A, the first nomination after the Amendment was in force is to be sent "within three days prior to the retirement" of the outgoing CJP. This sets the deadline for the SPC to send its nomination by tonight, as Justice Isa is to retire on October 25.

The SPC, which was formed a day ago by National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, comprises eight MNAs and four senators nominated by their respective parliamentary leaders. Political parties have representation in the committee based on their strength in the parliament. The committee comprises PML-N's Khawaja Asif, Ahsan Iqbal, Shaista Pervez Malik and Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, PPP's Raja Pervez Ashraf, Nawaz Qamar and Senator Farooq H.

Naek, Sunni Ittehad Council's Hamid Raza, PTI-affiliated MNA Gohar Khan and Senator Ali Zafar, Muttahida Quami Movement-Pakistan MNA Rana Ansar, and Jamiat Ulama-Islam-Fazl's Senator Kamran Murtaza. According to a notification issued by the NA secretariat, the in-camera meeting of the special committee was scheduled for 4pm.

Arriving for the meeting, Ashraf went inside without answering questions of reporters while Senator Murtaza said he had not yet received the names of the judges. Meanwhile, Iqbal hoped that the next CJP's name would be finalised today, adding that there was no "predecided" name and it would be discussed in the committee meeting. Earlier, in a post on X, he quoted Greek philosopher Socrates to say: "Four things belong to a judge: to listen courteously, to answer wisely, to consider soberly and to decide impartially."

Implementation of reserved seats verdict not binding, CJP Isa says in detailed note

NEWS DESK: Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa on Tuesday said that the implementation of the Supreme Court's July 12 verdict in the reserved seats case was not binding since the appeals against it were not decided. In its July 12 short order, the Supreme Court had explained that the 41 returned candidates—of the total of 80 MNAs—were and are the returned candidates of the PTI and thus members of its Parliamentary Party in the National Assembly for all constitutional and legal purposes. The decision was appealed by the PML-N, PPP and Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

The appeals are still pending and have not been fixed for hearing. Through its first clarification issued on Sept 14—the day when the government was supposed to lay the constitutional packages in both houses of parliament, but could not do so—the apex court had reprimanded the ECP for not implementing the July 12 judgement in the reserved seats case. Last week, the Supreme Court reiterated that the amendments made in the Elections Act 2017 could not undo its July 12 judgement. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, who led an eight-judge majority in the 13-member full court, explained that amendments made in the Act through the Elections (Second



Amendment) Act, 2024 after the release of the July 12 short order "will have no bearing and therefore the ECP was bound to implement the judgement passed by the Supreme Court, in its letter and spirit, without seeking any further clarification". This was the second clarification that came from the bench following the first that sparked a minor controversy when CJP Isa asked how it could have been issued when the matter was not on any cause list. This time around as well, the top judge took exception over the issuance of the clarification and summoned an explanation from the respective officers of the court. In his detailed minority verdict is-

sued today on the July 12 hearing, CJP Isa observed, "In constitutional cases too a judgment can be executed, provided it is finally and conclusively decided. The majority's short order did not conclude the appeals. "The well-trodden legal path was abandoned by the majority which created unnecessary and avoidable problems. Since the appeals were not finally decided there was no decision which could be stated to be binding, in terms of Article 189 of the Constitution. Similarly, contempt of court proceedings for any non-compliance of the 'order of the court', under Article 204 of the Constitution, cannot be initiated.

Safa Quetta: Transforming Waste Management with Determination and Hope

Dr. Faisal Ahmed Khan:

QUETTA: Like many cities in Pakistan, has long struggled with ineffective solid waste management. While outsourcing waste management services has proven successful globally—seen in cities like New York, London, and Hyderabad—its implementation in Quetta has faced severe resistance from entrenched beneficiaries of the flawed system.

The Quetta Municipal Corporation (MCQ) has been plagued by inefficiencies, including ghost employees and mysterious equipment inventories. Despite having over 1,600 daily wagers on its payroll, only about 400 were active, with many ghost workers benefiting from corrupt elements within the system.

In 2023, key government departments decided to tackle this issue through the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, ultimately selecting a consortium

of private companies, including Ghulam Hussain & Sons Pvt Ltd, Clean Universe Eco Pvt Ltd, and Quetta Waste Management Company Pvt Ltd, to lead the city's waste management. The initiative officially launched on August 14th in Satellite Town, a particularly challenging area of Quetta. Despite numerous physical and social obstacles, the project has made significant strides in waste collection and drain desilting, winning the support of local residents. Under this PPP model, the government will pay up to PKR 900 million annually, a much lower cost compared to MCQ's previous PKR 2 billion expenditure. The project will be citywide by the end of December 2024. While resistance from the old system continues, Safa Quetta stands as a symbol of hope and resilience, with a firm commitment to transforming the city's waste management.



BNP Senator Resigns After Defying Party Policy Over Constitutional Amendment

Dawood Ahmed:

ISLAMABAD: Senator from the Balochistan National Party (BNP) has officially tendered his resignation after voting in favor of a recent constitutional amendment, defying the party's stance. The senator, along with another BNP lawmaker, had supported the amendment adopted by both houses of Parliament the previous day. BNP chief Sardar Akhtar Mengal had issued a stern directive to Senators Qasim Ronjho and Naseema Ehsan Shah, urging them to step down or face legal consequences for violating the party's policy. While one senator has resigned, the fate of the other remains unclear as BNP leadership deliberates their next steps. Sajid Tareen, a key leader of BNP,



confirmed that an important meeting was currently underway, where a final decision regarding the issue would be made. The party is expected to release an official statement soon.

Federal cabinet approves key bills while hajj policy delayed again

NEWS DESK: Pakistan's federal cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, approved eight key agenda items in a meeting at the Prime Minister's House on Tuesday.

However, the approval of the Hajj Policy 2025 was postponed once again due to the absence of Federal Minister for Religious Affairs, Chandray Saik. One of the major approvals was for the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill 2024, which was sent to the Cabinet Committee for Legislative Cases.

The bill, limited to the Islamabad Capital Territory, aims to establish an institutional framework for the prevention of domestic violence.

"The bill will not only help in curbing domestic violence" but also provide relief to victims and ensure appropriate punishment for offenders," the cabinet was informed. In another decision, the cabinet approved the appointments of private members. Lt Gen (ret'd) Moazzam Ijaz, Engineer Faez Ahmad, and Asim Shehryar Hussain, to the Board of Man-

agement of the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission, based on recommendations from the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training.

The cabinet also designated the Ministry of Law and Justice as the Transmitting and Receiving Agency under the Claims for Maintenance (Recovery Abroad) Ordinance 1959, following the Ministry's recommendations.

This move is tied to Pakistan's accession to the 1956 Convention on the Recovery Abroad, to which the country joined in 1959. Further approvals included appointments to the National Council for Tibb's examining body, with Dr. Shahid Arshad as Chairperson. Other members include Dr. Rizwan Asif and Dr. Attaullah, among others. Additionally, the Pharmacy Council of Pakistan was re-structured.

Expressing concern over the rising number of polio cases, Prime Minister Sharif demanded a detailed report and directed the formation of an emergency plan to tackle the issue.

Balochistan's Youth Empowered: 30,000 to Gain Global Job Opportunities

Polio Crisis in Balochistan: A Failure of Campaigns, Vaccine Refusals, and Poor Management

PM Shehbaz orders immediate aid to Palestine, Lebanon

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EDITORIAL

Editor: Asim Khan

Polio Crisis in Balochistan: A Failure of Campaigns, Vaccine Refusals, and Poor Management

Editorial:

The alarming surge in polio cases in Balochistan continues to expose the failures of the ongoing eradication campaigns. With three new cases, the provincial total has now reached 20, and the national tally stands at 37, underscoring the dire need for urgent action.

Despite millions poured into vaccination efforts, the virus remains a persistent threat, especially in remote and underserved areas.

The failure to contain the virus highlights a deep-rooted issue: chronic vaccine refusals and ineffective management of the polio campaigns.

For years, health officials and organizations like the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF have launched numerous drives, but their impact remains minimal.

One major hurdle is the lack of access to high-risk areas, where families refuse the vaccine due to misinformation, mistrust, or cultural resistance.

Beyond logistical challenges, the absence of political and social ownership further weakens the campaign.

Without the backing of influential leaders, community buy-in is minimal, leaving the burden on health workers who often face resistance.

The failure of local authorities to engage and mobilize communities is a critical factor contributing to the rising cases.

To truly overcome this crisis, a shift toward indigenous solutions is essential. The authorities must trust and engage local staff members who understand the cultural and social dynamics of their communities.

Policies imposed from Islamabad often fail to address the specific challenges faced in Balochistan.

Instead, local leaders—political, religious, and social—should be brought on board to help reshape the strategy, build trust, and engage communities in the fight against polio.

By embracing an approach rooted in local ownership and tailored to the province's needs, Balochistan can make meaningful progress in eradicating the virus. Without swift action, Balochistan's battle against polio will continue to stall, putting more young lives at risk. The virus is not just a health issue but a reflection of systemic failures that need to be addressed to protect future generations.

Leviathan that we need

By Dr Muhammad Ali Ehsan:

It is very disheartening to see the disruption of civil society in Pakistan. A great number of people, including students and lawyers are out on streets protesting. In fact, protests on authority and streets have become a new societal norm and we as a society need to find a more dignified and statesmanly way to address our issues. Focused on the appalling conditions and circumstances and desperately trying to overcome them and survive, our society is losing its exuberance, excitement, liveliness, all leading to loss of much important and critical enthusiasm at the national level. Can we continue to afford this state of affairs?

What can be done to create the essential social awareness which, in the absence of positive feelings of energetic interests, the society will not be able to balance against and shackle the state?

The best way to by shackle a state is by practising and proliferating societal norms and street protests and demonstrations, especially when they turn violent, are the worst of the norms.

If state is like a hospital and its citizens like its patients then the hospital needs to make sure that the patients are not turned away and exposed to live under a

Hobbesian environment in which life is solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short.

Thomas Hobbes taught this great lesson to the world that without great powers vested in a despotic authority all attempts to create any kind of order in the society would go in vain.

In fact, protests on authority and streets have become a new societal norm and we as a society need to find a more dignified and statesmanly way to address our issues. Focused on the appalling conditions and circumstances and desperately trying to overcome them and survive, our society is losing its exuberance, excitement, liveliness, all leading to loss of much important and critical enthusiasm at the national level.

What is very disheartening to see the disruption of civil society in Pakistan. A great number of people, including students and lawyers are out on streets protesting. In fact, protests on roads and streets have become a new societal norm and we as a society need to find a more dignified and statesmanly way to address our issues. Focused on the appalling conditions and circumstances and desperately trying to overcome them and survive, our society is losing its exuberance, excitement, liveliness, all leading to loss of much important and critical enthusiasm at the national level.

The leviathans that we need are most popular in their similarity with Hobbes Sea Monster and what they ended up creating and achieving—despotism and despotic states. All the states of the developed world also have their respective leviathans but they have been shackled by their societies and the institutions within them.

The leviathans that we need exist in these states, but despite being very powerful they are not the ultimate masters.

The master in these states is the rule of law which all leviathans bow before and respect. West has created mighty states with considerable authority by the societies are overall governed by justice, fair play and rule of law.

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Let me tell you why. By the time you read these lines, either the service, or the 'consensus' (with the JUI-F and some smaller players) would have reached its end. These are people who will soon result in a constitutional amendment, clipping the wings of the

judiciary, or, what Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari called the "brutal majority" would have manifested itself with the same result. You'd agree such statements have no 'beauty' about them.

There is always the third possibility that attempts to break the impasse would have failed, stripping the hybrid buffer and pitting the establishment and at least eight judges of the Supreme Court against each other in direct confrontation. How things spin away from such an eventuality is difficult to plot. If the amendment is passed, the hybrid government will think it's safe from any threats to its existence, at least in the short term.

While the government has continued to say it has the numbers (whatever the factual position) to pass the amendment but wishes to reach a consensus in order to further the democratic cause, those they have tried to engage with have had their backs to the wall and entered into a dialogue.

For example, the PML-N game plan seems to be to 'consensus' somehow push the clock until the date changes to Oct 26, so that when the justices can take over and a new dynamic is triggered which, they hope, will eventually lead to the

professionalisation and development of provincial civil services in Pakistan. Despite constitutional guarantees of provincial autonomy, especially regarding the 18th Amendment, the practice of appointing central bureaucrats to provincial positions has perpetuated a mindset more akin to ruling rather than serving, hampering the evolution of vibrant, effective provincial administrations.

The chief secretaries appointed by the federal government often prioritise perks and privileges, favour central government employees over local talent, and resist the implementation of sustainable reforms that could enhance service delivery and governance at local levels.

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Balochistan's Youth Empowered: 30,000 to Gain Global Job Opportunities

Manzoor Ahmed Magsi :

Balochistan is taking a bold step to combat unemployment with the launch of its Youth Skills Development and Overseas Employment Program.

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti deserves appreciation for translating his words into action.

Aimed at equipping 30,000 young people with practical skills, this initiative opens doors for overseas job opportunities, marking a critical move in addressing the province's high unemployment rates.

With limited local job prospects, Balochistan has long struggled to provide adequate employment for its growing youth population.

The program focuses on trades such as Information Technology, healthcare, hospitality, and electrical work,

preparing participants for international markets, including Europe and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations like Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Bahrain.

A key aspect of the program is its merit-based selection process, ensuring equal representation from all districts in



In the first phase, over 2,300 young individuals will be sent abroad by November, with work permits allowing them to gain valuable international experience.

This not only benefits the participants but also bolsters the province's economy through increased foreign remittances.

The writer is a former press secretary to chief minister Balochistan and currently serves as the assistant director in the Balochistan Information Department

What sets this program apart is the government's commitment to covering all costs, including training, visas, and job placements.

This ensures that financial barriers do not prevent talented individuals from seizing these opportunities.

By focusing on skill-building and international employment, Balochistan's Youth Skills Development and Overseas Employment Program has the potential to uplift thousands of young people.

With strong implications, this initiative can transform the province's economic landscape, reduce poverty, and create long-term prosperity.

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Will order follow chaos?

By Abbas Nasir:

The chaos of the past several weeks, triggered by the fast-approaching retirement date of the chief justice of Pakistan on Oct 25 and concerns that his successor may take decisions signalling the beginning of the end of the hybrid government, looks like it may have peaked.

Whether these concerns are valid or whether it is the paranoia of a set-up that lacks mass support, legitimacy and credibility, due to an election where the overall result may not have reflected the will of those who voted, is difficult to say.

What is clear is that there would be few examples of a country amending its constitution to address such concerns pinned to an inability to predict the behaviour or actions of just over half a dozen men and a woman.

Many government politicians have described the current situation of the past weeks as the 'beauty of democracy'. I humbly disagree.

Let me tell you why. By the time you read these lines, either the service, or the 'consensus' (with the JUI-F and some smaller players) would have reached its end. These are people who will soon result in a constitutional amendment, clipping the wings of the

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PTI's Azam Swati granted bail in protest-related terrorism case

ISLAMABAD (INP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Islamabad granted bail to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Azam Swati in a case filed under terrorism provisions.

Hasnat Muhammad Zulkarnain presided over the case and approved Swati's post-arrest bail against surety bonds of Rs200,000.



QUETTA: Provincial Assembly Speaker Abdul Khaliq Achakzai and Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar are having a meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti.

Leach comes back stronger for England after feeling the love

LONDON (INP): Jack Leach believes that he was dropped by England during his home summer but he is now back in love with cricket, aided by an unexpected phone call from Ben Stokes in the aftermath of a Test win.

Trent Bridge, and was preferred throughout the rest of the summer. But when England returned to their Nottingham hotel after that win, Stokes called Leach to tell him that Bashir's success did not mean he had been forgotten.

Putin hosts BRICS summit in Russia under shadow of Ukraine war

KAZAN (INP): Russia wants the BRICS summit to showcase the rising clout of the non-Western world, but Moscow's partners from China, India, Brazil and the Arab world are urging President Vladimir Putin to find a way to end the war in Ukraine.

Now the BRICS group accounts for 45% of the world's population and 35% of its economy, based on purchasing power parity, though China accounts for over half of its economic might.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER. The Executive Engineer Urban Planning & Development Department, Kalid Division invites sealed tenders based on Composite Schedule of Rates 2022, Government of Balochistan, presented up to date from interested Contractors / Firm who have the renewal for the year 2024-25, for the following works:



QUETTA: Provincial Assembly Speaker Abdul Khaliq Achakzai and Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar are having a meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti.

Selectors in Rawalpindi to oversee pitch preparation for third England Test

RAWALPINDI (INP): Members of the national selection committee Aaqib Javed, Aleem Dar, Asad Shafiq and Azhar Ali are camped in Rawalpindi to oversee the preparation of the pitch for Pakistan's third and final Test against England, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported.

They (ground staff) are using large fans, heaters and black cloth to soak the moisture in the surface and keep it as dry as possible so that the cracks open up quickly under the sun in the match, PTI reported.

International Cricket Council (ICC) plans major changes to revive Test, ODI cricket

DUBAI (INP): The International Cricket Council (ICC) is set to introduce significant changes to promote Test and One-Day International (ODI) cricket.

The ICC's cricket committee proposed several changes during meetings in Dubai. "Some countries like South Africa, New Zealand, and Sri Lanka mostly play just two-Test series, Only India, England, and Australia play long into the stadiums. Recently, one saw very poor turnouts in Pakistan."

Multiple columns of PUBLIC NOTICE text, including notices for the issuance of Letters of Administration, Succession Certificates, and various legal notices.

Prime Minister (PM) seeks report on growing number of polio cases

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday sought a report on the growing number of polio cases in the country and directed the authorities concerned to immediately formulate a comprehensive strategy on the matter.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting of the federal cabinet, expressed his concern over the surge in polio cases and called a meeting to discuss the situation.

Discussing the 26th Constitutional Amendment Bill recently passed by the parliament, the prime minister said the legislation was inevitable for judicial reforms and improvement of judicial system.

Expressing his gratitude to the political parties and leadership for their support, he said the amendment was also the accomplishment of the vision of Charter of Democracy, signed in 2006.

The prime minister also thanked for the successful holding of the 23rd meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government and appreciated the performance of the departments involved.

Discussing the agenda items, the federal cabinet referred the Domestic Violence (Preventing and Protection) Bill 2024 to Cabinet Committee on Legislative Cases. The bill will provide for an institutional framework to curb do-

mestic violence.

The cabinet was informed that the proposed legislation will help punish the perpetrators of domestic violence and ensure relief to the victims.

On the recommendation of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, the cabinet approved the appointment of Lt. General (ret'd) Muzammil Jaz, Engineer Fahim Iqbal and Asim Shahyari in National Vocational and Technical Training Commission board as private members.

The body approved the law ministry as a transmitting and receiving agency of applications under the Claims for Maintenance (Recovery Abroad) 1959.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan in a meeting with representatives of National Press Club.

APHC honors Bijbehara martyrs, reaffirms commitment to Kashmir cause

SRINAGAR (INP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has paid heartfelt tributes to the Bijbehara martyrs on the anniversary of their sacrifice, reiterating the Kashmiris' determination to pursue their inalienable right to self-determination as outlined in UN resolutions.

According to Kashmir Media Service, on October 22, 1993, over 50 innocent Kashmiris were killed in the Bijbehara area of Islamabad district when Indian Border Security Force personnel opened fire on peaceful protesters opposing the military siege of Srinagar's Hazratbal shrine.

In a statement issued in Srinagar, APHC spokesman Abdul Kashid Minhas called for an impartial investigation into the Bijbehara massacre and similar atrocities committed by Indian forces in occupied Kashmir.

He emphasized that ongoing violence and suffering will persist until the perpetrators are held accountable and the Kashmir dispute is resolved in accordance with international mandates.

Minhas urged the people of India to take action toward resolving the Kashmir issue in line with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

He condemned the severe human rights violations perpetrated by Indian troops and the oppressive policies of the BJP-led government.

Reflecting on the Indian invasion of Jammu and Kashmir in 1947,

he characterized it as a dark chapter in India's colonial history, urging people to observe October 27 as Black Day.

Minhas called on the UN to recognize India's state terrorism in IOJK to take action toward resolving the Kashmir issue in line with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

Shahid Khaqan critiques constitutional amendment impacting judiciary

ISLAMABAD (INP): Awam Pakistan Party chief Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has voiced strong objections to the recent constitutional amendment that he claims limits the powers of the Supreme Court and alters the process for appointing judges.

Speaking to a private TV Channel, Abbasi criticized the government for not consulting the public before implementing the amendment, suggesting that the rushed approval process lacked transparency and accountability.

Abbasi pointed out that his party was not involved in the amendment process, emphasizing the speed at which the legislation was introduced and enacted—within just 12 hours, including the issuance of a gazette notification.

"I have never seen such speed," he remarked, underscoring his concern that the amendment primarily serves to concentrate power rather than address the needs of the

people.

He raised critical questions about the future of the judiciary, asking who would be recognized as the Chief Justice after the amendment.

Abbasi indicated that the proposed changes could create a "nominal judge" role, undermining the court's authority.

While acknowledging the government's concern over the increasing power of Supreme Court registries, which he believes could significantly influence case management and appointments.

Abbasi urged the Form 47 government to involve the public in discussions regarding the amendment, stating that it fails to represent the people's interests.

He warned that the new judicial framework could lead to more complications for citizens seeking justice.

In his remarks, Abbasi highlighted the need for transparency in the judicial appointment process, asserting that it

should be conducted publicly rather than behind closed doors.

He praised Maulana Fazlur Rehman, claiming he is one of the last remaining democrats in the country, for standing against what Abbasi described as a potential crisis brought on by the amendment.

While acknowledging the political turmoil in the country, Abbasi criticized the opposition for not engaging in a meaningful discussion about the constitutional amendment in the assembly.

"You can attack the capital or hold gatherings, but you cannot talk about the amendment," he said, reiterating the importance of democratic discourse.

As the political landscape continues to shift, Abbasi's concerns reflect a broader anxiety over judicial independence and the implications of recent legislative changes on Pakistan's democracy.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication, Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja in a meeting with Pakistan Ambassador to Germany Ms. Saqlain Syedah.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on relief activities for Gaza and Lebanon.

PM Shehbaz orders immediate aid to Palestine, Lebanon

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed the authorities concerned to immediately dispatch two plane-loads of relief goods to Gaza

and Lebanon, and called for using both land and aerial routes for the aid supply.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting to review the relief activities for Palestine and Lebanon at PM House in Islamabad on Tuesday, asked for improving coordination with Pakistan's ambassadors in Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt to ensure a better supply of relief goods.

Stressing for an accelerated pace of relief aid, he called for ensuring that the relief goods reached the deserving people.

Prime Minister Shehbaz reiterated his appeal to the countrymen and the expatriates

to donate generously to the PM Fund Fund for Gaza.

He also instructed the relevant authorities to run an awareness drive to acquaint the people with the Relief Fund established by the government.

In the briefing on the relief activities, the prime minister was told that relief goods including winter tents, clothes, blankets, medicines and cables were being dispatched for the people suffering the Israeli barbarism in Gaza and Lebanon. It was told that the Israeli attacks and siege were impeding the supply of relief goods to the affected areas.

The meeting was told that the government would also facilitate the NGOs desiring to send relief aid to Gaza and Lebanon.

Federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Ahsan Khan Cheema, and Attaullah Tarar, Minister of

State Shiza Fatima Khawaja, Special Assistant to PM Tariq Fatemi, chairman of the Higher Education Commission, and National Disaster Management Authority and senior officers attended the meeting.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday lauded the officers and personnel of the Pakistan Navy for foiling an attempt to smuggle a huge quantity of Indian-made narcotics pills and drugs.

The prime minister, in a statement, said that the Pakistan Navy was not only safeguarding the maritime boundaries of Pakistan but also playing an effective role in curbing illegal activities in the region.

The whole nation, including me, feels proud of the Pakistan Navy's officers and personnel deployed to safeguard the country's maritime boundaries.

Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU) hosts 10th International Conference on "Bioethics"

ISLAMABAD (INP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU) hosted a two-day 10th International Conference on "Bioethics: Challenges and Opportunities".

Addressing the inaugural session of the conference, the speakers emphasized the need for joint efforts for human welfare and stated that to overcome the challenges in bio-ethics, we need to seek guidance from universal principles.

The conference was organized by the Department of Islamic Thought, History, and Culture in collaboration with the National Bioethics Committee (NBC), National Institute of Health (NIH) Islamabad, and the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Vice Chancellor AIU stated that all civilizations and values in the world are for humanity,

and nothing is greater than the dignity of humanity.

He said that the technology, which is growing rapidly, can only be effectively addressed through Ijtihad (independent reasoning).

We have acquired knowledge without ethics, but knowledge without ethics will not serve the welfare of society.

This conference will produce positive outcomes for shaping the future, helping guide the younger generation.

Professor Farhat Moazzam, Chairperson of the Center for Biomedical Ethics and Culture at SIUT, Karachi, said in her address that whether it is medical ethics, the etiquette of medicine, or research ethics, all are fundamentally for the welfare of the public.

She stressed the need for effectively teaching medical ethics in Pakistan's medical institutions so that humanity can

be served in a better way.

Professor Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Khan, Vice Chancellor Shaifa Tameer-e-Millat University, Islamabad, was the keynote speaker, while Dr. Muhammad Salman, CEO of the National Institute of Health, explained the objectives and goals of the conference.

Professor Dr. Shah Mohayyuddin Hashmi, Dean of the Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies,

presented the opening remarks and informed the participants about the various topics of the conference.

He said that the purpose of the conference is to provide a multidisciplinary platform for professionals, researchers, policy makers, and those engaged in the field to engage in comprehensive discussions on the ethical, legal, and social aspects of modern studies, innovations, and new developments in medicine and biology.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam addressing as chief guest at the 17th Annual Rural Women Leadership Training Conference at Lok Virsa.

At least 10 injured as gunmen open fire on passenger bus in Bannu

BANNU (INP): A passenger coach traveling from Islamabad to Bannu came under attack by robbers near Dara Tang early on Tuesday morning.

According to police, the incident occurred around 3am when armed men attempted to stop the coach. When the driver refused to halt, the assailants opened fire on the vehicle.

Ten passengers sustained injuries in the shooting and were promptly transported to a local hospital in Lakki Marwat for treatment.

Authorities have confirmed that an investigation into

the incident is underway.

Earlier this month, a shooting incident occurred on the Indus Highway near Naper Kot when armed robbers opened fire on a passenger coach.

Police reported that the attack resulted in the death of one passenger and injuries to three others.

The deceased passenger's body and the injured were transported to Khanpur Hospital for treatment. The passenger coach was en route from Karachi to Kashmir at the time of the attack.

Following the incident, passengers protested on the Indus

Highway, causing traffic disruptions as the gunmen fled towards the rural areas.

Meanwhile, on October 10, a traffic accident near Bolari on the M-9 Motorway claimed the lives of three people, according to the Motorway Police spokesperson.

The accident occurred when a car traveling from Hyderabad to Karachi lost control after a tire blew out. The car crashed into a crash barrier and overturned.

Subsequently, the vehicle caught fire, and two women and one man inside were burnt to death, as confirmed by authorities.