

DAILY MIRROR

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JCP approves 7-member constitutional bench with representation from all four provinces

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) on Tuesday constituted a seven-member constitutional bench in its first meeting at the Supreme Court of Pakistan in light of the 26th Amendment approved by parliament last month.

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi called the meeting last week after National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq sent the parliamentary nominations for the JCP following consultations with the Senate chairman and parliamentary leaders.

The 26th Amendment envisaged the formation of constitutional benches in the apex court to take up cases requiring interpretation of the Constitution.

Earlier, the committee consisted of five SC judges (including the CJP as its chairman), the attorney general for Pakistan, the federal law minister, a former chief justice

and a senior advocate nominated by the Pakistan Bar Council.

According to a press release issued, the first meeting for the revamped JCP convened today in Islamabad, chaired by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Yahya Afridi. The meeting was attended by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Aminuddin Khan, Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar, Attorney General for Pakistan Mansoor Usman Awan, Senator Farooq Hamid Naek, Senator Syed Shibli Faraz, Member of the National Assembly Sheikh Aftab Ahmad, MNA Omar Ayub Khan and Roshan Khurshid Bharucha.

The chairman welcomed the participants and congratulated them on their nomination for the JCP. "At the outset, Leader of Opposition in the National Assembly Omar Ayub objected to the quorum of the commission, highlighting the absence of one member," the press release said.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing a ceremony to mark the ground-breaking for construction of Jinnah Avenue-9th Avenue intersection and underpass at Serena & Convention Centre Chowk, in the Federal Capital.

Policy rate reduction a debt relief, pleasing move for economy: PM

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday lauding the policy rate reduction by the State Bank of Pakistan to 15%, said that the government's economic stability measures were coming to fruition.

The prime minister, in his opening remarks, while chairing the meeting of the federal cabinet, said a further two percent reduction of the policy rate was a pleasing development for business, agriculture, exports, and commerce sectors.

He said SBP had gradually reduced the policy rate from 22% to 15%, encouraging people to invest their money in the economy to create jobs, enhance production, and exports.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that the policy rate reduction would decrease the debt burden by Rs1.3 trillion providing huge relief and creating a great fiscal space for the country.

He expressed the hope that the country's economy would strengthen if the indicators continued to move positively.

The prime minister told the cabinet members that in a follow-up of his recent visit to Saudi Arabia, a Pakistani delegation had left for the Kingdom to discuss cooperation in mining and minerals, solar energy and skilled IT workforce which was required by both Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

He asked the IT ministry to give a presentation to explain their strategy to produce IT workforce of international standard to make them cope with the requirements of both the countries.

Calling for swift action on B2B MoUs with Saudi Arabia, the prime minister said the Azerbaijan government had also given a green signal for the signing of \$2 billion MoUs to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

"These are good signals. How we take advantage of these is up to us," he remarked.

The prime minister hinted at announcing a power relief package for the winter season and emphasised facilitating the businessmen to boost their morale.

Trump says 'confident' he will win, election 'won't even be close'



By Khawaja Farooq

"I feel very confident," Trump said. "I hear we're doing very well everywhere."

He added that this was the "best" of the three campaigns he ran.

"It won't even be close," Trump said. "But it's gonna take a long time to certify."

Trump continued to complain about how long it would take to tally up the results given that "they spent all this money on machines," citing the French election as an example of a quick election.

Former US president Donald Trump has suggested that he will "be the first one to acknowledge" the election results given that "it's a fair election", though what meets that definition wasn't clear, AP reports.

Speaking to reporters after voting in Florida, Trump said that he had no plans to tell his supporters to refrain from violence should he lose.

"I don't have to tell them," because they "are not violent people," he said.

Trump planned to visit a nearby campaign office to thank those working on his behalf.

WASHINGTON: The former US president Donald Trump has cast his ballot in Florida after he arrived at the voting precinct in Palm Beach with his wife, Melania Trump.

Speaking to the press after casting his ballot, Trump said he is "very confident" he will win the election and that "it won't even be close," while expressing frustration that it may take a while to call the results.

Federal cabinet approves Hajj Policy 2025

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet has approved the Hajj Policy 2025.

The cabinet, which met in Islamabad today with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in the chair, was informed that Pakistan's Hajj quota for the upcoming pilgrimage will be 179, 210. It will be divided between the government and the private sector in a 50:50 ratio. Under the Hajj Policy, children under 12 years of age will not be allowed to travel for Hajj this year. A computerized balloting will be conducted for the government quota. One thousand seats will be reserved for hardship cases, and 300 seats will be designated for workers or low-income employees registered with the Workers Welfare Fund or the Employees Old-Age Benefits Institution.

It was apprised that the 'Road to Makkah' facility will be available at Islamabad and

Karachi airports. Hajj group organizers will sign service provider agreements with the Ministry of Religious Affairs and their service delivery will be closely monitored.

The cabinet was informed that a new provision of 'Nazim' has been introduced to oversee the provision of better facilities to the pilgrims. One Nazim will be appointed for every 100 pilgrims and these Nazims will be selected from the welfare staff.

The meeting was further apprised that compensation for the deceased and injured pilgrims during Hajj has been increased. The families of deceased pilgrims will receive a compensation of one million to two million rupees, while injured pilgrims will be given one million rupees.

It was told that a special Hajj management application has been developed for the convenience of pilgrims and special arrangements have been made for their training.



QUETTA: CM Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti in a meeting with Member Provincial Assembly Engir. Zamruk Khan Achakzai.

Pakistan's polio tally reaches 46 with latest case in Balochistan

NEWS DESK

QUETTA: Pakistan has confirmed its 46th case of wild poliovirus (WPV1) in 2024, with the latest case detected in a male child from the Killa Saifullah district of Balochistan.

The detection was confirmed by the Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health on 4 November. This marks the second reported polio case from Killa Saifullah, where environmental samples had previously tested positive for the virus. To date, Balochistan has been the most affected province, with 23 cases reported. Other provinces have also seen a rise in cases, including 12 in Sindh, 9 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), and one each in Punjab and Islamabad.

The continuing spread of the virus across 76 districts indicates the widespread circulation of WPV1, posing a serious and ongoing risk to children's health. The genetic sequencing of the sample collected from the child is currently underway.

Balochistan's challenges in combating polio have been particularly severe this year, with several vaccination campaigns disrupted by localized protests and security concerns.

AIIB vows to support Pakistan in meeting its development goals

APP

ISLAMABAD: Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has reiterated the commitment to supporting Pakistan in meeting its development goals and overcoming climate-related challenges through policy and budgetary support.

This was conveyed by a delegation of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) led by Vice President Client Region and Project Finance Global Konstantin Limitovskiy during a meeting with Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb in Islamabad today.

The AIIB team said they view Pakistan as an important partner

country. The AIIB team briefed the Minister about the Bank's portfolio investment in Pakistan, including projects initiated in the hydro power generation,

building road and transport sector, urban infrastructure development,

building climate resilience and dealing with adverse impacts of pandemics, conflicts and climate-induced flood disasters.

Muhammad Aurangzeb acknowledged the Bank's support for Pakistan, particularly its funding and technical assistance in dealing with natural disasters and the impacts of climate change and disaster preparedness on a long-term basis.

PM breaks ground for two Rs 8bln interchanges; vows to make Islamabad tourism model

INP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday laid the foundation stones for two road-interchanges projects at Jinnah Avenue-Ninth Avenue and Serena-Convention Center intersections to ease traffic congestion on the main arteries of the federal capital.

The prime minister, who unveiled the plaques for both mega road projects valued over Rs 8 billion, emphasized the swift completion of the work and believed that the projects would usher in an era of progress and prosperity for the residents of Islamabad and its suburbs.

Addressing the ceremony, the

prime minister said what was initially planned to be completed in six months will now be completed in just 100 days. The Serena Chowk project will be finalized in 60 days.

He also extended his felicitations to Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi for his leadership in executing key projects. A detailed briefing on the plans was given to the prime minister by Chief Commissioner Islamabad Muhammad Ali Randhawa, who outlined the designs and expected benefits of the projects for local residents and commuters. "Interior Minister, Mohsin Naqvi has maintained his exemplary record of Punjab and has shown great commitment.

PNS Zulfiqar visits Djibouti on regional maritime security patrol

APP

KARACHI: Pakistan Navy Ship ZULFIQUAR visited port Djibouti during deployment on Regional Maritime Security Patrol.

Upon arrival at port, Pakistan Navy Ship was received by officials of Djibouti Navy.

The Commanding Officer of PNS ZULFIQUAR met senior military leadership and explored avenues for further collaboration.

During Port Call, crew of PNS ZULFIQUAR also had professionally rewarding interactions with Djibouti Navy and Coast Guards.

Navy-to-Navy engagements between Pakistan and Djibouti have been the cornerstone of diplomatic relations between both brotherly countries.

Pakistan and Djibouti enjoy close and cordial relations based on mutual respect and understanding. Both the countries also have numerous common interests in maritime arena.

The Ambassadors, Defence Attaches, Senior Government and Military Leadership of Djibouti and prominent members of local and Pakistani community also visited the ship.

Upon departure, PNS ZULFIQUAR conducted Passage Exercise with Djibouti Coast Guards to enhance interoperability.

Two Chinese nationals injured in Karachi shooting

INP

KARACHI: Two Chinese nationals were injured in Karachi on Tuesday in a shooting by a security guard, a police officer said, as the Sindh government reported a "clash" at a police station.

Speaking to reporters at the site of the incident, Kemari Senior Superintendent of Police Faizan Ali said: "Two Chinese [nationals] have been injured due to a security guard's firing."

According to a statement by the Sindh home department, a clash broke out between the foreigners and security guards at a police station in Karachi's Sindh Industrial Trading Estate (SITE) A area.

Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar instructed authorities to arrest the security guard involved in the incident, the statement said.

Lanjar sought details from the South deputy inspector general, stating that facts of the incident must be confirmed with a comprehensive inquiry and said, "[He] must be informed of the inquiry report and police action," it added.

The home minister was further quoted as saying that companies providing security to Chinese experts/residents and foreigners should be audited and the audit report must be sent for review.

Acting President Gilani calls for providing equitable public healthcare services

APP

ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Tuesday emphasized the importance of collective efforts to ensure everyone has access to healthcare facilities, stressing that providing equitable, low-cost, and quality healthcare was among the government's priorities. The acting president, addressing the two-day 14th International Public Health Conference-2024, organised by the Health Services Academy, said the basic medical facilities must reach those in need and added that a healthy environment was also must for the citizens along with basic medical facilities.

He lauded the Health Services Academy's role in improving public healthcare and imparting skill training the new generation in the medical field that would extend its benefits to the national level by improving the facilities and skill training.

Highlighting a special focus on healthcare facilities in rural areas during his premiership, the acting president said the government was striving to uplift the health sector by promoting innovation, investment and research. He said the conference would prove to be an effective platform to address the challenges associated with the health sector. He appreciated the role of his former Principal Secretary Nargis Sethi in the establishment of the Academy and said that service delivery in the health sector could be improved by providing professional skills and resources to health professionals. "Healthcare is not just about treatment, it's about creating conditions that help improve people's health," he said. He stressed the importance of necessary legislation, policy measures and steps to provide an enabling environment for health institutions and promote.

Pakistan, Iran agree to strengthen border management

PM reaffirms desire to further strengthen Pak-Iran relations

APP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has reaffirmed Pakistan's desire to further strengthen its relationship with Iran and enhancing mutually advantageous cooperation across all spheres of shared interest.

He was talking to Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi, who called on him in Islamabad today [Tuesday]. Highlighting the importance of maintaining regular high-level exchange in strengthening bilateral relations, he welcomed Seyyed Abbas Araghchi on his first official visit to Pakistan as Foreign Minister of Iran.

The Prime Minister also conveyed his sincere regards and good wishes to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei and President Massoud Pezeshkian.

During the meeting, the worrying situation in the Middle East region came under discussion.

While reaffirming Pakistan's unequivocal support to the Palestinian people in their just struggle for self-determination and statehood, the Prime Minister expressed grave concern over the Israel's ongoing genocidal campaign against the Palestinian people.

Shehbaz Sharif also emphasized upon the need for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, provision of unhindered humanitarian assistance and, above all, grant of the inalienable right to self-determination to the Palestinian people, as guaranteed to them by the relevant resolutions of the UN, as well as OIC.

The Prime Minister also reiterated strong condemnation of Israel's attack against Iran on 26th of the last month, while reaffirming support for Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Iranian Foreign Minister thanked the Prime Minister about Pakistan's principled position and briefed him on Iran's perspective regarding the situation in the region.

Therefor, Pakistan and Iran have condemned Israel's unrestrained military aggression in the Middle East, its genocidal actions against innocent civilians and its illegal measures in occupied territories.

Addressing a joint news conference along with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi in Islamabad today after their bilateral talks, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said Israeli actions are in violation of international law and the UN Charter and contribute to the root cause of all tensions in the Middle East.

The Deputy Prime Minister reiterated Pakistan's call for

establishing a viable, independent and contiguous State of Palestine on the basis of Pre-1967 borders with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

Ishaq Dar said we reject the propensity by occupying powers to equate the right to self-determination with terrorism, which, he said, is nothing, but a ploy to prolong their occupation and apartheid policies.

The Deputy Prime Minister said the longstanding Palestinian and Jammu and Kashmir issues must be addressed through peaceful means by fully respecting the rights and aspirations of the affected populations in line with the relevant UN resolutions and the Charter.

Ishaq Dar said during the talks with Iranian Foreign Minister, they also discussed ways and means to enhance cooperation across several key areas including trade, energy and border security.

He said the two sides have agreed to intensify collaboration on border management and address shared challenges.

The Foreign Minister said they have underscored that terrorism and extremism pose a serious threat to the regional peace and pledged to coordinate joint efforts to eradicate these challenges.

Pakistan for global accountability, united action amid rising humanitarian crisis in Gaza, ME tensions

INP

QATAR: At a pivotal meeting of the Standing Committee on Budget and Planning, of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), hosted by Qatar's Shura Council, Senator Irfan-ul-Haq Siddiqui as representative from Pakistan issued an urgent call for international accountability and immediate intervention as violence escalates in Gaza and across the Middle East.

In his address, Pakistan's representative condemned what he described as the "non-stop and indiscriminate use of force" by Israel against innocent civilians in Gaza, particularly impacting women and children.

He labeled the crisis a "genocide" and warned that it poses a grave threat to peace across the region.

He called on the international community to hold Israel accountable for its actions, urging adherence to human rights and international law.

The representative also criticized

Israel's recent invasion of Lebanon and strikes against Iran, warning that these actions further destabilize the region and jeopardize the lives of innocent people. "These attacks threaten the very foundations of regional peace and security," he stated. Pakistan reaffirmed its longstanding support for a two-state solution, emphasizing that this approach—aligned with United Nations and OIC resolutions—is the only path to a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Senator Irfan-ul-Haq Siddiqui highlighted the need for greater cooperation within the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) and called for a sustainable financial structure to support its efforts. He proposed a fair funding model, with contributions based on population, geographical area, and GDP, to equitably share financial responsibilities among APA member states.

To ensure effective resource allocation, he recommended involving experts to design a transparent funding mechanism aligned with the APA's goals.



QUETTA: CM Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti in a meeting with Seniors Officer Abdul Saboor Kakar and Dostain Khan Jamaladini.

Sindh CM inaugurates Fusion Centre of the Counter Terrorism Department

INP

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah inaugurated a cutting-edge facility, the Fusion Centre of the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), within the provincial police, aimed at enhancing the provincial government's counterterrorism efforts.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar, Inspector General of Police Ghulam Nabi Memon, Additional IG CTD Imran Yakub Minhas, and DIG CTD Asif Aijaz Shaikh, along with other senior officials.

The Fusion Centre, established by the National Radio and Telecommunications Corporation (NRTC), is equipped with advanced technology and infrastructure to strengthen the CTD's capacity to combat terrorism.

"The provincial government has allocated Rs722 million for the Fusion Centre in the fiscal year 2023-24 to support the centre's operational and developmental needs," the CM said.

The centre is designed as a central hub that integrates online and offline data from all relevant stakeholders, enabling efficient analysis, collaboration, and decision-making.

Delegation of APFUTU calls on Labor & Human Resources Minister Faisal Ayub



Bureau Report

Gujranwala: A delegation from the All Pakistan Federation of United Trade Unions (APFUTU) met with Provincial Minister for Labor and Human Resources, Faisal Ayub Khokhar. The delegation, including President Samina Ashraf and General Secretary Zia Syed, informed the minister of the issues faced by employees and laborers in the private sector.

In response, Provincial Minister Faisal Ayub Khokhar assured the delegation that the government of Punjab would ensure the implementation of the Gazette Notification on the minimum wage set by the government. He added that the results would start to be visible within a month. The minister further mentioned that the provincial government had allocated funds of 2 billion rupees for marriage and death grants, and longstanding pending cases from previous years would soon be resolved. Additionally, he shared that the Labor Code 2024 has been presented to a parliamentary committee, where representatives of labor unions provided their suggestions. The government is committed to introducing improved legislation for the welfare of laborers. The Labor Code 2024 includes a review of the controversial law on advance payments, and a guarantee has been provided to uphold the decisions of the higher judiciary.

CM Maryam's departure to London rescheduled following medical advice

INP

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's planned trip to England and Europe has been postponed due to health concerns. Initially set to depart tonight, CM Maryam's flight was rescheduled after her doctors at the Sharif Medical City Complex allowed her to travel abroad, contingent on her health stabilizing.

It reported that CM Punjab's visit has been postponed for one day. Sources indicate that she suffers from a recurring thyroid issue, which may require surgery during her stay in London.

This trip would mark her first official foreign visit since taking office as Punjab's chief minister. Yesterday, doctors at Sharif Medical City Complex, Lahore, allowed Maryam Nawaz, who had gone there for a checkup, to go abroad.

Mughal vows to be ended incompetent politicals by contribution of people

By Khawaja Farooq

MIRPUR: Abdul Rauf Mughal, a well-known political, social, and business figure from Mirpur (UK), has stated that a single family has been dominating Mirpur city for decades. He expressed his resolve that with the support of the proud and honorable people of Mirpur, the political monopoly of these incompetent figures will be uprooted, and these political clowns who have been imposed on the city for years will be shown their true place, ultimately burying their politics forever. He remarked that Mirpur, the city of overseas Kashmiris, has become a hub of problems, and every five



years, political imposters emerge like seasonal frogs, making false promises to the simple-minded people. Mughal highlighted that for the educated youth of Mirpur, securing employment has become an unattainable task due to nepotism, dishonesty, bribery, and favoritism. He noted that the ugly face of political tricksters making false claims about development and progress has been fully exposed. He praised the journalists of the Kashmir Press Club Mirpur for consistently upholding

the truth and playing a brave and impactful role in addressing the city's problems and its development.

He made these remarks while talking to journalists during an event to congratulate the newly elected officials of the Kashmir Press Club Mirpur before his departure to the UK. The British businessman and prominent political and social figure further noted that overseas Kashmiris have always played a pivotal role in the development of Mirpur.

Business leaders' role in achieving sustainable development crucial: Romina

APP

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam said that the present government was committed to boost collaboration with various stakeholders involving countries and non-governmental organizations for achieving sustainable development goals.

During her meeting on Tuesday with a high-profile six-member delegation from Yuanhe Holdings and the Green and Low-Carbon Committee of the Sino-International Entrepreneurs Federation

(SIEF), she emphasized that engaging with development partners and countries with sound technical know-how, technology, and expertise in implementation of the UN's sustainable development goals is present government's top agenda, aiming to achieve poverty reduction, environmental sustainability, climate resilience, gender empowerment and other socio-economic development related goals.

SIEF delegation was led by its Dr. Ma Chengliang, senior advisor of the Green and Low-carbon Committee met PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam at the climate change and environmental.



QUETTA: People loading Iranian petrol on vehicle for selling purpose.



Leaders Bayern cruise past Union with two goals from Kane

SPORTS DESK

MUNICH: Striker Harry Kane scored twice as Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich eased past visitors Union Berlin 3-0 on Saturday to provisionally open up a three-point gap at the top.

The Bavarians won their third straight league game without conceding a goal in a near-flawless dress rehearsal ahead of Wednesday's Champions League game in Munich against Benfica.

While Vincent Kompany's team are undefeated in the league, they have lost two of their three Champions League matches so far and are desperate for a win over Benfica to boost their chances of advancing to the next round of the competition. "We've not started the Champions League well, so the pressure is on in every Champions League game now," Kane said. "I think if we use the confidence that we've played the last few games with, we can cause any team a lot of problems."



ABDI Nageeye of the Netherlands crosses the finish line to win the men's New York City Marathon title.

England, NZ, Zimbabwe women's cricket teams to tour Pakistan

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: Pakistan will host England, New Zealand and Zimbabwe women's cricket teams for the first time as the ICC announced Future Tours Programme (FTP) 2025-29.

The Zimbabwe squad will visit Pakistan in April-May 2026 while New Zealand will tour the country in April 2027 while England women's side will tour Pakistan in October in the same year.

The fourth cycle of the ICC Women's Championship, which will be played from 2026-29 will see 11 sides taking part in the event for direct qualification to the Women's 50-over World Cup in 2029. Zimbabwe will feature in the event for the first time.

In the Women's Championship, each team will compete against eight other teams, following the format of four home and four away series, similar to the current edition. Across 44 series, a total of 132 ODIs will be played, with each series consisting of three matches.

In the Championship, the four-rth side to visit Pakistan will be Bangladesh and they will come in October 2028. As part of their four away assignments, Pakistan will travel to South Africa in February 2026 and then play Sri Lanka in July the same year.



DORTMUND: Borussia Dortmund's Serhou Guirassy (third R) scores during the Bundesliga match against RB Leipzig at Signal Iduna Park.

Nageeye outruns Chebet; Kenyans grab women's podium

SPORTS DESK

NEW YORK: Dutchman Abdi Nageeye survived a tense battle through the final mile to win the New York City Marathon in two hours seven minutes and 39 seconds on Sunday, while Sheila Chepkirui led a Kenyan sweep of the women's podium in 2:24:35.

The 2022 champion Evans Chebet had victory within his reach until the final 400 metres, when Nageeye pulled away, and the Kenyan settled for second in 2:07:45, while his compatriot Albert Korir (2:08:00) was third.

"I was just thinking I'm dreaming," said Nageeye, savouring the triumph even more after a disappointing outing at the Paris Olympics, where he collided with another runner and was unable to finish the race.

Chebet, one of the most decorated runners in the sport with a pair of Boston wins, looked firmly in control as she sprinted down the Queensboro Bridge to push the pace around the 16-mile mark, hoping to shake the densely packed lead group.

Nageeye chased him down quickly, however, and the two had ditched the rest of the field by the final mile, running shoulder-to-shoulder through the throngs of fans cheering wildly along the course.

Chebet lost steam as they took the final turn into Central Park and Nageeye ran the final straight all by himself two years after settling for third on the podium.

On the women's side, Chepkirui ran a technical, flawless race, hanging in with the lead pack from the start and denying defending champion Hellen Obiri in a gritty final mile to collect her first major title.

Obiri, who finished third at the Paris Games just 12 weeks ago, crossed the line 14 seconds later while 41-year-old Vivian Cheruiyot added more hardware for

Kenya in 2:25:21. It was the first time since 1976 that three women from a single country had swept a podium in the five boroughs. Cheruiyot fell off the lead with a little more than a mile left and it was a two-woman battle for the finish line from there, as Chepkirui chipped away at Obiri bit by bit.

"I knew Hellen was strong," said Chepkirui. "When we were around 600 metres to go, I say to myself 'I have to push harder'." Obiri, famed for her lethal final kick after picking up her second straight win in Boston earlier this year, could not hang on this time and with 200 metres to go it was clear the race belonged to Chepkirui. "It means a lot to me — it means my training was good," Chepkirui said. "It was really hard but I pushed myself to the limit."

American Daniel Roma-nchuk (1:36:31) won his third title in the men's wheelchair race, slipping around Britain's David Weir in the last 400 metres before streaking to the finish. Weir crossed the line five seconds later while Japan's Tomoki Suzuki (1:36:44) was third. American Susannah Scaroni was miles ahead of her competitors when she broke the tape in 1:48:05, obliterating the women's wheelchair field. Her compatriot Tatyana McFadden, a five-time winner in New York, finished more than 10 minutes slower and Swiss Manuela Schar was third in 1:59:20. Later on Sunday, World Marathon Majors organisers announced that the Sydney Marathon would become the seventh in the elite series, beginning next year, making it the first race added since Tokyo in 2013. The long-established majors, which include London, Boston, Berlin, Chicago and New York, introduced the candidacy programme for races in 2017 in a bid to improve their geographic diversity, with the goal of bringing the total to nine.

TENDER NOTICE

Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, it is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER URBAN PLANNING & DEV: DEPARTMENT QUETTA DIVISION QUETTA invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates Tender Fee Rs. 1000/- and Bid Security 2% for each work.

S.No	Name of Works	EC/Cost
1	CONSTRUCTION OF SEWERAGE SYSTEM AND STREET LIGHTS AT KILLI ABDUL RAZZAQ NEAR PISHIN KUCHLAK BYPASS QUETTA PSPDP No 3908 TSE-242511585573	49,500,000
2	CONSTRUCTION OF B/T ROAD AT KHOOSKABA HAYDER ZAI SHERALI KAKAR KILLI QUETTA TSE-242511585593	49,500,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Other condition will be remained same Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 22 November, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The tenders must be submitted latest by 22 November, 2024 till 09:00 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 10:00 AM Address: New Zarghoon Road Phone no: 0819211904 Fax no: 0819211904 Email: engr.inam2011@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER URBAN PLANNING & DEV: DEPARTMENT QUETTA DIVISION QUETTA

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Smog hazard

THE Punjab government would be keen to forget its first year of treating smog as 'a year-round epidemic' instead of a seasonal issue. The policy shift, announced in July this year, has so far failed to yield the desired results. Indeed, the air quality in Lahore is now worse than it has ever been, with the Air Quality Index exceeding 1,000 on Sunday for the first time ever. Children have been told to stay at home this week as primary schools up to Grade 5 have been shut by the provincial government due to the smog hazard.

The polluted air, which carries hazardous chemicals many times over the standards set by the World Health Organisation, can cause a host of respiratory diseases, as well as strokes, heart disease and lung cancer. Children are particularly at risk because of their underdeveloped respiratory systems and propensity to breathe more rapidly, which causes them to inhale more pollutants relative to their size than adults.

Of course, combating smog was never going to be easy, no matter how keenly the Punjab chief minister wanted to see it prevented this year. Though the provincial government has attempted to clamp down on all sources of pollution, including restaurants emitting excessive smoke from their barbecues, the Pakistan Air Quality Experts' Group, comprising leading air quality experts, researchers, doctors and scientists, deems these measures ill-planned, insufficient and therefore unlikely to have a meaningful impact on the larger problem.

Another factor has also been blamed extensively by the Punjab authorities: cross-border pollution from India, from where smoke from stubble-burning and fireworks during the recently concluded Diwali celebrations are blowing over this week into Pakistan. The Punjab chief minister is now seeking a joint effort by the two Punjabs to combat the smog crisis, which, the WHO warns, is reducing the life expectancy of the citizens residing in their territories.

With the authorities told to go back to the drawing board — the provincial environment minister on Monday said they will "use this week to conduct research, mapping, and studies to reassess and determine if extended school closures are needed" — this is a good time to reflect on past policies that have led to this point, and to plan more extensively about how the crisis can be averted in future.

It should be acknowledged that the catastrophe unfolding in Lahore has been years in the making; it is the product of our authorities' repeated failure to recognise the environmental impact of rapid urbanisation and industrialisation. The smog crisis in Lahore should also serve as a stark warning to administrators of other urban centres. If immediate steps are not taken to address pollution, millions more may soon find themselves choking on toxic air.

By Shaikh Moazam Khan

A Hub For The Training Of Suicide Bombers



Afghanistan, long regarded as a battlefield of geopolitical interests and regional conflicts, has taken on a more sinister identity in recent years: a hub for the training and indoctrination of suicide bombers. The rise of extremist ideologies and the influence of militant groups within the country have made Afghanistan a breeding ground for individuals willing to sacrifice their lives for violent causes. This article aims to explore how Afghanistan became a training center for suicide bombers, the key players involved, the socio-political factors that contribute to the problem, and the regional and global implications of this grim reality.

Several militant groups have contributed to the spread of suicide bombing tactics in Afghanistan, with the Taliban and the Haqqani Network being the most prominent. The Haqqani Network, a close ally of the Taliban, has been particularly adept at using suicide bombers to target both military and civilian infrastructure. Known for its ruthlessness, the group has ties with al-Qaeda and has benefited from foreign funding, particularly from elements within Pakistan's security apparatus during the Cold War and post-9/11 periods.

Suicide bombers in Afghanistan are often recruited through a combination of ideological indoctrination, coercion, and socio-economic desperation. Extremist madrasas (religious schools) in parts of Afghanistan and Pakistan serve as breeding grounds for young minds, where impressionable youths are taught to embrace martyrdom as a path to paradise. The use of religious texts is manipulated to legitimize violent jihad and the act of suicide bombing, which is portrayed as a sacred duty in the fight against "infidels" and enemies of Islam.

These madrasas, often operating in remote and impoverished regions, target vulnerable children, particularly orphans and those from impoverished backgrounds. The lack of formal education, coupled with the allure of financial incentives, makes these youths prime targets for recruitment. Once indoctrinated, they undergo rigorous training in the handling of explosives, surveillance, and the execution of suicide attacks.

The training camps for suicide bombers are often hidden in remote, mountainous regions of Afghanistan. These camps are difficult to locate and destroy due to the challenging terrain and the ability of militant groups to blend in with local populations. Training in these camps is brutal, with recruits subjected to psychological manipulation and physical conditioning to prepare them for their final mission. In some cases, coercion is used, with individuals being threatened or their families being put in danger if they refuse to carry out an attack.

The socio-political environment in Afghanistan has been a key factor in the proliferation of suicide bombers. Decades of war, poverty, and weak governance have left the Afghan state unable to provide basic services, education, or security to its population. This vacuum has been exploited by militant groups that offer an alternative narrative to marginalized communities. The appeal of extremist ideologies is often rooted in the disillusionment of people who feel abandoned by their government and the international community.

The economic devastation in Afghanistan, particularly in rural areas, has made it easy for militant groups to offer financial incentives to potential recruits. In a country where opportunities are scarce, the promise of money for a family in exchange for martyrdom can be a powerful motivator. Additionally, the Afghan government's inability to control its borders has allowed militants to move freely between Afghanistan and Pakistan, further fueling the flow of recruits and resources for suicide bombing campaigns.

The tribal dynamics in Afghanistan also play a role in the recruitment of suicide bombers. In some cases, tribal leaders are co-opted by militant groups, either through financial incentives or coercion, to provide young men for suicide missions. In other cases, the longstanding grievances between tribes are exploited by militants to create divisions and fuel violence.

Afghanistan's role as a hub for the training of suicide bombers has far-reaching implications for the region and the world. The rise of ISKP has heightened concerns about Afghanistan becoming a launching pad for attacks beyond its borders.

Countries in Central Asia, Iran, Pakistan, and even India have been on high alert as militants trained in Afghanistan have been implicated in plots and attacks.

Moreover, the return of the Taliban to power in 2021, following the withdrawal of U.S. and NATO forces, has raised concerns about whether the group will once again allow Afghanistan to become a safe haven for international terrorist groups. Although the Taliban has promised to prevent groups like al-Qaeda from operating in Afghanistan, its historical ties to these organizations and the presence of ISKP present significant challenges to these assurances.

Afghanistan's transformation into a hub for the training of suicide bombers is a tragic outcome of decades of war, instability, and extremist influence. The presence of militant groups like the Taliban, Haqqani Network, and ISKP has ensured that suicide bombing remains a key tactic in the region's ongoing conflicts. Addressing this issue will require a multi-faceted approach, including stronger governance, economic development, and regional cooperation to cut off the flow of recruits and resources to these groups. Without such efforts, Afghanistan will continue to pose a significant threat to both regional and global security as a breeding ground for suicide bombers.

By Arifa Noor

Choked by politics

IT is becoming harder and harder to find something new to write about as far as politics in Pakistan is concerned.

The country is stuck in a time warp and so is one's commentary. So much so that I spend more time staring at the screen than I do pounding on the keyboard — with the occasional exception, such as the previous chief justice's retirement for which the sentences had been simmering in my head from the beginning of the year. But other than that, deadlines arrive and I go through my version of 'I have nothing to wear' routine.

Should it be about a jittery government? What else can one call a set-up which has managed a constitutional amendment only to realise it is still not in control of the judiciary as such? Not a lawyer out there, who is worth his or her salt, thinks the matter is done and dusted. For there is little clarity about the judiciary losing all hope and deciding to capitulate altogether. There are rumours aplenty of what can and might happen in the coming days.

Even if the government can dominate the new Judicial Commission of Pakistan, there is no guarantee the ensuing decision will go its way. For instance, how will the review of the reserved seats be heard by a bench formed by the JCP because the original issue was heard by the full court? And even if the government gets to choose a smaller bench which hears the matter, will all the judges give a 'convenient' judgment?

But then, this is an issue best left to the legal eagles who have replaced retired bureaucrats as the most frequent visitors on newspaper op-ed pages and talk shows than to half-literate hacks who dabble in political commentary.

Will the voters be as disillusioned with Imran Khan as they were with Nawaz Sharif?

Then there is human rights, which is always good for a lament in Pakistan any day of any week. And this past week, we also managed to hit new lows. The week began with the arrest of Imaan Hazir and Hadi Ali Chattha under the terrorism act for having removed a security barrier and ended with the news of the disappearance of 10 Baloch students from Rawalpindi as well as heartbreaking footage of lawyer Intezar Panjutha, who was 'recovered' by the police; the official account of his 'recovery' was one that even the concerned police officer's dotting mother would have had trouble believing.

There is something of a lament to be written for how the government and its allies barely blinked at these events; ignorance is a convenient plea, especially when working long hours to strengthen the terrorism act itself by legalising a three-month custody of suspects.

Perhaps I could count the blessings — at least Imaan and Hadi Ali were arrested before the passage of the act and didn't face a three-month-long incarceration. Or should there be hope that the Baloch students who were picked up will now not simply disappear and be presented in court because they can now be held for three months, no questions asked?

But how many times can one write on human rights and their blatant disregard by those in power, civilian and military? And what difference does it make? Of all the lost causes a journalist is compelled to speak about in Pakistan, nothing is as hopeless as human rights.

Then there is the topic much beloved

of our all-knowing journalists — the PTI, its rifts and plans. Apparently, it makes for good television in a country where no channel seems to think content matters though opaque ratings do. So there is endless speculation about a deal, now that the PTI has, despite much bluster, not brought any crowds on the roads and Imran Khan's wife has been given bail after nearly nine months of imprisonment.

That this is being pondered over by many who have spent months telling us that the PTI and Imran Khan could never be forgiven for their unforgivable sins is not mentioned by anyone. Nor how the news of a deal could be all that surprising because the PTI has never hidden its interest in talking to the establishment. So the question should not be that there is a deal but why the other side came around. But then, our political discussions are hardly known for being focused.

Even so, it is interesting that people in the government are hinting at the possibility of a 'deal' without being asked in a polite way, 'phir tera kiya ho gaa kaaliya' (what

will happen to you then?). Of course, as we tend to focus on the elite side of politics without sparing a thought for the ordinary people, this whole deal or dheel or no-deal brouhaha never ventures beyond party leaderships and few will ever focus on the reaction of the people. Will the voters be as disillusioned with Imran Khan as they were with Nawaz Sharif after the vote of no-confidence, and if so, who will they turn to? Or will they become disillusioned with politics altogether? After all, Nawaz Sharif was seen to be the most popular leader in Punjab till his brother became prime minister and showed everyone that democracy's revenge doesn't even spare relatives.

DAILY MIRROR

Gen Asim Munir to remain COAS till 2027: Khawaja Asif

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said that Army Chief General Asim Munir will serve until 2027 following the recent approval of amendments to the Army Act.

Asif highlighted that this legislative change would benefit democratic governments by setting fixed terms and eliminating the need for parliamentary approval for extensions.

Speaking with a private television channel, Asif confirmed that General Munir's role as the country's army chief will continue uninterrupted until 2027.

"Previously, several army chiefs were granted extensions, which required parliamentary endorsement," he explained, noting that the new amendment effectively closes this chapter on term extensions.

When asked about rumours of any deal involving the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Asif dismissed them, stating, "I've only heard it from you."

He added that Pakistan's future progress depends on self-improvement, steering the conversation toward broader governance reforms.

Asif declined to comment on matters concerning Bushra Bibi, the spouse of the PTI founder, saying only, "I have no comment on her whereabouts or activities."

The amendment to the Army Act, which solidifies the terms for top military roles, aims to bring continuity and stability to Pakistan's governance by reducing dependency on ad-hoc tenure extensions. Parliament passes key bills on SC expansion, military chiefs' tenure extension.

The National Assembly on Monday approved a legislative amendment to extend the tenures of all armed services chiefs from three to five years. Hours later, the Senate approved the same set of bills, sending them to President Asif Ali Zardari for final approval.

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif presented amendments to the Pakistan Army, Navy, and Air Force Acts, which were passed by majority vote amidst intense protests from opposition members. This amendment will extend the tenure of all military chiefs from three to five years.

The proposed changes will align the retirement and reappointment regulations across the armed forces, giving the president authority, upon the prime minister's advice, to appoint, reappoint, or extend terms for these positions for up to five years.

The amendments remove previous age limits and extend tenure options, enabling the Chief of Army Staff and other military leaders to continue serving as generals beyond the earlier prescribed 64 years, should national security or critical needs arise.

Moreover, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar also presented proposals to increase the number of judges in the Supreme Court and Islamabad High Court, which were subsequently approved by the House. Tarar presented the Supreme Court Number of Judges (Amendment) Bill 2024 for parliamentary approval, proposing an increase in the number of Supreme Court judges to 34. As the bill was introduced, the opposition erupted into chaos, raising slogans and protesting. Additionally, the law minister introduced the Islamabad High Court Amendment Bill 2024, explaining that the number of judges in the High Court would be raised from nine to 12.



Addressing a joint news conference along with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi in Islamabad.

Interior Minister condemns terrorist attack in Wana

INP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has strongly condemned the terrorist attack in Wana, South Waziristan, where terrorists from

Fitna al-Khawarij opened fire on a vehicle, resulting in the martyrdom of three individuals, including a CTD personnel Usman.

Interior Minister expressed his deep sorrow over the martyrdom of three individuals, including CTD personnel Usman, and paid homage to their sacrifices.

He said that the nation expressed solidarity with the families of the martyrs and saluted the sacrifice of the martyrs.

He stated that the nation will always remember their sacrifices. Mohsin Naqvi emphasized that the war against terrorism is a war for Pakistan's survival, and the nation stands united with the security forces in this war.

Two FC soldiers martyred in DI Khan

INP

DI KHAN: A Frontier Constabulary (FC) vehicle came under terrorist attack within the jurisdiction of Dera Ismail Khan's Daraban police station on Tuesday.

According to the statement issued by the Ministry of Interior, two brave FC soldiers embraced martyrdom, while four others sustained injuries during the terrorist attack. The martyrs were identified as Sepoy Sher Rehman and Sepoy Syed Ameen.

The statement further added that the FC soldiers valiantly fought against the Khwarji terrorist attack.

Sepoy Sher Rehman hailed from South Waziristan, while Sepoy Syed Ameen was from Gadoon, Swabi.

The injured soldiers Havaladar Intiaz, Sepoy Muhib Shah, Sepoy Sahib Din, and Sepoy Fazal Kareem have been shifted to the hospital for medical treatment. "The Frontier Constabulary remains resolute in its mission to thwart the malicious intentions of terrorists. The sacrifices of FC soldiers exemplify the unwavering commitment in the fight against terrorism," said the Ministry of Interior spokesperson.

Senate committee discusses IPP investment, task force negotiations to reduce power costs for public

By Zahid Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: Senator Mohsin Aziz chaired the meeting of Senate Standing Committee on Power held today at Old PIPS Hall, Parliament Lodges.

The Senate Committee deliberated on Mr. Muhammad Ali's report on IPPs issued in the year 2020. Senator Mohsin Aziz argued as per report, the investment made by IPPs in the installation of power plants was earned back in two to four years.

However, in the case of coal power plants, the investment was redeemed in two years. SAPM on Power, Muhammad Ali, stated that in Pakistan, approximately 13 to 17 percent returns were given, which was twice the returns offered in any other country. Mr. Muhammad Ali opined that the government should step back from the power business and focus on developing power markets, as practiced in other countries.

The Chairman of the Committee stated that the dollar-based regime should be changed into rupees to provide immediate relief to the general public. SAPM on Power informed that the task force is negotiating with the IPPs, and recently, five power plants have been terminated

by the task force on the recommendation of NTDC, which resulted in benefit the country Rs. 60 billion annually for the country. He highlighted that the task force has negotiated with the IPPs for the payment of the saved amount which should be paid back to the Government of Pakistan.

Discussing the delinking of bagasse from the international coal price for being a local raw material, Muhammad Ali, SAPM on Power, reiterated that in other parts of the world, bagasse is not linked to the international coal price. As a result of negotiations with the IPPs the task force has been able to delinked bagasse from the international coal price and converted it into a rupee-based system. The task force has also sent a Summary to the Cabinet for the approval of this change.

Additionally, Muhammad Ali stated that in the next phase, the task force will negotiate about saved amount with the 18 IPPs from 1994 and 2002, as well as the Government Power Plants. The task force's negotiations will be completed in the next three to six months. Senator Mohsin Aziz appreciated the efforts of the task force and maintained that if the task force succeeded in its negotiations, it would ease the burden on the masses.

Balochistan govt launches Quetta Development Package to provide facilities to public: Fauzia

Press Release

Quetta: The Government of Balochistan has launched the "Quetta Development Package," a visionary initiative aimed at transforming the infrastructure and overall development of Quetta, the provincial capital. The package focuses on creating a more inclusive and accessible city that meets the diverse needs of its residents, with special attention to the requirements of women across Balochistan.

Chairperson of the Balochistan Commission on the Status of Women (BCSW), Ms. Fauzia Shaheen, emphasized that the Quetta Development Package is a significant step towards enhancing the city's landscape and addressing essential public needs. "This package is designed with a comprehensive approach that fully considers the needs of women in Quetta and beyond," stated Fauzia Shaheen.

The package includes the construction and expansion of key infrastructure such as roads, alongside the provision of essential facilities to improve the quality of life for women. Public spaces will now feature dedicated washrooms, prayer areas, and common rooms for women, ensuring comfort and safety in commonly frequented areas. Additionally, the package includes initiatives to establish digital libraries for girls and build sports complexes specifically for women, promoting their educational and physical well-being.

The Quetta Development Package is not only expected to uplift the city's infrastructure but also enhance the quality of life for women and foster economic growth by attracting both local and foreign investment.

Through this gender-sensitive approach, the package aims to make Quetta a city that supports equality and inclusion for all its residents.

Israeli strikes kill at least 16 people in Gaza

MONITORING DESK

GAZA: Israeli airstrikes killed at least 16 Palestinians in Gaza and residents feared new air and ground attacks were aimed at emptying areas of civilians in the enclave's north.

The U.N. Palestinian refugee agency UNRWA said Israel was scaling back the number of aid trucks allowed into Gaza, compounding shortages of food, medicine and other essential supplies, though Israel denied this.

In the latest bloodshed, several people were killed or wounded in a strike on northern Gaza's Beit Lahiya late on Monday, medics said, the same town where seven people were killed in an attack on two houses earlier in the day.

Another strike killed four people in Zawayda in the central Gaza Strip while five more were killed in separate strikes in central and southern parts of the enclave, medics told Reuters.

Several people were wounded in the attacks, they said, adding that Israeli forces had sent tanks into the northeast of Nuseirat camp earlier on Monday.

Israel deployed tanks into Jabalia, Beit Hanoun, and Beit Lahiya on Oct. 5, saying it intended to prevent Hamas fighters from regrouping.

Govt. Committed to Development, Prosperity of Nation: Syedaal Khan

APP

ISLAMABAD: Acting Chairman of the Senate, Syedaal Khan, Tuesday said that the current government is committed to the development and prosperity of the nation.

During the meeting, with a delegation comprising notable figures and students from Balochistan, he highlighted the vigorous efforts of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in recent decreases in commodity prices and an increase in job opportunities for the youth.

He urged all political parties to rally behind the government's legislative initiatives aimed at improving the country. "Effective legislation will not only ensure justice for the people but also pave the way for national development," he said.

He called for unity among political factions, advocating for a collaborative approach to enhance the welfare of the country.

He said that a united front is essential to facilitate progress and address the challenges facing the nation.

Legislation not carried out for single person: Tarar on govt's fresh legal reforms

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: In its bid to defend the passage of six amendment bills in the parliament, including one extending the fixed tenure of services chiefs up to five years and the other increasing number of judges in the apex and high courts, the government stood firm on the stance that the legislation was not carried out for a single person.

Federal Minister for Information Attaulah Tarar said that the tweaks were not introduced suddenly, as consultation was ongoing and Pakistan People's Party also taken into confidence.

"The opposition was not ready to discuss the legislation," he said, speaking during Geo News programme 'Aaj Shahzeb Khazada Kay Sath' on Tuesday.

Tarar's remarks came in the wake of the passage of the six bills approved by both the Senate and the National Assembly a day earlier, which turned into law after acting president Yusuf Raza Gilani signed them.

Gilani signed all six bills including the Supreme Court Number of Judges (Amendment) Bill, 2024, the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2024, and the Islamabad High Court (Amendment) bill, 2024.

"Extending the tenure to five years will not affect the institution's merit-based system," said Tarar, adding that the government also addressed the uncertainty regarding the appointment of the army chief.

Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, on

Tuesday, tabled the six bills which also include the one seeking an increase to the number of judges in the Supreme Court up to 34 in a bid to clear the backlog of cases.

In addition to this, the minister presented a bill seeking to amend the SC (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023, aiming to include additions made in the 26th Constitutional Amendment, including the introduction of constitutional benches.

The bill sought to add Article 191A of the Constitution — the creation of constitutional benches — to the preamble.

Furthermore, the bill proposed another amendment to ensure that the act came into force at the same time as the 26th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2024.

Moreover, another bill — Islamabad High Court (Amendment) Bill, 2024 — seeking an increase in number of judges from nine to 12 in IHC was also passed.

Meanwhile, the bill to amend the Pakistan (Army/Air Force/Navy) Act Amendment, 2024, was presented in both houses by Defence Minister Khawaja Asif.

The parliament also adopted the Pakistan Air Force Act, 1953 and the Pakistan Navy Amendment Bill, 1961. It also proposed an amendment to Section 8C, which deals with the retirement age, which is 64 years, and service limits of service chiefs.

Commenting on the number of judges, Tarar maintained that having 34 judges is not necessary, the amendment mentions that the number could increase to that extent.



ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani hearing representations against the orders of the Federal Ombudsmen.

Anti-Corruption Balochistan Files Case in Drugs Scam

APP

QUETTA: Anti-Corruption Balochistan has filed a case in drugs scam worth millions of rupees, Balochistan government spokesperson Shahid Rind said on Tuesday. He said a case has been registered against several employees for allegedly damaging drugs and medical equipment worth millions of rupees.

It may be recalled that during a recent visit to Bolan Medical Complex (BMC) by the Chief Minister of Balochistan, several complaints regarding the drugs were presented to him. Expressing his displeasure, the Chief Minister ordered an investigation by the Anti-Corruption Balochistan.

Following his directive, Director General Abdul Waheed Kakar formed an

inquiry team led by Deputy Director Investigation Kamran Bashir, with Assistant Directors Investigation Ayaz Tareen, Abdul Qayoom, and Qambar Baloch as team members.

The inquiry revealed significant issues at Bolan Medical Complex, including non-functional CT scan machines and expired medicines worth millions that were improperly stored instead of being utilized.

Besides several CT scan machines were found idle, while other valuable medical equipment remained unused.

The investigation, extending to the records of the Medical Complex Hospital Quetta, uncovered the presence of expired medicines worth approximately 10 million rupees, suggesting serious lapses and potential misconduct.

JI demands full court to hear 26th constitutional amendment petition

INP

KARACHI: Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan, Hafiz Naeemur Rehman, has sharply criticized the privatization policies and alleged corruption surrounding national institutions, including Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and K-Electric.

In a press conference held at Noor Haq Institute, he demanded that a full court bench hear Jamaat-e-Islami's petition against the 26th Constitutional Amendment in the Supreme Court, claiming the amendment undermines the 1973 Constitution and threatens Pakistan's democracy.

Hafiz Naeemur Rehman stated that Jamaat-e-Islami had filed a petition challenging the 26th Amendment, emphasizing that the Assembly formed under Form 47 does not have the authority to alter the foundational structure of the Constitution.

He argued that the amendment, particularly in relation to judicial reforms, has politicized the judiciary and eroded the independence of Pakistan's courts.

He condemned the alleged corruption involved in the recent changes to the judicial system, which, according to him, have been manipulated to gain political leverage.

Addressing the issue of privatization,

Rehman condemned the sale of national assets, particularly PIA and K-Electric, as "a national tragedy."

He questioned the motives behind Nawaz Sharif's suggestion for his daughter to purchase and run PIA under the Punjab government and Ali Amin Gandapur's proposal to control the airline under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government. He accused the ruling elites of squandering public resources and exploiting national assets for personal gain.

"Who sank the PIA fleet in 40 years? Who destroyed the national institutions?" he asked, referring to the previous governments' inability to reform and revitalize state-owned enterprises. He pointed out that despite claims by PTI to restore national institutions, the party failed to address the problems of PIA and Pakistan Steel Mills during its time in power.

Rehman emphasized that the responsibility of running national institutions lies with the government. He criticized the continuous losses of institutions like PIA, which, according to him, could still be profitable if managed properly. He accused the ruling elite of deliberately undermining these institutions through poor management and privatization, which has only benefited a few at the expense of the public.



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat along with Balochistan Government spokesperson Shahid Rind addressing a press conference.