



Extended his congratulations to the nation on the approval of the 26th Constitutional Amendment and said that the PPP has long been committed to judicial reforms

Chairman Senate
Syed Yousaf Gilani

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Passage of 26th constitutional amendment, incomplete agenda of CoD fulfilled, says Ishaq Dar



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Sunday expressed his gratitude to all political parties for voting in favor of the 26th Constitutional Amendment and said that the incomplete agenda of the Charter of Democracy (CoD) had now been fulfilled.

After the passage of the amendment, Ishaq Dar thanked the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F), Awami National Party (ANP), Pakistan Muslim League (Quaid-e-Azam) and others for their support in passing the amendment.

He called it a historic day, commending all political parties for demonstrating wisdom and political maturity. He stated that the passage of the amendments was made possible due to the relentless efforts of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

Ishaq Dar recalled that a parliamentary committee was formed to build consensus among political parties, including the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). He noted that several rounds of consultations were held with the leadership of JUI-F and PTI, and the committee reached a consensus.

The Law Minister then briefed the committee on each clause. Dar also acknowledged PTI's active participation in the committee, noting that they showed unanimity on the draft.

However, despite reaching a consensus in the parliamentary committee, PTI did not support the amendment during the vote. Dar remarked that this was their democratic and constitutional right.

He praised Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman for his wisdom and commended his efforts in helping to build consensus on the amendment.

Tarar questions PTI's accusations regarding Senator Dr. Zarqa

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Sunday questioned the accusations made by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) regarding its Senator Dr. Zarqa after she did not vote in the Senate on the Constitutional amendment.

The PTI first alleged that Senator Zarqa was kidnapped, assaulted and bribed and then claimed that her son was abducted and tortured to allegedly coerce her to vote in the favor of the amendment, said the minister in a post on X while asking the PTI why she was not brought to the Senate if she was abducted by anybody.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the Federal Cabinet. APP

Senate approves long-awaited 26th constitutional amendment bill

ISLAMABAD: The Senate on Sunday approved long-awaited 26th constitutional amendment with two third majority (65 votes) aimed at ensuring speedy justice in the country and bringing transparency in judicial system, by incorporating all amendments proposed by Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F).

Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar piloted the Constitution (Twenty-Sixth Amendment) Bill, 2024 in the House. The House passed the bill through clause by clause reading.

In the bill having 22 clauses, amendments to various Articles of the constitutional have been proposed. A new Article 9 A regarding clean and healthy environment is also incorporated in the bill under which every person shall be entitled to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

As many as 65 members voted in favor of the bill while only four voted against it.

Kamran Murtaza of JUI-F moved amendments one by one which were incorporated in the bill after not opposing by the government. Earlier, speaking in the House, Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar said that the government, its allied parties and JUI-F reached a consensus on the draft of the constitutional amendment bill. As part of the government's efforts, a special parliamentary committee comprising representatives of all the political parties including the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) discussed the proposed constitutional package.

He went on to say that the procedure to appoint judges in the superior judiciary had been changed in the 18th Amendment. Both the prime minister and the president surrendered their powers and handed over their authorities to the parliament to bring more transparency in the appointment of judges, he added.



He said the parliamentary committee was empowered to approve or reject nomination of judges. However, he said the 18th Constitutional Amendment was challenged in court of law and message was given to the then government during the proceeding of the case that the amendment would be struck down.

The minister conceded that 19th Amendment was passed in haste to change the composition of the judicial commission (JC) and parliamentary committee on appointment of judges. Hence, the powers of parliamentary committee were reduced, he added.

Azam Nazeer said even the bar councils and other lawyers representative organizations including Pakistan Bar Council criticized and demanded to revisit the decision. They demanded to make appropriate amendments in Article 175-A of the constitution, he said.

Now, he said that the JC, responsible for the appointment and confirmation of judges would consist of the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP), three senior Supreme Court judges, four parliamentarians, the Law Minister, an

advocate having at least 15 years experience, and the Attorney General. Out of four parliamentarians, two members each from Senate and National Assembly, he added.

He said one member of the JC would be either a woman or a non-Muslim qualified to become a senator on a technocrat seat, clarifying the nomination would be made by the Speaker National Assembly.

He said no changes have been made to the provincial Judicial Commissions, where the Chief Justice of the High Court, a senior judge, and the provincial law minister would continue to assess judges' performance.

The minister said that the amendment outlines the procedure for appointing the CJP, clarifying that the Prime Minister would no longer exercise this authority, instead delegating it to the Parliament. A 12-member committee would finalize the nominations and forward them to the PM, with the CJP serving either until retirement or for a maximum of three years, he said.

He said that the appointment of the CJP was a part of the reform package, with three senior judges being considered for the position, from which one would be selected as Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP).

The minister said that the mechanism for forming constitutional benches at the Supreme Court and provincial levels had been clarified, with logistical preparations needed at the provincial level. Provincial assemblies, with a 51 percent majority, could pass a resolution to establish a provincial constitutional bench, he said.

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Federal Cabinet approves draft of 26th Constitutional Amendment

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet on Sunday approved the draft of the 26th Constitutional Amendment proposed by the government allied parties including the Pakistan Peoples Party. During the cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Minister of Law and Justice, Azam Nazeer Tarar provided a detailed briefing on the amendment. Addressing the cabinet, PM Shehbaz Sharif hailed the decision as a major achievement for Pakistan's development and progress. "The cabinet has made an excellent decision for the development, prosperity and the betterment of the country's overall situation." The prime minister congratulated the nation on the approval of the 26th Amendment, emphasizing that it was made in the larger national interest.

He reiterated the government's commitment to public welfare and the constitutional integrity of the country. "By the grace of Allah, after stabilizing the economy, we have now crossed a milestone for constitutional stability and the rule of law in Pakistan," he said. Looking ahead, the prime minister assured that the government would continue working diligently for the country's development, prosperity, and stability in line with the promises made to the people, he affirmed. He also expressed gratitude to the heads of the government's allied parties for their support, particularly acknowledging the contributions of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Interior Minister Mohsin Raza Naqvi, Adviser to the Prime Minister Rana Sanaulah, and Minister of Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar.

Gilani congratulates nation on approval of 26th constitutional amendment

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Sunday extended his congratulations to the nation on the approval of the 26th Constitutional Amendment and said that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has long been committed to judicial reforms. In a statement, Gilani praised the efforts of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and all coalition parties for their dedication to this crucial constitutional reform. Gilani said that the amendment will not only strengthen the judicial system but also enhance the functioning of the superior judiciary across all four provinces. He highlighted that access to justice for the people will be significantly improved as a result of these reforms.

Reflecting on the legacy of the late Benazir Bhutto, Gilani said she was deeply committed to improving the judicial system. "Today, with the passing of the 26th Amendment, another dream of Shaheed Bibi has come true," he added. He credited Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and the coalition partners for this historic achievement, acknowledging the PPP's sacrifices in promoting democracy in the country. Gilani reaffirmed that the PPP remains the largest and most dedicated party serving the people of Pakistan. He also expressed his gratitude to all coalition parties for their support in passing this critical constitutional amendment. APP

Mushahid proposes 3-point Action Plan, urges Erdogan to take lead on Palestine issue



ISLAMABAD: Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed during the global Palestine Conference proposed a 3-point Action Plan, and urged President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to take lead on Palestine issue. On invitation of President Erdogan's AK

Party, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed gave a keynote address at the 'Global Palestine Conference' held here at the Turkish capital, where he presented a 3-point Action Plan.

President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan was Chief Guest on the occasion, said a news release. Senator Mushahid Hussain, who is Member of Executive Board of the Istanbul-based 'Al Quds Parliament', as well as Co-Chairman of International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP), hailed the resistance of Hamas, Hezbollah and Iran to Israeli aggression and Zionist expansionism, terming these as exemplary models of 'Might is not Right, but Right is Might'. During his speech, Mushahid Hussain appreciated the leadership role of President Erdogan, terming him as the 'Lion of the Muslim World', and congratulated him on his victory in the Turkish Presidential elections.

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National Assembly Set to Pass 26th Constitutional Amendment Bill 2024

ISLAMABAD: Federal Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar announced the nation should be aware of the upcoming 26th amendment, which consists of a consensus-based draft with 26 points.

Speaking alongside Atta Tarar outside Parliament House, he highlighted that extensive meeting with coalition partners were held to finalise the draft, with Bilawal Bhutto Zardari playing a crucial role in engaging all allies and building political consensus.

The proposed amendment retains the judicial commission's authority to form branches and set a one-year timeline for the Council of Islamic Ideology's reports, and maintains the structure of the provincial judicial commission. Additionally, a clause for the Shariat Court judges eligible for Supreme Court appointments has been included, emphasizing performance evaluation.

Tarar also noted that Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Qazi Faez Isa has declined extension three times, reflecting judicial independence. Atta Tarar emphasized the day marks a historic movement for the supremacy of Pakistani parliament and the rules of law. Agencies

Constitutional amendment to benefit country: Law Minister

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar has said that the draft of the 26th constitutional amendment will be presented in the parliament on Sunday.

He was addressing a press conference along with Minister of Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar in Islamabad on Sunday.

He said the twenty-six point draft being tabled in the Parliament is the same draft which was approved by the parliamentary committee for the constitutional amendment.

He said JUI-F has suggested another five amendments in the draft in connection with Islamic provisions in the constitution.

Azam Nazeer Tarar thanked all the political leaders who played important role in finalizing the draft and developing consensus on the constitutional amendment.

He said PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was in constant consultation with JUI-F Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, which yielded positive results.



The Minister said all political parties have reached a consensus on this constitutional amendment which is unprecedented in the country's history.

He said the constitutional amendment will prove to be beneficial for the country and the people of Pakistan.

In his remarks, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said today marks a historic milestone for the people of Pakistan. He said this day will be remembered as a testament to the supremacy of Parliament.

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Climate justice agenda to be promoted

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights, Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri, and Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam, have reached a consensus to advocate for the integration of human rights into climate change policies in Pakistan.

During a bilateral meeting with PM's aide Romina Khurshid here on Sunday, both sides also agreed to jointly work to roll out a viable action plan to ensure that climate actions not only address environmental issues but also uphold and protect the rights of vulnerable communities affected by climate change in the country, especially in the highly climate vulnerable Balochistan province.

"Integrating human rights into climate change policy is essential to ensure that actions to tackle climate risks do not

exacerbate existing inequalities or infringe upon basic human rights," Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri highlighted during the meeting with the PM's climate aide.

She said, "Climate change significantly undermines fundamental human rights, including the right to life, health, food, and water, reflecting an increasing awareness of these pressing issues."

The Senator Zehri remarked, "I personally believe as various studies show that managing human rights into climate risk management action plans and discourse is crucial for creating and promoting a more just and equitable approach to tackle the climate crisis, particularly for resource-poor and marginalized communities in the vulnerable areas in Balochistan."

She pointed out, "Being a large and arid region in the southwestern part of the country, the Balochistan province is extremely vulnerable to climate change



due to a combination of its geographic features, socio-economic challenges, and existing environmental stresses."

"The region's vulnerability is aggravated more due to its dependence on agriculture, water scarcity, and limited and shabby infrastructure, making it highly sensitive to adverse climate risks, particularly devastating hill torrents, flash floods, cyclones, sea-level rise, heat

waves, declining rainfalls, and droughts," Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri added. She called for strategies that prioritize equity and justice in confronting this critical challenge of climate change for both mitigating adverse fallouts of climate change and promoting a fairer society with access to equitable access to resources required for climate resilience building.

Senator Zehri urged for well-coordinated and cooperative national efforts that uphold and protect these rights, noting that human activities not only contribute to climate change but also threaten basic human rights.

"Marginalized groups, such as women, children, and economically disadvantaged communities, are particularly vulnerable, often lacking the means to adapt to climate impacts and facing greater obstacles in accessing their rights," she added.

"Climate justice highlights how those least responsible for climate change frequently endure its most severe consequences." She called for fair distribution of resources and support for at-risk communities to address these inequities.

Meanwhile, PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam remarked, "The ongoing climate crisis continues to affect a wide range of human rights, including the right to life, health, food, safe water and

sanitation, shelter, and a healthy environment."

"Integrating human rights into national climate change policies by recognizing climate change as a human rights issue will be a first key step towards ensuring advocating for the policies take into account the social and economic impacts on individuals and communities, particularly those who are most vulnerable parts of the country, particularly in Balochistan and Gilgit-Baltistan," she highlighted.

The PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam assured the Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri of her all-out support to achieve the goal of climate justice by ensuring that human rights-based climate policy and action plans were framed in consultation with vulnerable communities and implemented at grassroots levels for attainment of the people's human rights to healthy life and environment, particularly during disaster times.

Editor-in-Chief: Amna Munawwar Awan
 Editor: Muhammad Hasam
 Office # 408, 4th Floor, Evacuee Trust,
 Agha Khan Road, F-5/1 Islamabad
 Phone: + 92 51 8354964

Bridging the divide

SARA DANIAL

According to the 2023 population census of Pakistan, 121 million individuals, or 59 per cent of the population aged over five, have attended school at some point in their lives. While this statistic might appear to show progress, a deeper dive into the data reveals significant disparities, particularly when analysed by gender and region. These disparities not only affect educational attainment but have far-reaching implications for the job market, learning abilities, and the future distribution of management and C-suite positions. As the global job market continues to evolve, Pakistan's ability to close this educational gap will be a critical factor in ensuring that both men and women are equipped to contribute equally to the economy.

According to a research study by GALLUP Pakistan, the census data shows that Punjab leads the way in school attendance, with 72.28 million individuals having attended school. Sindh follows with 25.05 million, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) with 17.95 million, and Balochistan with 4.58 million. While these numbers indicate a strong provincial representation in education, they mask a disturbing gender gap that becomes more evident when scrutinised further. In Punjab, 71.5 per cent of males have attended school compared to 60.9 per cent of females. This nearly 11-percentage point difference may seem small in comparison to Balochistan, where the gender gap is striking. Only 29.3 per cent of females have ever attended school, compared to 46.1 per cent of males. This stark disparity paints a clear picture of how girls and women, particularly in less developed regions, are being left behind when it comes to access to education. The consequences of this gender gap cannot be overstated. Education plays a crucial role in empowering individuals with the skills and knowledge necessary to participate in the workforce. With fewer women attending school, a significant portion of the population is excluded from meaningful participation in the economy. This exclusion exacerbates gender disparities not only in entry-level jobs but also in management and C-suite positions, where women are already underrepresented.

When analysing school attendance by age group, some positive trends emerge. For the 15-49 age cohort, 67 million people (or 58 per cent of that group) have attended school. However, for the 5-16 age group, a promising 51 million people (72 per cent) have attended school, illustrating an increase in school attendance among younger generations. While this rise in attendance is encouraging, it is still critical to consider the persistent gender gap. In the 5-9 age group, 71.5 per cent of boys have attended school, compared to 65.4 per cent of girls. This gap widens in older age brackets. In the 25-40 age range, 64 per cent of men have attended school, but only 47 per cent of women have done so. These widening gaps suggest that although more girls are entering the education system, cultural, economic, and societal pressures still disproportionately force girls out of school as they grow older.

This trend has significant long-term consequences for gender parity in the workforce. As girls drop out of school, they lose opportunities to develop the critical thinking, problem-solving, and leadership skills needed to excel in professional environments. This affects their chances of securing management roles or breaking into the C-suite, where strategic decision-making often determines the success of an organization.

The direct impact of this educational disparity is already evident in Pakistan's job market. Men dominate many fields, from entry-level positions to the highest executive roles. Women, on the other hand, face multiple barriers, including cultural stigmas, limited access to education, and fewer job opportunities. For women who do enter the workforce, the lack of formal education diminishes their ability to compete for higher-paying jobs, which require advanced skills in areas like technology, digital literacy, finance, and management. Without equal access to education, women are often relegated to lower-paying jobs in fields such as domestic work, retail, or informal labour, further entrenching gender inequality in the job market. Unequal education limits women's learning abilities and hinders their capacity for innovation and leadership, skills crucial for ascending to senior management and C-suite positions. In contrast, countries that have narrowed the educational gender gap have seen significant increases in female representation in leadership roles, which correlates with improved business outcomes, more innovative solutions, and higher overall productivity. In terms of future leadership roles, the current educational gap suggests that women will continue to be underrepresented in management and C-suite positions in Pakistan. The disparity remains too wide to ensure that women can compete equally with men for leadership roles in the future. Closing this gap will require not just policy interventions aimed at increasing female school attendance but also broader societal changes. These include challenging cultural norms that prioritise boys' education over girls', providing financial incentives for families to keep their daughters in school, and developing targeted mentorship and leadership programs for women in the workforce. The private sector must play an active role in promoting gender diversity by implementing policies that foster inclusive hiring, leadership development, and career advancement opportunities for women. The persistent gender gap, particularly in regions like Balochistan, threatens to derail the progress made. If left unaddressed, this educational inequality will exacerbate the gender disparity. To ensure that Pakistan's future workforce is more equitable, concerted efforts must be made to empower women to contribute meaningfully to the economy and leadership roles across sectors.

The writer is an independent journalist from Karachi.



Dr Naazir Mahmood

Four plays in review

Ghazi Salahuddin presided over the event that discussed four European plays by Chekhov, Ibsen, Pirandello, and Sartre. Since these plays occupy an exalted place in world literature and theatre lovers in most countries around the world have seen or staged these plays, it appears worthwhile to share them with my readers. These plays first appeared on stage in a period spanning 65 years from 1879 to 1944.

The Arts Council, Karachi that Ahmed Shah has been leading for over a decade now, has become the most dynamic centre of art and culture in Pakistan. He has assembled a good team that includes names such as Dr Ayub Sheikh, Dr Fatima Hasan, Dr Tanveer Anjum, Shakil Jafri, and Shakil Khan – all dedicated individuals who are taking care of their respective domains.

The World Culture Festival spanning over a month attracted dance, drama, and music groups from dozens of countries. Despite serious health issues recently, Ahmed Shah worked tirelessly to make it a landmark series of events in the cultural history of Pakistan.

Being in Karachi affords one opportunities to attend numerous activities in the Arts Council. Dr Ayub Sheikh organised a memorial event to celebrate Mirza Qaleech Baig's birthday. Dr Fatima Hasan is ably managing the Josh Malihabadi Library with her assistant Jamali. Dr Tanveer Anjum has taken an initiative to set up the Writers and Readers Cafe that has organised over 90 weekly meetings on diverse topics.

Shakeel Khan manages the administrative and logistic issues at the Arts Council Karachi and also hosts literary events. Recently he organised an event to remember Mustafa Zaidi – an Urdu poet who died at the age of just 40 but left a remarkable body of work to make his mark in the history of Urdu poetry. Ambreen Haseeb Ambar, and others read their analytical and informative papers on Mustafa Zaidi while Zehra Nigah presided over the event.

But here I share with my readers a very interesting discussion that young students of Iqra University held at the Writers and Readers Cafe on Oct 17. It was the 93rd weekly sitting of the café that Dr Tanveer Anjum organised at the Arts Council's Josh library.

Avid reader and senior journalist

Anoshka was of the opinion that

most women in Pakistan face this dilemma but cannot leave their homes because they lack the skills to survive or become financially independent.

Sajjad Hameed was the next student, and discussed 'The Cherry Orchard' by Russian playwright Anton Chekhov. Sajjad set the ground by discussing the condition of Russia at the turn of the century as the last play of Chekhov hit the stage in 1904. Interestingly, Chekhov described this play as a comedy but the first director of the play – Stanislavsky – treated it as a tragedy. The play begins with an aristocratic Russian landowner returning to her family estate which includes a large cherry orchard that is under severe debt and mortgaged.

The play explores the landed gentry of Russia that was on the cusp of collapsing but refused to change or accept the new realities of an emerging capitalism. Sajjad was candid in his analysis of the play and gave some details of the transformation that was taking place in Russia at the beginning of the 20th century. Former serfs were no more ready to accept the cruelties of the feudal class and some had even raised themselves in their social status to be able to purchase the properties that the landlords were no more able to maintain.

Mahnoor Baloch dilated upon the Italian play 'Six Characters In Search Of An Author' by Luigi Pirandello. The play was first performed in 1921 just three years after the end of the First World War. The play brings in some new discussions on the absurdity of life and meta-theatre. Some consider this play as a precursor to the Theatre of the Absurd that dominated the theatre world a couple of decades later. Though the play explores the relationship among authors and their characters, it also involves theatre practitioners in an interesting debate.

Mahnoor analysed the play in terms of its illogical progression and beautifully clarified its structure and ideas. The play follows six characters who interrupt a rehearsal in search of an author to complete their story. The characters appear to be the incomplete creations of a

failed playwright who has abandoned them and now the characters are demanding that their stories be told and performed. Absurdist drama is not to the liking of this columnist so I better reserve my opinion of the play but the analysis that Mahnoor presented was delightful and informative.

Perhaps the best analysis of the event came from the last student Wajid Hussain who discussed 'No Exit' (Huis clos in French) that Jean Paul Sartre wrote in 1944 when France was under German occupation. It is an existentialist play that begins with three characters who find themselves waiting in a mysterious room.

Wajid began by describing the philosophy of existentialism that Sartre and his friends propounded and made major contributions to its popularity. The play depicts the afterlife of the three characters who are punished by being locked into a room together for eternity. As Sartre famously put it 'Hell is other people'. Wajid was articulate and clear in his thoughts about how Sartre presented his ideas in the play regarding 'the look' and the never-ending struggle of 'being'. The desire to see oneself as an object from the view of another consciousness is a theme that recurs in the play. The damned souls Garcin, Inez, and Estelle expect torture devices to punish them for eternity but none of them would initially admit the reason for their damnation. They hint at the mistakes they made but never want to divulge any details for fear of being degraded in the eyes of the others.

If you ask me to rank the plays, I would place 'The Cherry Orchard' by Chekhov at the top perhaps because I watched it in Moscow with its original text in Russian, and partly thanks to my own anathema to feudalism. 'No Exit' at the second place and 'A Doll's House' at the third because it presents a one-sided view of important issues like corruption, forgery, and gender roles.

The writer holds a PhD from the University of Birmingham, UK. He tweets/posts @NaazirMahmood and can be reached at: mnazir1964@yahoo.co.uk

Disclaimer: Views expressed by writers in this section are their own and do not necessarily reflect The Asian Telegraph's point-of-view

Today in History

History of Pakistan



In late February 2022, just hours after Russia invaded Ukraine, Khan attended a long-planned meeting with Russian Pres. Vladimir Putin as much of the world was seeking to isolate the belligerent leader. Khan had hoped that the meeting, which bucked Pakistan's traditional allies in the West, would open new avenues of foreign support for Pakistan. With the economy in shambles and

Khan's loss of support from both the military establishment and the international community, the opposition pounced, moving in March to hold a vote of no confidence. In the period leading up to the vote, several members of Khan's party and coalition announced that they would not support him in the vote. Despite efforts by Khan to prevent a vote from taking place, he was removed from office on April 10.

The government of Shehbaz Sharif Shehbaz Sharif, Nawaz Sharif's brother and leader of the PML-N, became prime minister the following day. But his premiership proved tumultuous from the start, as the economy continued to worsen, further exacerbated by extreme weather during the summer monsoon. Heavy rainfall and a severe heat wave that caused Hindu Kush-Himalayan glaciers to melt led to widespread flooding. The flooding left

about 1,700 people dead, tens of millions displaced, and, at its peak, one-third of the country's landmass underwater. The government's ineptitude at addressing the economy or mitigating the flood's devastation aided a comeback by Inran Khan's party. In a surprise landslide victory, the PTI won 15 of 20 seats in the July legislative elections of Punjab,

To be continued.....

Showbiz

Tech

Angelina Jolie opens up about her role in upcoming movie 'Maria'

Angelina Jolie portrays the character of Maria Callas in the upcoming biopic film 'Maria'



Angelina Jolie has recently opened up about her character in the upcoming biopic movie Maria during her dazzling appearance in London.

The 49-year-old renowned actress spoke about her acting experience in the new film at the premiere of the musical drama on October 19. During the conversation with Irish Independent, Jolie said, "It's quite a gift to have lessons and to be at a time in your life where you get to learn a new skill."

For the unversed, the globally recognised star will portray the character of Greek opera singer Maria Callas in her next

biopic movie.

Moreover, the Maleficent actress praised the opera sensation during her interview, stating, "I had wonderful teachers and to be this extraordinary human being and be in her shoes, and I love her." "The more I studied her and the more I learned about her, the more about her," the mother-of-six disclosed.

It is important to mention that Maria will hit the theatres in November 2024.

The film also features Alba Rohrwacher, Haluk Bilginer, Caspar Phillipson, Valeria Golino and Kodi Smit-McPhee.

How to view annual Orionid meteor shower as it peaks?

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) has left stargazers in a frenzy as it revealed that the annual Orionid meteor shower will soon illuminate the night sky. The United States-based space agency encouraged star gazing enthusiasts to keep their eyes peeled for dazzling meteors and fireballs late during the night between Sunday and Monday as this is when the Orionids are expected to reach their peak.

What makes this meteor shower particularly special is that it is just one of the several astronomical events this month, which also includes rare Northern Lights sightings, a once-in-a-lifetime comet, and the year's brightest supermoon, according to Axios. However, if anyone happens to miss this spectacular show, there's no need for concern; the Orionids are an annual occurrence at the end of October. This mesmerising display sets the night sky alight every year when the Earth passes through meteoroids left in the wake of Hal-

ley's Comet, making it one of the most beautiful meteor showers to witness throughout the year, according to Nasa.

The American Meteor Society said that the meteor shower will be active until November 22. It is important to note that the best time to view Orionid meteor shower depends on how clear the skies are.

"Depending on clear skies, the best time to see Orionid meteors is late night-early mornings on both Sunday and Monday," Nasa said. "They should be viewable after midnight through before dawn on the mornings." While clear, night skies may help people view the meteors, Nasa warned that the bright moon might make it difficult to see the meteor shower. Additionally, the space agency Bill Cooke advises stargazers to find an area well away from the city or street lights. "Come prepared with a blanket. Lie flat on your back and look up, taking in as much of the sky as possible," said Cooke, who leads Nasa's Meteoroid Environment Office in Huntsville, Alabama.

Scientists pinpoint the origins of humanity's love of carbs

The origin of modern humans' long-standing love affair with carbs may predate our existence as a species, according to a new study. A once prevailing stereotype of ancient humans feasting on mammoth steak and other hunks of meat helped foster the idea of a protein-heavy diet that was necessary to fuel the development of a large brain. But archaeological evidence in recent years has challenged this view, suggesting that humans long ago developed a taste for carbohydrates, roasting things such as tubers and other starch-laden foods that have been detected by analyzing bacteria lodged in teeth. The new research, published in the journal Science on Thursday, offers the first hereditary evidence for early carb-laden diets. Scientists traced the evolution of a gene that enables humans to digest starch more easily by breaking it down into simple sugars that our bodies can use for energy. The study

revealed these genes duplicated long before the advent of agriculture. This expansion may even go back hundreds of thousands of years, long before our species, Homo sapiens, or even Neanderthals emerged as distinct human lineages. Researchers based at The Jackson Laboratory in Farmington, Connecticut, and the University of Buffalo in New York state analyzed the genomes of 68 ancient humans. The study team focused on a gene called AMY1, which allows humans to identify and begin breaking down complex carbohydrate starch in the mouth by producing the enzyme amylase. Without amylase, humans would not be able to digest foods such as potatoes, pasta, rice or bread.

Humans today have multiple copies of this gene, and the number varies from person to person. However, it has been tricky for geneticists to piece together how and when the number of these genes

expanded — a reflection of when eating starch likely became advantageous for human health. "The main question that we were trying to answer was, when did this duplication occur? So that's why we started studying ancient genomes," said the study's first author Feyza Yilmaz, an associate computational scientist at The Jackson Laboratory. "Previous studies show that there's a correlation between AMY1 copy numbers and the amount of amylase enzyme that's released in our saliva. We wanted to understand whether it's an occurrence that is corresponding to the advent of agriculture. This is ... a hot question," she said. The team found that as far back as 45,000 years ago, hunter-gatherers — whose way of life predated agriculture — had an average of four to eight copies of AMY1, suggesting that Homo sapiens had a taste for starch long before the domestication of crops shaped human diets.



Pak-Korea Cultural Week 2024 to be observed from Oct 23

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister's Youth Program (PMYP) in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, Islamabad, will observe the Korea-Pakistan Cultural Week 2024.

According to the PMYP office, the vibrant celebration will showcase the rich cultural heritage of both nations, strengthening their friendship and cultural exchange. The event will feature two exciting programs including the Korea-Pakistan Cultural Gala on October 23 at Liaquat Gymnasium which will showcase mesmerizing music, dance, and art performances from Korea and Pakistan.

Additionally, the Korea-Pakistan Movie Day will screen four critically acclaimed films from October 24 to 27 at PNCA, Islamabad. Korean movies "Ode to My Father" and "The Himalayas" would be showcased alongside Pakistani hits "Nayab" and "Superstar." These films would highlight the diversity and creativity of both countries' cinema.

Regarding the occasion, Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Program Rana Mashhood said "We are thrilled to partner with the Embassy of the Republic of Korea to bring this cultural extravaganza to Pakistan. This event embodies the spirit of friendship and cooperation between two countries." The Korea-Pakistan Cultural Week 2024 underscores the growing bilateral relations between Korea and Pakistan and promises to attract a diverse audience, including dignitaries, cultural enthusiasts, and students.

Qamar Zaman Kaira praises the institutions serving humanity in Pakistan

KHARIAN: Former Governor of Gilgit-Baltistan and Pakistan People's Party leader Chaudhry Qamar Zaman Kaira has praised the institutions serving humanity in Pakistan, stating that the cleft hospital in Gujrat, which provides free plastic surgery for children with cleft lips and palates at an international level, is an exemplary humanitarian service.

Qamar Zaman Kaira was speaking at a dinner hosted by Chairman of Skyways Group of Companies, Chaudhry Zia Mohiuddin, in honor of the UK plastic surgery team. He mentioned that he would discuss the promotion and support of this institution with the federal government. He specifically thanked the foreign cleft surgeons' team, who visit Pakistan twice a year to perform free surgeries for children with cleft lip and palate issues. He added that this service does not only transform the life of a single child but turns the despair of the entire family into smiles, describing it as a great mission.

Chairman of Skyways Group, Chaudhry Zia Mohiuddin, said he had been associated with the hospital for a year and wished that all his friends visit the hospital and meet the children before deciding whether to support the institution or not. He expressed confidence that they would not be able to refuse. Amir Mushtaq Shani thanked Aziz-ur-Rehman Mujahid and Dr. Ijaz Bashir for introducing them to this noble cause and allowing them to be a part of it. He pledged that they would all continue working together to improve the institution. The hospital's coordinator, Aziz-ur-Rehman Mujahid, stated that Ayesha Bashir Hospital in Gujrat offers world-class facilities for the treatment of children with cleft lip and palate. APP



ISLAMABAD: A group photo of Austrian ambassador to Pakistan, Andrea Wicke with participants on the occasion of the Closing Ceremony of Girls Sports Carnival 2024 under the auspices of Ministry Of Federal Education and Professional Training at Pakistan Sports Board, Liaquat Gymnasium, in the Federal Capital. ONLINE

Israeli aggression continues, Israel's worst attacks in northern & central Gaza, 80 Palestinians martyred

GAZA: It is reported that at least 80 Palestinians were martyred and dozens injured in the worst attacks by Israeli planes, tanks and drones in various places in northern and central Gaza. According to Palestinian media, in Israeli attacks in northern and central Gaza, displaced Palestinians living in tents were targeted, and among the martyred and injured, there were large number of women and children.

According to reports, the tents of displaced people around the Toba Mosque in Deir al-Balah, central Gaza, were bombed, while heavy shelling by Israeli tanks continued on the area of Beit al-Ahiya in northern Gaza. Many people were martyred and injured when

Israeli aircraft bombed a house near the Al-Sabra neighborhood in southern Gaza. They also bombed the tents of the homeless, in which many martyrs and injured. The Civil Defense in the Gaza Strip announced that more than 400 Palestinians have been martyred in the northern Gaza Strip over the past two weeks after the Israeli army launched a campaign targeting the besieged northern Gaza Strip.

Civil Defense Spokesman Mahmoud Basal told a foreign news agency that his teams recovered more than 400 bodies from various targeted locations in the northern Gaza Strip, including Jabalia and its camp Beit Lahia and Beit Hanoun. He added that "all of them have

been transferred to hospitals in the northern Gaza Strip. Basal pointed out that as of Friday, the bodies of 386 people had been recovered. In addition, 33 people were martyred in the Israeli bombardment of the Jabalia refugee camp on Saturday morning. Mahmoud Basal said that as a result of the continuous bombing, it is difficult to pick up the dozens of bodies scattered in the streets of Jabalia.

"There have been many appeals for help from bombed families inside the Jabalia camp," said Mahmoud Basal. There are many dead and injured but it is difficult for our personnel to reach the blast sites." He also pointed to the disconnection of internet and communication facilities. SABAH

Pakistan navy ship seizes narcotics at sea



RAWALPINDI: An intelligence-based counter narcotics operation was conducted by Pakistan Navy and ANF in North Arabian Sea in which approximately 2000 Kgs of Hashish, 370 Kgs of Ice and 50 Kgs of Heroin were seized by Pakistan Navy Ship HUNAIN. The consignment includes one hundred thousand illegal Indian made pills used as drug which was to be transported via sea to international destination. Value of narcotics in inter-

national market is approximately US\$ 145 million. The seized items have been handed over to ANF for further legal proceedings. Successful operation by Pakistan Navy and ANF resulting in seizure of large quantity of drugs is a testament of PN resolve to fight against illegal activities as a national obligation. Pakistan Navy will continue to shoulder its national obligations and responsibility to establish lawful order at sea. PR

Education key to country's future: Dr. Musadik

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum, Dr. Musadik Malik, said on Friday that education is crucial for securing the nation's bright future. Delivering the closing remarks at a seminar on sustainable tobacco control policies, Dr. Malik stressed the need for concerted efforts to prevent children from dropping out of school.

He highlighted the importance of encouraging children to attend school to secure both their personal futures and the country's future. The Minister also underscored the health hazards associated with smoking, labeling it a leading cause of cancer and a contributor to numerous preventable deaths. He urged the public to avoid smoking in the interest of their health. DNA

ECP to hear PTI intra-party election case on Oct 22

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has scheduled the hearing for the PTI intra-party election case on October 22, delays in local body elections in Punjab and at the federal level, as well as a contempt case against the PTI founder.

Notices have already been issued to Barrister Gohar Ali, Rauf Hassan, Akbar S. Babar, and others in the PTI intra-party election case.

The Election Commission has summoned the Chief Secretary of Punjab, the Secretary of Local Government Punjab, and the Federal Secretary of Interior regarding the delays in the local body elections in Punjab and Islamabad, respectively.

The contempt case against the PTI founder will also be heard on October 22.

Faisal Vawda terms passage of 26th constitutional amendment historic achievement

ISLAMABAD: Former Federal Minister and Senator Faisal Vawda on Sunday hailed the passage of the 26th constitutional amendment as a "historic success" and expressed satisfaction over the high number of votes it received.

Speaking to the media outside Parliament House, he revealed that he had refused to meet PTI founder following the events of May 9 in Lahore.

He said that the people of Pakistan would now witness progress, prosperity and development as a result of the amendment.

He also criticized the current PTI leadership for leading the party's founder into its present difficulties, adding, "Had Imran Khan listened to me at that time, he would be in a much better position today, instead of being in jail."

In response to a question about PTI's founder, Vawda expressed skepticism about the possibility of any relief for him.

Senate approves long-awaited...

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He said the formation of these benches would be under the authority of the JC headed by the CJP. He said setting up constitutional court was part of Charter of Democracy (CoD) signed by Shaheed Benazir Bhutto and Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in 2006. The Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto also took up the matter which was pending agenda part of the CoD, he added. He said in past, elected prime ministers were removed from their offices by exercising Article 184 of the Constitution although there was clear procedure given in the Article 195 of the constitution. In 2022, the elected prime minister was removed under the Article 195 revised in the constitution through vote of no confidence, he added.

He clarified that incumbent CJP Qazi Faez Isa

was not interested in any extension adding, "During the pre meetings that I had held with the top Judge, he reiterated his disinterest in his extension of his tenure, saying that any amendment would come into effects after his retirement".

Azam Tarar said that the JC would have the authority to draft rules and establish a clear process for evaluating judges' professional capabilities. The JC, in collaboration with the CJP and provincial high courts, would regularly review judges' performance, he added.

He said that the JC would provide reports on judges' professional skills, and five technical advisors could be appointed in the National and Provincial Assemblies under the constitution. He said Kamran Murtaza of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) proposed five amendments which have already been included in the draft.

developing consensus on the constitutional amendment. Attaullah Tarar said the twenty-six point draft contains proposed amendments on important issues including the process of judicial appointments, climate change, women in law, civil society and federal-provincial coordination. He said the amendment will guarantee timely and accessible justice for the public.

Constitutional amendment to...

Continued from Page 1

The Minister said extensive and protracted discussions and consultations were held prior to the finalization of the draft for the constitutional amendment.

He said PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and other political leaders played a vital role in

Mushahid proposes 3-point Action...

Continued from Page 1

Condemning Israel for committing the first televised genocide in history, Mushahid also condemned Western double standards and absence of morality as they were actively aiding and abetting Israeli crimes.

"Most of the Muslim regimes have also failed to rise to the occasion due to either fear or expediency," he added. Presenting his Action Plan before the gathering of some 1000 guests from over 50 countries, Mushahid said the first step should be for President Erdogan to take the lead and constitute an International Leaders Delegation, comprising leaders from the Global South, including Pakistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Africa, Algeria and Brazil, who should visit Washington immediately after the November 5 US Presidential polls to meet the American President-elect, and urge the new US President to reverse the one-sided American policy of blatantly supporting Israel. He said, "Muslim leaders must move beyond talk and words by taking concrete actions. Second, given their strong Navies, Türkiye."

Pakistan and Indonesia should form a Joint Naval Flotilla for Peace & Humanitarian Assistance, to help break the Israeli blockade of Gaza after getting authorization from the UN General Assembly. The Naval Flotilla should carry medicine, food and relief goods to alleviate the

sufferings of the Palestinians besieged in Gaza, terming it the 'world's largest open air prison,' he added.

"This will send a powerful and positive message to the oppressed Palestinian people that the Muslim Ummah is not an impotent entity, rather it has the vision and political will to undertake concrete initiatives. Third, recalling the joint initiative of President Erdogan and Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir in 2019 to launch a Global Media Initiative to represent the Muslim Ummah in the 'battle of ideas and narratives,' he said.

Mushahid said, "Now is the right time and opportunity for such an initiative as the Gaza Genocide has demonstrated how biased and one-sided the Western media has been in the current crisis." He said journalists, intellectuals, academics, and think tanks could be powerful instruments in the 'Battle of Ideas' crafting and presenting narratives based on truth and facts, while representing the popular aspirations of the Global South in general and Muslim World in particular on such issues as Palestine, Kashmir, Islamophobia, and Rohingya.

He said such Global Media Initiative would play an important role in helping to prepare the ground for an alternative emerging equitable global order based justice and rule of law which should start by rejection of all types of hegemony, global or regional.

JUI chief terms passage of Constitutional Amendment result of month long struggle

ISLAMABAD: Maulana Fazlur Rehman, head of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F), said on Sunday that the passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment was the result of a month-long struggle. Speaking to the media outside Parliament, he said that there was a significant difference between the earlier and final drafts of the Amendment. He was of the view that consensus had been reached through dialogue in the Constitution (Twenty Sixth Amendment).

He explained that the objective of the Amendment was to strengthen the Constitution and the legal framework.

In response to a question, the JUI-F chief said "all judges are respectable to us, and we do not aim to make anyone controversial."

Pakistan key partner with China in food security

ISLAMABAD: The Acting Consul General of the Consulate General of Pakistan in Guangzhou Sardar Muhammad said that Pakistan is a key partner in food security and trade ties with China at the 2nd Hainan International Tropical Food Supply Chain Expo 2024. He attended the Opening Ceremony and delivered a speech-themed "Further Deepening China-Pakistan Food Trade in the Context of The Belt and Road Initiative".

In his remarks, according to a Gwadar Pro's report, he highlighted Pakistan's significant contributions to global agriculture, noting the country's standing as the world's 5th largest producer of cotton and sugarcane, 6th in wheat and dates, 9th in rice, and as China's second-largest rice supplier.

This diverse agricultural output positions Pakistan as a crucial partner in ensuring food security and enhancing bilateral trade with China espe-



cially under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative.

"The potential for further collaboration between our two nations is immense," he stated. "By deepening our cooperation in food trade, we can not only meet the growing demand for food in both nations but also contribute to regional stability and economic growth." He called on stakeholders to avail of Pakistan's agricultural advantages and explore partnership and investment opportunities in Pakistan's agricultural and food sectors. During his interactions with the media, Muhammad also highlighted Pakistan's pivotal role

in the global agricultural sector.

He expressed his hopes that the Expo would draw more businesspeople to the pavilion, allowing them to experience the quality of Pakistani products firsthand and ultimately opening doors for increased trade and joint ventures between Pakistan and China.

After the Opening Ceremony, Sardar Muhammad visited the Pakistani Pavilion, which spanned 72 square meters and featured a diverse range of Pakistani food products, including premium rice, sesame seeds, and packaged foods. A Truck Style Karak Tea station, serving freshly brewed tea with traditional Pakistani cookies drew a significant number of visitors.

These interactive experiences became standout attractions, offering visitors a unique taste of Pakistan's rich culinary and cultural heritage and enhancing the pavilion's visibility at the exhibition. DNA

CM Nawaz proposes three new provincial authorities

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif presided over a special meeting in which a decision was made to establish provincial authorities for Punjab Development, Water & Sanitation, and Horticulture.

The Chief Minister granted in-principle approval for the establishment of three provincial authorities under which Punjab Development Authority, Punjab Water & Sanitation Authority and Punjab Horticulture Authority will be established. A formal legislation will be conducted for the establishment of these provincial authorities.

The provincial authorities will formulate policies and plans at the central level, while Development, Water & Sanitation and Horticulture agencies will ensure implementation at the local level. The meeting reviewed proposals for the establishment of Governing Boards and Director



Generals for the provincial authorities along with the appointment of Management Boards and Managing Directors at the local level.

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif directed to transfer streetlights to solar energy soon.

Provincial Ministers Bilal Yasin, Zeeshan Rafique, Chief Secretary, Principal Secretary to CM, relevant Secretaries and other senior officials attended the meeting, while Secretary Housing and Secretary Local Government participated in the meeting via video link.

Bilawal Bhutto congratulates nation on passing of the 26th Constitutional Amendment package by the federal cabinet

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has congratulated the nation on the passing of the 26th Constitutional Amendment package by the federal cabinet.

Talking to the media at the Parliament House in Islamabad on Sunday, Bilawal Bhutto said the PPP is fulfilling the promises made in the Charter of Democracy particularly those concerning judicial reforms.

He described the day as monumental both politically and personally, as he would be implementing one of the points of his mother's unfinished mission.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari noted that there were no objectionable or controversial points in the Bill.

Describing it as a historic day, Bilawal Bhutto shared that he had contacted Maulana Fazlur Rehman by phone to congratulate him.

He praised the efforts of the JUI-F and Maulana Fazlur Rehman in evolving consensus on the amendment. SABAH