FOUNDED BY QUAID-I-AZAM MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAH

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Imran wants his cell probed after 'solitary' claim disputed by government

- Deputy attorney general submits report on facilities available to ex-PM in prison
- SC reserves judgement in NAB amendments case; takes issue with NAB claim of recovering $10bn in Reko Diq case
- Judge asks politicians to fix accountability law rather than asking courts to intervene

By Nasir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: After the federal government furnished "pictorial evidence" to challenge PTI leader Imran Khan's claim of solitary confinement in Adiala Jail, the former prime minister asked the Supreme Court to order an inspection of his jail cell.

Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa, however, observed the court may assign a judicial officer to conduct a discreet check, but did not propose any date.

On Thursday, the five-judge Supreme Court also reserved its ruling on the federal government's intra-court appeal against the Sept 15 majority judgement that ruled amendments to the National Accountability Ordinance (NAO) illegal.

At the tag-end of the proceedings, Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan told the Supreme Court that the federal government had furnished a report with photographs of Imran Khan's jail cell. The report contained details of visitors from Sept 2023 until May 30, 2024, saying during this period Imran Khan met his family members, lawyers and politicians.

If this court deems it necessary, it may appoint a judicial officer in the form of a commission to verify the facts as submitted before the court, the report submitted in view of the statement made by Imran Khan at the last hearing on May 30 regarding his living conditions said.

The facilities available to Imran Khan in jail include an LED screen, room cooler, study table and chair, an exclusive corridor for a walk twice a day, a separate kitchen with a menu decided by him, books, an exercise bike, and a stretching belt for fitness, as per the report.

Imran 'pained' by SC remarks

Dressed in a turquoise shirt, Imran Khan attended the proceedings for about 30 minutes from jail via video link and complained about the remarks made by the Supreme Court

Continued on Page 3

Disastrous start as minnows US edge out Pakistan

DALLAS (Texas): Pakistan never got going in their T20 World Cup opener and now face a tall order to advance from their group. A shock loss to hosts United States, who cruised to a memorable Super Over victory on Thursday, means Babar Azam's men have been pinned to the wall at the very start of their campaign.

India come next and the question is how Pakistan will rebound from this humbling loss at the Grand Prairie National Cricket Stadium. The US were better in every department; Pakistan out of sorts. After being put into bat, Pakistan posted 159-7 with the US matching that score before they clinched the points in the Super Over under the blazing sun to turn up the heat on Babar and his charges.

Pakistan struggled with the bat; the 2009 champions being reduced to 26-3 inside five overs. After Steven Taylor's stunning one-handed catch at slip off speedster Saurabh Netravalkar brought the

Continued on Page 5

ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP
RESULTS & FIXTURES

AUS BEAT OMA BY 39 RUNS

AUS 164-5 (in 20 overs) (Stoinis 67 not out) OMA 125-9 (in 20 overs) (Shorim 2-18)

USA BEAT PAK BY 5 WICKETS

PAK 159 (in 19.1 overs) (Azam 43, Rauf 23*; Ali 4-17) USA 159-7 (in 18.2 overs) (R. Shah 32)

UPCOMING MATCHES

CAN vs IRE (7.00pm PST on Friday)
NZ vs AFG (4.30am PST on Saturday)
SL vs BD (8.30am PST on Saturday)

See Sport pages for more coverage

NITISH Kumar of the US successfully completes a run during the T20 World Cup Group A match against Pakistan at the Grand Prairie Cricket Stadium in Dallas, on Thursday. Pakistan lost a nail-biting contest to the minnows in the Super Over.—AFP

Govt lays 'controversial' ordinances before NA

- Parliamentary nod sought for NAB tweak to increase remand period to 40 days, hiring of retired judges for election tribunals
- Law minister opposes judicial probe into wheat scandal; says it's the job of executive, parliament

By Bilkhar A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: As it faces challenges to the recently promulgated ordinances about the accountability law and the elections, the federal government on Thursday tabled the Election (Amendment) Ordinance 2024 and National Accountability (Amendment) Ordinance 2024 through supplementary agenda while the PTI described the laws "politically motivated".

The NAB law increases the remand period from 14 days to 40 days; whereas the election law allows the government to appoint retired judges to the election tribunals, a move already challenged in the Islamabad and Lahore high courts.

Even before Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar laid before the house the ordinances, PTI-backed Sunni Ittehad Council Chief Whip Aamir Dogar, while speaking on a point of public importance, criticized the NAB ordinance.

He recalled that in April 2023 the PDM government reduced the period of physical remand from 90 days to 14 days but now the period has been increased to 40 days because the government was afraid of Imran Khan.

Speaking about the changes to the election law, he said in 2013 a committee on electoral reforms decided that retired judges would not be appointed to election tribunals. The law minister said that the Elections Act 2017 had a provision for

Govt gives tentative plan to present budget on 12th: Page 3

retired judges, which had been restored through the recent ordinance.

He said the decision was made because the high courts were "overburdened" with 82,000 cases and could not spare judges. He noted that ordinances were promulgated when the National Assembly was not in session, adding that the ordinances have become properties of the house and will be

Continued on Page 5

Pakistan elected to UNSC for historic eighth term

By Anwar Iqbal

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan was elected to the UN Security Council on Thursday, securing a non-permanent seat for a historic eighth term with an overwhelming 182 out of 190 votes.

There were a total of 190 votes: five abstained, and three voted against Pakistan. The required two-thirds majority to get elected was 124, and Pakistan received 182 votes.

Since it was a secret ballot, it's not clear who voted against Pakistan, but some UN diplomats named India, Israel, and Armenia as the countries that opposed Pakistan. Pakistan will now represent the Asia-Pacific group in the UN Security Council for the next two years — from 2025 to 2026.

Only 10 out of the 15 members of the council are elected, with no elections for the five veto-wielding permanent members — Britain, China, France, Russia, and the United States.

Seats on the council are allocated to regional

Continued on Page 5

ON OTHER PAGES

Nepra raises power tariff, again

The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority has notified Rs3.03 per unit additional fuel cost against consumption in April for Discos to raise Rs208bn in June, as the government confirmed a minor impact of solar net metering on electricity sales. The net tariff increase due to FCA will be about Rs4 per unit because of its partial spillover to the quarterly tariff adjustment to follow later. Page 9

40 injured as Chaman protests take violent turn

- Rallies held across border town, traffic disrupted 'attacks on govt buildings'
- 56 people detained
- 17 security men hurt; police use tear gas, rubber bullets to disperse protesters after
- Balochistan govt mulls opening Badini border crossing for Afghan trade

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: At least 40 people, including 17 security officials, were injured in Chaman on Thursday amid escalating tensions as protesters, incensed by the arrest of their leaders of a sit-in, launched attacks on government buildings and installations, demanding immediate releases.

The unrest spread across the border town, with protesters staging rallies and demonstrations, effectively shutting down the city.

The arrested leaders were part of a months-long sit-in in Chaman against the government's decision to only allow those with valid passports and visas to cross the Chaman border crossing. Before, Pakistanis and Afghans would cross the border upon showing their respective identity cards.

Officials said clashes started when the protesters tried to block major roads, including the national highway linking Quetta with Kandahar, disrupting traffic with barricades.

However, the local administration, along with security forces, including police, Levies and personnel of Frontier Corps, lobbed tear gas shells to disperse the mob and restored traffic by removing hurdles from the highway.

During their march, the protesters also staged a demonstration in front of the Deputy Commissioner Office complex and hurled stones at the building and forcibly closed all shops at Mall Road and other business centres. They also beat some shopkeepers with sticks.

According to local officials, the demonstrators also disrupted communication systems and attempted to cut power supplies to the Frontier Corps (FC) fort.

They hurled stones at the FC headquarters in Chaman, prompting the security officials deployed in the area to fire blank shots and lob tear

Continued on Page 5

PROTESTERS pelt a security vehicle with stones during a violent protest in Chaman, on Thursday.—Dawn

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Education CEO removed for sending incomplete data

By Our Correspondent

TOBA TEK SINGH: The Punjab School Education secretary has directed Toba District Education Authority CEO Tahir Mansoor to immediately report to the provincial secretariat.

In his order, the secretary accused the CEO of furnishing incomplete information to the Punjab Assembly regarding a question about the data of department in Toba district.

He has been placed at the disposal of the provincial office.

Sources said local PML-N MPA Amjad Ali Jaleel had sent a question to the education minister about the missing facilities in the educational institutions of the district. The MPA later complained that incomplete and wrong data had been sent by the CEO.

SALES TAX: Imposition of sales tax on poultry feed will deprive public of the cheap source of protein, says FCCI acting president Dr Ilyaad Arshad in a statement on Thursday.

He urged the government to avoid sales tax on food and food-related items in the federal budget.

PTI's Aliya Hamza arrested again

SARGODHA: Gujranwala police arrested PTI ex-MNA Aliya Hamza when she came out of the Sargodha jail after getting bail in three cases registered by Mianwali police.

She had been confined to Sargodha jail since April 2, 2024, as she was framed in four cases registered with Kamar Mushani Police Station in connection with May 9 violence by PTI workers.

Aliya was not nominated at the time of registration of the FIR.

Meanwhile, PTI activist Sanam Javed was produced before an ATC in Gujranwala on Thursday in a May 9 case. The court granted her four-day physical remand to police which had sought 30-day remand.

Punjab PA standing committees to have suo motu powers

Punjabi, Seraiki among indigenous languages to be allowed in PA

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: In a landslide move, a special committee of the Punjab Assembly has passed amendments to the assembly's rules of business, empowering the standing committees to take suo motu actions in their respective areas.

The MPAs have been demanding the powers since the 14th house (2002-08) of the provincial assembly and successive governments have been dragging their feet after making only promises to the effect.

The Special Committee-II, headed by Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan, held its maiden meeting on Thursday and considered proposed amendments aimed at reforming the assembly's operational procedures and strengthening governance, specifically with regards to the Rules of Procedure of the Provincial Assembly of Punjab, 1997.

Taking inspiration from the National Assembly, the Senate as well as other legislatures around the world, the panel passed the amendments aimed at "enhancing the legislative process, making it efficient, transparent, and accountable".

A significant amendment is granting suo motu powers to the standing committees, allowing them to independently examine matters without needing prior approval from the speaker. This change is intended to enhance the committees' effectiveness and responsiveness, making the legislature more democratic.

The committee also suggested including indigenous languages, like Punjabi, Seraiki, Pothohari and Mewati, as the languages of the house proceedings alongside Urdu and English. Earlier, a member had to seek special permission from the chair to speak in a language other than Urdu or English. The participants in the panel saw this move as a step towards decolonisation and to reflect and respect linguistic diversity of Punjab's population, promoting inclusivity within legislative discussions.

The body also proposed a code of conduct for the legislators designed to uphold ethical standards, integrity, and accountability among members, thereby enhancing the assembly's credibility.

It decided to designate the existing Business Advisory Committee as the 'Committee on Ethics' responsible for reviewing and ensuring implementation of the code, establishing its procedural rules, and undertaking additional functions as assigned by the speaker.

The committee also considered measures to ensure and encourage public access to the assembly by accepting public petitions, either in hard or soft copy, on any issue and report to the house after collecting evidence as well as suggest remedial measures. The committees have also been allowed to make their proceedings public if them deemed fit.

Another major proposal under review was mandating that resolutions unanimously adopted by the house be binding on the cabinet. This ensures that such resolutions are implemented as part of the cabinet's collective responsibility, reinforcing the assembly's legislative authority.

Speaker Khan said that standing committees played a crucial role in the functioning of the parliamentary system of government, ensuring a system of checks and balances, and their establishment is a shared responsibility of all political parties.

The meeting commended Advocate Usama Khawar for his efforts regarding drafting the amendments to the rules of procedure of the assembly.

Senior parliamentarians, both from the treasury and opposition, attended the meeting. Samiullah Khan, Ahmed Iqbal Chaudhry, Saeed Akbar Nawazi, and Amina Hassan represented the treasury while Rana Aftab Ahmad Khan, Ahmer Rashid Bhatti, whose father has advocated for Punjabi language in the Assembly for decades, and Junaid Afzal Sahi represented the opposition benches.

Plea against amends to NAB law admitted for hearing

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Thursday admitted for regular hearing a petition challenging fresh amendments made to the National Accountability (Amendment) Act, 2022 through an ordinance and issued notices to the federal government.

Petitioner's counsel Azhar Siddique argued that certain provisions of the NAB law had been amended through an ordinance without fulfilling the requisite criteria as there was no emergent situation for issuance of such an ordinance.

He said since the parliament was operational, the amendment to the law was just a way to pressurise PTI founder Imran Khan.

The lawyer said issuance of the ordinance by the acting president spoke volumes about the fact that it was politically motivated. He asked the court to set aside the impugned ordinance.

Deputy Attorney General Tahir Mahmood Khokhar argued that although the new amendments were not under challenge before the Supreme Court but the question relating to the period of remand of an accused arrested under the 1999 ordinance was directly sub-judice before the apex court.

He said any decision by the apex court would have a direct bearing upon the amendment to Section 24 of the amendment Act, 2022; therefore, the high court could not conduct parallel proceedings.

The law officer argued that the powers of the acting president to issue an ordinance could not be questioned, especially when the president was out of the country.

Justice Shujaat Ali Khan directed the respondents to submit replies on Sept 17. —Staff Reporter

'Land grab' by housing society

Police arrest media person for covering protest

By Asif Chaudhry

LAHORE: Police allegedly tortured and 'arrested' a news channel anchorperson for covering the protest of residents against the owner of a private housing society in Sundar area here on Thursday.

Sources say that scores of residents of the Theme Park View housing scheme had gathered with the complaints, including land grabbing and suspension of electricity supply to them by the society management despite charging the fees.

The protesters alleged that three persons have been killed over land grabbing by the housing society management.

The owner of the housing society is a retired policeman.

The sources say that a news channel anchorperson, Mian Imran Arshad, reached the site along with his team, including cameraman, to cover the protest.

Eyewitnesses say that the police deployed on the spot suddenly used force against the protesters, thrashed many of them and took some of them into custody. They say as the anchorperson started covering the protest for his TV programme, the police personnel attacked him and his team, subjecting them to torture.

Some journalists alleged that the police misused their authority on the orders of the circle ASPs Amir Khan and Kamil Mushtaq to teach a lesson to the media persons for exposing the 'police brutality' against peaceful protesters.

Some video clips of the police torture also surfaced on social media, showing armed policemen thrashing a boy on the rooftop of a building for recording the torture scenes with his mobile phone.

The footage also showed the policemen snatching the boy's mobile phone and taking him into custody. Similarly, some other video clips showed the police beating the protesters with clubs.

The eyewitnesses say the police bundled the anchorperson into a van and took him to police station for further action. The arrest of the working journalist sparked resentment among the media community which declared it a case of harassment of media persons.

Some journalists later reached the police station to extend support to Mian Imran and strongly condemned the police action.

They regretted that incidents of violence against journalists continued to rise during the tenure of the PML-N government in Punjab.

Following the incident, Lahore Operations SSP Tanwar Iqbal and other senior police officers reached the police station, where they held negotiations with senior journalists present there.

The SSP told Dawn the matter has been resolved and the police have returned the cameras and other belongings of the journalists seized during the action.

To a question, he said the incident was caused because of a 'misunderstanding' between the police and the journalists, admitting that the way police 'arrested' the anchorperson was 'not reasonable'.

Man attempts suicide after killing his wife

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A man allegedly jumped from the rooftop of his house to commit suicide after killing his wife over a petty domestic issue in Ghazibad area here on Thursday.

A police official said the suspect, Zohaib, and his wife Komal were not enjoying good relations due to petty family issues, and financial crunch they were facing.

He said Zohaib was said to be an addict and used to sell household items to buy drugs.

On Thursday, the couple exchanged hot words leading to a brawl.

In a fit of anger, Zohaib attacked his wife with a knife and allegedly killed her on the spot and later jumped from the rooftop of his house.

He was rushed to hospital with multiple injuries, including bone fractures.

The police shifted the body of the woman to the city morgue and lodged a case against the suspected killer.

Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited

EXTENSION NOTICE
INVITATION TO BID
TENDER ENQUIRY NO: KHR/EN/TENDER-06/2024
LAYING OF ASSOCIATED GAS PIPELINES AT
BAKI CHUNI WALA, KOCHRAWAN KALAN & TOWA HAKIM SHAH
OF DISTRICT BHAKKAR (OLD BA-61)

Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited, a Gas Transmission & Distribution Company, invites sealed bids from the Pre-Qualified contractors of the Professional & Rural Region for the below-tabulated works. The Pre-Qualified contractors desirous of quoting for the above tenders are required to provide a copy of a valid NTN / Income Tax Certificate, KPRA Certificate and latest undertaking or certificate along with their request for purchase of tender documents.

Item No.	PROJECT	DESCRIPTION OF WORK
1	Supply of Gas to Sunni Chunni Wala	Laying/Installing/Laying of assorted size PE Pipelines with allied civil works and transportation 4" Dia. 1000 mtrs, 2" Dia. 500 mtrs, 1-1/4" Dia. 2750 mtrs
2	Supply of Gas to Kochrawan Kalan & Towa Hakim Shah	Laying/Installing/Laying of assorted size PE Pipelines with allied civil works and transportation 4" Dia. 1000 mtrs, 2" Dia. 2750 mtrs, 1-1/4" Dia. 2750 mtrs

Bidding documents, containing detailed terms and conditions/specifications, etc. are available and can be obtained through a request on the firm's letterhead along with photocopies of the above-mentioned documents/certificates from the office of Executive Engineer (Development), SNGPL Regional Office, Main Indus Highway, Near Old Toll Plaza, District Kerak. The price of the bidding documents is Rs. 1000/- (while earnest money is not less than 2% (including taxes).

The bids, prepared in accordance with the instructions in the bidding documents, must reach the Executive Engineer (Development), SNGPL Regional Office, Main Indus Highway, Near Old Toll Plaza, District Kerak on or before 03.06.2024 @ 1300 HRS (closing time). Bids will be publicly opened on the SNGPL DAR (Z) 1400 HRS. The above tenders are also available on the company's website at www.sngpl.com.pk. Bids/Quotations received after the bids opening date and time will not be considered and will be returned.

For further clarification and site visits our representative Mr. Anwar Khan (Incharge Sub Station Mianwali) (Cell No. 0313-9000777) OR Mr. Nasir Gangoli, Exe. Engineer (Development) (Mobile No. 0311-4040000) may be contacted.

To get your e-bill, please register yourself at www.sngpl.com.pk

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER / COLLECTOR
DISTRICT TANDO ALLAHYAR
Phone: 022-9250702 Fax 022-9250703
E-mail: deputycommissionertay@gmail.com

No Acctt/DC/TA/1171 of 2024 Dated: 03-06-2024

TENDER NOTICE

1. Sealed bids under single stage envelope are invited under SPPRA Rules, 2010 from the registered suppliers/contractors for supply of cooked food diet to the under trial prisoners confined in Judicial & Police Lockups of District Tando Allahyar for the financial year 2024-25. Tenders will be received and opened on following dates in the office of Deputy Commissioner Tando Allahyar in presence of all the bidders or their authorized representatives who may wish to attend. Tenders should be submitted on the tender form which can be received from the Accounts Office of the Deputy Commissioner Tando Allahyar during office hours.

Name of Work	Date of Issuance	Date of Deposit	Date of Opening	Tender Fee	Security Deposit
Supply of Cooked Food Diet to the under trial Prisoners confined in Sub Jail, Tando Allahyar and Police Lockups of District Tando Allahyar for the Financial year 2024-25.	21.05.2024	28.05.2024	05.06.2024	500/-	50000/-

2. Tenders should be addressed to the Accounts Officer, Deputy Commissioner Tando Allahyar.
3. The tenders must reach the Accounts Office of Deputy Commissioner Tando Allahyar on or above date and time in sealed envelopes and the same received by post after that time will not be accepted.
4. The scale of diet to be provided to the prisoners will be in accordance with the provisions laid down in chapter 20 of Pakistan Prison Rules as amended from time to time and as communicated by the Inspector General of Prisons, Government of Sindh vide letter No. Bud.1/185/54/55 dated 28.06.2018.
5. The Security Deposit will be provided by successful bidder in shape of demand draft/pay order in favour of Deputy Commissioner Tando Allahyar.
6. The successful tender/contractor will not claim any enhancement of rate at any stage during the period of contract.
7. The successful suppliers/contractors shall be required to make agreement with this office before the start of supply of cooked food to the prisoners.
8. The contract once granted will not be transferable.
9. In case the chairman or any member of the committee would be out of headquarters or government declares holiday on the date so fixed, the tenders will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
10. The Procurement committee reserves the right to reject any tender, subject to relevant provisions of SPPRA Rules, 2010.

Bidder must attach/produce the following documents

1. Income Tax & Sales Tax Department certificates duly attested by the Oath Commissioner/Notary Public.
2. Copies of Bank Certificate in original to the effect that financial position of contractor / firm is sound (turnover of at least last 3 years).
3. NOC from Excise and Taxation Department with request for payment of professional tax.
4. An affidavit on stamp paper of Rs.100/- duly attested by Notary Public to the effect that the firm or contractor has never been blacklisted from any Government, Semi-Government Department or private institution and no bank loan, government dues defaulter and not indulged in any criminal activities.
5. Attested copy of valid Computerized National Identity Card of the contractor.
6. Experience certificates of running business of cooked food in Government, Semi Government or public sector.
7. Copy of notice in which advertisement was made along with Sales Tax Certificate.

MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM ALMANI
ADDITIONAL DEPUTY COMMISSIONER-I
CHAIRMAN PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE
TANDO ALLAHYAR

INF-KHY No. 1898/24

DAWOOD UNIVERSITY OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY (DUET)
Nasir M.A. Jinnah Road, Karachi-74800 (PAKISTAN)

No. DUET/Pre-Qualification/Workshops/2024

PRE-QUALIFICATION OF AUTO WORKSHOPS (LTV & HTV)

Applications are invited for pre-qualification of Auto Workshops from interested firms owned workshops for regular repair & maintenance of DUET vehicles (LTV & HTV) (both vehicle).

Security Deposit: Rs. 50,000/- in shape of Order in favour of DUET, Karachi.
Eligibility: Account Tax, GST and NTN registered firms (as per SPPRA Rule 40 to 43) is mandatory.
Method of Procurement: Single Stage - Single Envelope.
Documents for the prequalification can be obtained from Procurement Section during office hours against the pay order / bank draft of Rs. 1000/- (Non-Refundable) in favour of Dawood University of Engineering & Technology (DUET), Karachi, will also be available on SPPRA & DUET www.duet.edu.pk.

Date of Issuance of Documents: [illegible]
Last Date & Time for submission of Bid: [illegible]
Date & Time for Opening of Bid: [illegible]

In case of any Govt. Holiday or unforeseen situation or location, the bids prequalification documents must be sealed, submitted & opened on the next working day as per schedule. Place of Submission & inquiries will be with the Procurement Officer and submission will be at Director (Works & Services), DUET. Tenders will be opened in Seminar Hall, Dawood University of Engineering & Technology, Karachi.

Under the following conditions Bid will be rejected:

- Conditional and incomplete bids/tenders
- Bids not accompanied by Bid security & non-refundable tender fee
- Bidding documents are submitted without sign & stamp
- Bids received after specified date and time
- Contracts Modification Forms

All other terms & conditions are mentioned in the Bidding documents. The procuring agency reserves the right to reject all or any bids subject to the relevant provisions of Sindh Public Procurement Rules 2010 (Amended up to date).

Procurement Officer
DUET, Karachi.

PRO(L)-140/23

TENDER NOTICE

The Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan Institute of Cardiology invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-23240542785I Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of SPPRA GOB.
Tender Fee Rs. 1000/-

S.No	Class of Object	Bid Security
1	Fuels and Fuel-Additives and Lubricants and Anti corrosive Materials (Total Items): Count: 1)	50,000 PKR

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 1,500,000 in Previous 3 Years. Turn over of at least 3,500,000 PKR in 3 Subsequent Previous Years. Presence in Active Tax Payer List. Sales Tax Certificate. The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. JV is not permissible. Submission of the required Bid Security in case Bid Security is not found as required during financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as in- eligible and non-responsive. Submission of the required Bidding document Fee. At least 1 Satisfactory Certificates from Provincial, Federal Government, Department, Agency, Organization or autonomous body or Public sector university and Private Sector Organization in case of Repair/After Services. Compliance to the technical specifications of all items to be procured. 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 amount 50,000 PKR specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gob.pk Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gob.pk Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 27 June, 2024 10:11:15 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 12:15 PM on EPPS System. Address: Sheikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Institute of Cardiology Kech mor Quetta Phone no. 081/2882290 Email: procurmbzuai@gmail.com

Manager Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan Institute of Cardiology

AD No. 542/06-6-2024

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE BADIN

NO: MC/BDN/AS 15/Inf 2024 Dated: 04-06-2024

AUCTION NOTICE

By virtue of Sindh Local Council (Auctioning of Collection Rights) Rules 2016 schedule and chapter 10 LGA 2013 the auction of the following Taxes / Fee of Municipal Committee Badin to give collection right for the year 2024-2025 (01-07-2024 to 30-06-2025) will be held under the Chairmanship of Municipal Committee Badin on 26-06-2024 at 11:00 A.M in the office of Chief Non Municipal Committee Badin.

In case of non response from parties or any other way, the auction would be held on the above date, the rest of auction will be 27-06-2024 and 28-06-2024 at 11:00 AM for the end and time to auction.

Sl. NO.	NAME OF CONTRACT	OFFICIAL BID	SECURITY DEPOSIT
1	Slaughterhouse	1292250	25845
2	Parking Fee	210000	42000
3	Rehadi Fee	842250	168450
4	Slaughter House Fee	46575	931
5	Fish Kiosk Tax	20150	1403
6	Land utilization charges to installation generator on Municipal Land (Bank, Hotel, Motor, Hospital, Commercial etc)	500/m	10%

Terms & Conditions

1. The interested parties can take part in open auction by depositing security deposit in the shape of pay order / demand draft of the amount shown against each contract.
2. The Chairman, Municipal Committee Badin reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason or notice.
3. The other details of the contracts can be had from the office of the Taxation Officer, Municipal Committee Badin on any working day.
4. The defaulter contractor cannot take part in the open auction.
5. The successful bidder will have to pay income tax and sales tax as per government policy.

Chief Municipal Officer
Municipal Committee Badin

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE BADIN

NO: MC/BDN/AS 15/Inf 2024 Dated: 04-06-2024

INVITED OBJECTIONS / SUGGESTIONS

By virtue of Section 103 (1) & (2) of Sindh Local Government Act, 2013 read with Sindh Local Council Imposition of Taxation Rules, schedule one chapter 10 LGA 2013 this council intends to enhance its income by revising the existing schedule of Taxes / Fee. Detail can be seen in the office of the Chairman, Municipal Committee Badin on any working day.

According to the rules the objections / suggestions are invited from all the interested parties / citizens within fifteen days of the publication of this notice regarding the revised taxation proposal.

The objections/ suggestions should reach us on or before the head of committee constituted for the purpose for consideration to the concerned quarter for further approval through the Chairman Municipal Committee Badin.

Chief Municipal Officer
Municipal Committee Badin

INF-KHY No. 1863/24

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DAWN

Govt gives tentative plan to present budget on 12th

NA speaker forms three interim committees to get approval for pending bills

By Amir Wasim

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Thursday announced a tentative plan to present the country's budget for the next fiscal year on June 12 as National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, using his special powers, "appointed" three standing committees on an interim basis to get approval of pending bills.

According to an official announcement by the National Assembly Secretariat, the speaker appointed these standing committees using his powers under Rule 215 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007.

The committees, comprising only five members, mostly from the treasury benches, also held their meetings on Thursday and approved various bills that had been laid before the National Assembly during its recent sessions.

It was due to lack of understanding and some differences that the government and the opposition have so far failed to agree on the composition and the chairmanship of the committees, even more than three months after the election of Shehbaz Sharif as the prime minister.

Under the rules, the committees are required to be formed within 30 days after the prime minister's election.

Budget session plan

The announcement regarding the formation of the interim committees came after the speaker presided over a consultative meeting of the parliamentary leaders to discuss the schedule of the budget session that has already begun on Thursday.

According to an official announcement, the members of the treasury and the opposition members agreed that soon after presentation of the budget, the NA would go on a week-long recess due to Eidul Adha.

A general debate on the budget would start on June 20 which would continue till 24th. The members will take part in the debate and voting on cut motions on June 26 and 27 whereas the budget will be passed on June 28.

The announcement says that this plan is not final and there can be changes in it according to the situation.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry and Hafeezur Rehman of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Syed Naveed Qamar and Ijaz Jakhrani of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Aamir Dogar and Ali Muhammad Khan of the Sunni Ittehda Council (SIC), Amjad Haq of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), Noor Alam Khan and Shahida Akhtar of the Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam (JUI-F) and Khalid Magsi of the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP).

According to sources, the critical National Economic Council (NEC) meeting, essential for reviewing the current year's macroeconomic situation and development programme and approving the next year's economic and development agenda, has yet to be scheduled and the government has yet to constitute the National Economic Council.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb are currently on a visit to China and thus unavailable to lead key consultations until Saturday which could be the first available date for an NEC meeting, provided the relevant documentation with provinces, the prime minister and the president are circulated through electronic means for constituting and notifying the NEC.

Standing committees

Meanwhile, due to a delay in the process of the formation of the standing committees and amid criticism by the members from the treasury as well as the opposition, the speaker formed the committees on information and broadcasting, maritime affairs and communications, but only to approve some bills based on the already promulgated ordinances which were laid before the assembly by the government amid opposition's criticism.

The meeting of the standing committee on information and broadcasting was presided over by PPP's Syed Naveed Qamar whereas PML-N's Bilal Azhar Kiyani and MQM's Amjad Haq presided over the meetings of the committees on maritime affairs and communications, respectively.

These chairmen later attended the meetings of the other two committees as members with JUI-F's Noor Alam Khan and Awn Saqlain of the Istehkam-i-Pakistan Party.

The bills passed by these committees were the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the Pakistan Postal Services Management Board (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and the National Highway Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

RAWALPINDI: Traders unload animals from a truck at the Bhatta Chowk Animal Market, on Thursday.—Online

ECP to challenge high court order to appoint more tribunals in Punjab: CEC

Raja wonders if ECP's role is that of a mere post office; PML-N Islamabad MNAs express no confidence in appellate body

By Mikhar A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) will challenge Lahore High Court's (LHC) order to notify six more election tribunals to hear poll disputes in Punjab, the electoral watchdog's chief said on Tuesday.

Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja made these remarks on Thursday while hearing a set of applications filed by all three MNAs from Islamabad — belonging to the ruling PML-N — to transfer their cases out of the Islamabad tribunal.

"Why does the law empower the ECP to appoint election tribunals? Is our role that of a mere post office," the CEC said while referring to the LHC's verdict to appoint six of its judges to election tribunals.

LHC's Justice Shahid Karim, who passed the order, also asked the ECP to ensure implementation within one week.

Islamabad MNAs petitions

The CEC headed a four-member bench which heard the appeals filed by Anjum Aqeel Khan, Tariq Fazal Chaudhary and Raja Khurram Nawaz seeking a transfer of their cases to any election tribunal outside of Islamabad.

The counsel for Mr Khan, who won the election from NA-48, read out an order issued by the Islamabad election tribunal, claiming the first verdict, to collect Forms 45 and 47, was given in the absence of the candidate.

According to the lawyer, the tribunal was informed in writing that the ECP had notified the winning candidates.

"Despite that, the election tribunal fixed time-barred petitions for hearing and sent notices to all parties to submit a reply," he noted.

As per the law, election tribunals, comprising high court judges, are constituted after the final result is notified and losing candidates could file petitions within 45 days after the notification of election results.

The lawyer added the tribunal had even issued notices to the ECP and wondered if it was empowered to do so.

The ECP's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa member, Ikramullah Khan, also asked if the tribunal could issue directions to the body that created it. In response, the lawyer said the tribunal can't give directions to the ECP.

The PML-N lawmaker's counsel said they were given "a last chance" in the absence of any evidence and alleged the tribunal was "not working as per procedure".

"We fear that the election tribunal will not give us justice," the lawyer added. He continued that the petitions were to be submitted in the election tribunal latest by April 10, but were submitted on April 15.

He accused the tribunal of not working impartially and accused it of committing "serious mistakes".

The petitions should have been dismissed for being filed after the 45-day deadline had elapsed, the counsel contended.

The lawyer for Mr Nawaz, the winning candidate from NA-48, also accused the tribunal of violating trial procedures. He claimed that the tribunal acted as the high court itself, for which it had no mandate.

The tribunal was "not conducting a fair trial", the lawyer argued, adding that the list of witnesses was sought after the framing of issues. He sought the case to be transferred to another tribunal, and if none was available, a fresh one should be constituted.

PML-N MNA Tariq Fazal Chaudhry's lawyer also expressed no confidence in the tribunal, arguing the entire proceedings of the tribunal were "illegal". "We are not being given a fair trial, and we don't expect justice from it," he said.

The lawyer for PTI-backed candidate Muhammad Ali Bokhari, who was the losing candidate in NA-48, said the tribunal was comprised of a high court judge, and the applicant had alleged bias against the court.

"Applicant Raja Khurram Nawaz has submitted this application to delay the proceedings", he claimed.

Sajool Shehryar Swati, the lawyer for PTI-backed candidate Shoaib Shaheen, cited a 2014 verdict of the Supreme Court stating that apparent partiality in court decisions is not bias. He said the Elections Act clearly stated that the tribunal should dispose of election petitions within six months.

During the hearing, Mr Shaheen urged the bench to adjourn the hearing till Monday, as the ECP decision to hear the case had been challenged.

The CEC contended that the bench would halt the hearing if a stay order had been issued.

Three burn to death after bus collides with motorcycle near Uthal

By Abdul Wahid Shaikhani

KHUZDAR: At least three people were burnt to death and 12 were injured in a collision between a passenger coach and a motorcycle near Uthal, Lasbela, early on Thursday morning.

Officials said the coach carrying 28 passengers, including women and children, was on its way to Quetta from Karachi when the tragic incident occurred.

The vehicle collided with the motorcycle, which was reportedly transporting Iranian oil, in the Royaro area between Bela and Uthal on the Quetta-Karachi national highway.

At least 10 passengers saved their lives by jumping off the coach, but three, including the motorcyclist, were burnt to death.

The 12 injured also included women and children.

Lasbela SSP Naveed Alam said the fire was brought under control in the wee hours of Thursday, and all injured were shifted to the district hospital and later to Karachi for treatment.

SSP Alam also told Dawn.com that while the cause of the fire could not be ascertained, eyewitnesses attributed the accident to speeding and reckless driving.

Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti expressed grief over the accident and ordered an investigation into the cause of the accident.

"Rescue operations began immediately, and seven of the injured passengers were taken to the hospital," read a statement posted on the official X account of the government of Balochistan.

"The accident, which was caused by overtaking and led to a loss of life."

Iranian oil smuggled into Pakistan is often transported from Balochistan's border areas on vehicles, including motorbikes, cars and buses.

The movement of oil poses grave risks for vehicles and passengers and has also resulted in major catastrophes.

In January 2019, 27 people were killed when a bus collided with a truck loaded with oil drums and caught fire near Lasbela Cross.

LHC orders police to recover PTI activist's brothers

Azhar Mashwani's father claims his family is being 'politically victimised'

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court on Thursday directed the Punjab inspector general of police to recover two brothers of PTI social media head Azhar Mashwani allegedly picked up by law enforcement agencies.

Justice Syed Shahbaz Ali Rizvi gave the order while hearing a petition filed by Qazi Habibur Rehman, the father of the alleged abducted men — Zaheerul Hassan and Mazharul Hassan.

A counsel for the petitioner alleged that the sons of his client were in illegal custody of the law enforcement agencies.

The judge asked the lawyer why the petitioner did not first file an application with the police. The lawyer said both siblings were also previously detained for 100 days and then released.

The petitioner was also picked up, he said, adding that the petitioner and his family were being targeted for political victimisation.

When Justice Rizvi asked the counsel who had detained the petitioner's sons for 100 days, the lawyer said the authorities did not disclose this and the two individuals were later released.

The judge later ordered the Punjab IGP and the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) to recover the individuals and produce them before the court on Friday (today).

IG Punjab Dr Usman Anwar and Additional IG CTD Punjab Waseem Sial didn't immediately respond to the text messages about the arrests.

ATC grants bail to seven PTI activists in corps commander's house attack case

By Wajih Ahmad Shaikh

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court on Thursday granted post-arrest bail to seven activists of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in a May 9 case of attack on Lahore Corps Commander's House, commonly known as Jinnah House.

Judge Khalid Arshad allowed the bail petitions and directed each suspect to furnish a surety bond of Rs100,000.

The suspects were: Talha Mustafa, Mirza Tahir, Muhammad Abid, Azhar Abbas, Umair Khan, Zubair Gulzar and Junaid.

Separately, Judge Khalid Arshad resumed the jail trial of the Jinnah House attack case in the Kot Lakhpat jail.

The judge directed the prosecution to distribute copies of the challan (investigation report) among 266 suspects on June 13.

Among the prominent suspects, PTI-Punjab President Dr Yasmin Rashid, former governor Omar Sarfraz Cheema, Senator Ejaz Chaudhry and former provincial minister Mian Mahmoodur Rashid are already in jail.

Several other suspects including Fashion designer Khadija Shah, former MNA Robina Jamil, social media activists Tayyaba Raja and Ayesha Ali Bhatta have been released on bail.

Sarwar Road police registered the case against leaders and workers of PTI for attacking and vandalising the Jinnah House during the protests of May 9 last year against the arrest of former prime minister Imran Khan.

Imran wants his cell probed after 'solitary' claim disputed by government

Continued from Page 1

regarding the ban on live-streaming of this case.

He said it had pained him to learn that the Supreme Court while rejecting the live-streaming of the case had stated something as if he was some kind of an "irresponsible and dangerous character who will abuse the occasion for point scoring or grandstanding".

On June 1, the court ruled that live-streaming was its exclusive domain but exercised with caution to avoid apprehensions of exploitation, misuse of facility for ulterior or personal purposes and to prevent the possibility of grandstanding while the nation watches.

In response to the ex-PM's remarks, the CJP, however, observed that the judges were not here to explain themselves and asked Mr Khan not to stray on grounds, which were already sub-judice and ultimately come to the court in appeal.

A PHOTOGRAPH, submitted to the SC as part of a government report on the facilities available to incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan in prison, apparently shows facilities such as a TV, room cooler, study table and a chair in the former PM's cell.

Justice Aminuddin Khan also observed that the issue of live-streaming had already been decided.

Speaking during the hearing, Imran Khan was of the view that the NAB chairman should be appointed by the Supreme Court to prevent abuse of power and added that amendments to the NAB law meant to save "certain leaders".

Abuse of NAB law

Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail observed that there was no denying the fact that NAB had always been abused against the elected representatives but the remedy to rectify this misuse did not lie with the courts but with the political leaders. "Tomorrow you can come to parliament and make a good accountability law," Justice Mandokhail observed. Imran Khan said NAB "always listens to the third umpire" — a purported reference to the establishment.

Referring to the impact of the amendments in the NAB law, he reputed NAB recovered Rs295 billion from year 2000 to 2017, which jumped to Rs420 billion from 2017 to 2021. But it dipped to a mere Rs300,000 in 2023, Mr Khan said, regretting he was convicted in three cases within five days.

"The reason for less recovery was due to the pendency of the NAB case in the Supreme Court," Justice Mandokhail observed. He claimed that jail always "motives" the politicians. To rectify NAB is not the job of the court but parliament, he said.

Justice Athar Minallah also observed that NAB amendments do not mean that corruption cases have come to an end rather references will be forwarded to relevant courts established under relevant laws.

During the hearing, the PTI founder did concede that his party should come to parliament but "we boycotted in view of the conspiracies hatched" against them.

He said the biggest challenge the country was facing was the lack of foreign exchange which was depleting because the hard-earned money was being laundered by the elites to the foreign lands.

He also cited a 2021 study by the UN which revealed how elites of the developing world had parked $7 trillion in the West through money laundering.

The CJP wondered if money laundering was a curse, then why did the former premier introduce amnesty schemes in the country when he was in power? At this, Mr Khan explained that the amnesty scheme was introduced to "legitimise" the black money.

The CJP, pointing towards Senator Farooq Naek and PTI's Faisal Javed, asked them to sit together in parliament to solve the crisis.

The court also took exception to the NAB report, in which it showed the recovery of $10 billion in the head of Reko Dig and asked the NAB additional prosecutor general (APG) whether this statement was "honest or dishonest".

The court even warned of contempt notice for claiming to recover $10 billion, wondering if NAB had the audacity to mislead the court.

He also asked the NAB APG not to attend the court in future and ordered the NAB chairman and the prosecutor general to furnish a fresh report regarding the breakdown of the NAB budget for the last 10 years, as well as its annual budget.

Earlier, senior counsel Khawaja Haris Ahmed also concluded his arguments.

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com

India returns 82-year-old villager who strayed across LoC

By Tariq Naqash

MUZAFFARABAD: An 82-year-old villager from Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), who had inadvertently strayed into the Indian-occupied territory of the disputed Himalayan region on Tuesday, was repatriated by the Indian authorities via the Tetrinote-Chakan da Bagh crossing point along the Line of Control (LoC) on Thursday.

Munir Hussain had left his home in the Battal sector of Poonch district to join his wife who was grazing cattle there. However, the octogenarian villager, suffering from some mental ailments for about four years, went astray and set foot on India occupied territory, where he was apprehended by an army patrol.

The family and government officials in AJK came to know about his ordeal on Wednesday after the Indian media ran stories about an "intruder."

Waleed Anwar, assistant commissioner of Hajira, of which Battal sector is a part, told *Dawn* that Indian authorities were reached by their Pakistani counterparts the same day for his repatriation in accordance with an understanding between the two sides about inadvertent crossers.

Mr Anwar said the repatriation took place at about 4pm through the Tetrinote-Chakan da Bagh, which was one of three active crossing points at the LoC before India unilaterally suspended the intra-Kashmir travel and trade, shortly before scrapping the special status of occupied Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019.

Wearing a new black kurta and white shalwar gifted by the Indian authorities along with a box of sweets, Mr Hussain was greeted first by his son, Mohammad Rasheed, upon entering the liberated territory through an iron gate that marks the divide between two sides.

His nephew, Liaqat Hussain, cousin Mohammad Akbar and numerous jubilant fellow villagers were also present on the occasion in addition to the concerned civil and military officials.

"There is an atmosphere of jubilation not only in our home but also in the entire village on his safe return because in some similar cases in the past, people have met tragedies at the LoC," Liaqat Hussain told *Dawn* by telephone from Gulshan Colony in Battal sector.

Presumably, the 42-year-old countryman was referring to the shooting of AJK residents by the Indian army while they were either collecting herbs, cutting fodder or grazing cattle close to the unmarked dividing line.

"We are grateful to our armed forces and our civil administration for their role in his early return," he said.

"At the same time, I also express my gratitude to the Indian authorities for sending him back alive." He said Mr Hussain, who also suffered from hypertension, felt exhausted by the unplanned trekking through the forests, so was taking rest, after being given his medication.

"But people are constantly visiting us to extend felicitations."

CLAD in black kurta and white shalwar, 82-year-old Munir Hussain walks into AJK territory along with his son Mohammad Rasheed after his repatriation by Indian authorities via disused Tetrinote-Chakan da Bagh crossing point.—Dawn

AJK prime minister invites citizens' input for development, promises swift action

By Our Correspondent

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq on Thursday invited the state's sagacious citizens to share their views for the development of the liberated territory and the well-being of its inhabitants, assuring that his government would promptly act on any noble proposals received.

Expressing his views on former premier Raja Farooq Haider's adjournment motion on the floor of the Legislative Assembly, PM Haq asserted that all decisions in his government were made in consultation with the coalition partners.

"I have full faith in the constitution process," he said. "All decisions in my government are taken collaboratively because I believe no one is perfect. We must embrace democratic attitudes and reject bigotry, regionalism, and politics of hatred."

Earlier, Mr Haider highlighted the need to reflect on the events during the long march of the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), warning that the repercussions of the recent rights movement could emerge in the next two or three years and might prove harmful.

"This is not a victory for anyone but a path to destruction," said Mr Haider, who is a senior PML-N leader. "As a political worker, it's my duty to point out these issues. They may hurl abuses at me on social media, but I will continue to call a spade a spade."

The prime minister noted that [cabinet] members from the PML-N and PPP had been involved in negotiations with JAAC from the beginning, demonstrating his commitment to involving coalition partners in decision-making.

He emphasized his belief in action over hollow announcements and pledged to ensure the implementation of his commitments. He asserted that those challenging the state would be dealt with strictly and political issues would be addressed through political means.

Expressing his commitment to maintaining financial discipline, Mr Haq assured that taxpayers' money would be spent solely on the welfare of the masses, with development funds allocated on the basis of the needs of the areas concerned.

"It is the government's primary responsibility to bring significant improvements in sectors like infrastructure, health, education, and tourism, while also addressing the deprivations of the people," he said. "As regards strengthening of the system, it is a collective responsibility of all segments of society."

Without mincing words, the AJK premier stated that while the government must meet legitimate public demands, no one would be allowed to challenge the government's authority or paralyze the system. "Mischief cannot be tolerated under the cover of [demands for cheap] electricity and flour. Such actions will be handled with an iron hand."

He also reiterated that the Kashmiris' eternal relationship with Pakistan and their ideology of accession to Pakistan would be further strengthened with strong conviction.

Mr Haq made it clear that nobody was indispensable and that his tenure in office depended on the confidence of the majority in the Legislative Assembly. "As long as I enjoy the confidence of the majority, I will remain in this office. Otherwise, someone else will replace me."

Other speakers on the motion included PML-N regional president Shah Ghulam Qadir, former president and PPP leader Sardar Yaqoob Khan, and cabinet members Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, Mian Abdul Waheed, Abdul Majid Khan, and Nahida Ayub.

Later, Speaker Chaudhry Latif Akbar adjourned the session until June 13.

IHC removes objections on pleas against amendments to election law

Petitions filed by three runner-up NA candidates will be taken up today

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday removed administrative objections on petitions filed against the recent amendments to the Elections Act 2017 and the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP)'s jurisdiction to entertain applications seeking the transfer of petitions related to three constituencies of the federal capital.

IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq took up the petitions and heard the arguments of the counsel against the objections raised by the registrar office.

The petitions were filed by PTI-backed independent candidates from NA-46, NA-47 and NA-48.

The registrar office had raised the objections that the petitioners could not challenge the provisions of Elections Act and the presidential ordinance.

Mohammad Shoaib Shaheen, Mohammad Ali Bokhari and Amir Mughal have challenged the vires of Section 151 of the Elections Act 2017 and the Elections (Amendment) Ordinance 2024 promulgated on May 27, 2024.

Section 151 of the Election Act empowered the ECP to "transfer a petition from one tribunal to another."

Whereas, the presidential ordinance promulgated on May 27 amended Section 140 of the Act and allowed for retired judges to be appointed as election tribunal and that too without the consultation of the chief justice.

The counsel for the petitioners pointed out that the vires of Elections Act, the ordinance and the proceeding before the ECP could have been challenged in a single petition.

Justice Farooq removed the objections and remarked that the court would hear detailed arguments on the petitions after the registrar office would number them accordingly. The court would hear the petitions on Friday (today).

The identical petitions contended that as per Forms 45, the PTI's runner-up could have won the elections with heavy margin but, due to manipulation in the results they had been defeated.

The petitions stated that following the notification of the election tribunal for Islamabad, the runner-up filed an election petition in the tribunal appointed under Section 140 of the Elections Act 2017.

On the first date of the hearing on May 2, the tribunal issued notices to the ECP, returned cards dates and the returning officers and directed them to file original Form-45 and Form-46. On the next date of hearing i.e. May 20, the ECP and some of the respondents appeared and the tribunal directed them to file their replies and the original Form-45/ Form-46.

According to the petitions, PML-N candidates filed applications under section 145(1) of the Elections Act 2017 for summary dismissal of the petition on the ground that the same was time-barred.

The tribunal after hearing preliminary arguments issued notice to the petitioner with a direction to file reply by giving an advance copy to the other side, and adjourned the case to May 5 for arguments.

The returned candidates of the PML-N filed applications against the presiding judge of the tribunal, Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, in the ECP.

Karachi Water & Sewerage Services Improvement Project
(Project Implementation Unit) KWSSIP
Karachi Water & Sewerage Corporation
40-G, Street 40, Block 6 PECHS, Karachi, Pakistan
Telephone: +92-21-34374081, +92-21-99330279

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI)

SELECTION OF INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT
(MONITORING AND EVALUATION SPECIALIST)

1. The Karachi Water & Sewerage Corporation is in receipt of a credit through EAD, Government of Pakistan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) / Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the counterpart share of funds from GoS for the Karachi Water & Sewerage Services Improvement Project (KWSSIP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds to make payments against the services rendered by individual consultant at Project Implementation Unit (PIU) of KWSSIP.
2. The individual consultant selected as Key Professional Staff shall be detailed in the Project Implementation Unit of KWSSIP.
3. The scope of work and detailed ToR for following positions can be obtained from the office address given below, same are also available on www.kwssip.gos.pk
4. The PIU, KWSSIP, KW&SC now invites eligible individual consultant to express their interest in providing the services of Key Professional Staff of PIU (KWSSIP) through their CVs.
5. Eligible candidates shall have the following qualification, experience and skills as mentioned against the position:

Qualification
- Masters' in Business Administration or above in Urban & Regional Planning, or similar qualification from a recognized university.
- Foreign qualification will be an added advantage.
- Use to the latest computer software relevant to the monitoring & Evaluation of the infrastructure development Project.

Experience
- 10 years of working with M&E related experience, preferably involving international donors.
- Extensive knowledge of monitoring and evaluation methodologies i.e. both quantitative and qualitative data collection, processing and analysis;
- Proven experience and skills in developing monitoring, evaluation and research protocols and tools.
- Demonstrated skills and experience in developing tools for monitoring and evaluation of large investment projects preferably financed by international donors.
- Proven record of leading multi-disciplinary teams in meeting monitoring and evaluation deliverables.
- Strong knowledge of relevant standards, rules, regulations, and policies such as those pertaining to Project Management, monitoring and evaluation.
- Demonstrated skill of monitoring and evaluating large projects with reform and investment components complying, the requirements of IFIs (e.g. World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, JICA etc.)

6. The consultant shall be selected in accordance with *(Section-VII Open Competitive Selection of Individual Consultants of World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers 2018 (Revised November 2017, August 2018).*
7. Interested consultants may submit their Expressions of Interest in the form of Covering Letter along with CV and supporting documents through courier to the Project Director PIU (KWSSIP) on the address mentioned below, latest by **25.06.2024** during office hours.
8. The candidates are required to mention the position applied for in the subject of their Covering Letter.
9. The successful candidate will be offered market-based remuneration package. The Specialist is required to work for the KWSSIP till June 2025. The position is based in Karachi with travel requirements to the site as & when required.

Project Director
Project Implementation Unit (PIU)
Karachi Water & Sewerage Services Improvement Project (KWSSIP)
Karachi Water & Sewerage Corporation
G-40/1 Street 40, Block 6 P.E.C.H.S, Karachi.
Tel No. +92-21-34374081-4

Ref No. CS/KWSSIP/KW&SC/2024/032

Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Interior
NATIONAL DATABASE AND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY (NADRA)
Headquarters, Islamabad

INVITATION OF BID
PROCUREMENT OF EQUIPMENT
Tender No. NADRA-HQ-ICT-11/2024

1. National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), Ministry of Interior, Government of Pakistan invites sealed bids from Income Tax & Sales Tax registered vendors who are Active Tax Payers List (ATL) with 100% compliance of the FBR for supply of following items.

Lot	Description	Qty	Supplier Details (Mandatory)
1.	Screw Type Air Compressor (Turn Key Solution)	01	From OEM / Authorized Partners with NAL
2.	Portable Cash Counter	44	Eligible Bidders
3.	Desktop Printer Manufacturer Local(s)	10	From OEM / Authorized Partners with NAL
	Canon High Yield with Drum (Combined in One Unit) (For Same Owned Desktop Printer Manufacturer Local(s))	50	
	Separation Roller (For Same Owned Desktop Printer Manufacturer Local(s))	05	
	Feed Roller (For Same Owned Desktop Printer Manufacturer Local(s))	05	
	Paper Pickup Roller (For Same Owned Desktop Printer Manufacturer Local(s))	05	
4.	Barcode Readers (with Stand)	08	Eligible Bidders
5.	All In One Computer	10	

2. The bidding documents contain detailed specification, instructions, conditions and forms for participating in the bid. The bid documents (complete set) can be purchased by the bidder upon a written request on Bidder's official letter head addressed to the Head of Department (NADRA Procurement & Stores) at given address & upon payment of a non refundable fee of Rs 2000/- into NADRA bank account and provision of deposit slip to NADRA Office **Bank HBL Account Title: NADRA Headquarters Account # 00940000100001**. The bidding documents are also available on NADRA official website for the interested bidders which can be viewed and downloaded from **tenders.nadra.gov.pk** without any cost.
3. Rupees 300/- additional (cover charges) to be deposited by the not shortlisted bidders for the purpose to purchase complete set of bidding documents. The complete set of Bidding Documents will be sent via Courier Services. Bid sent for the same must reach at least 07 working days before closing date of tender else any delay totally cannot be claimed.
4. The bids, prepared in accordance with the instructions in the bidding documents, must reach at the address mentioned below on or before **1100 hours** on **24th June, 2024**. Bids will be opened on same day at **1130 hours**. This advertisement is also available on PPRA website at www.ppra.gov.pk.
5. All the vendors are requested to provide request for issuance of tender documents on company letter head including name of authorized representative (Name & Designation) for presence in tender opening. At the time of tender opening no more representative will possess company letter/pass card.
6. NADRA reserves the right to reject all the bids as per Rule 33 of PPRA 2004.

PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT NADRA HQ
NADRA HQ Building (Ground Floor)
66 - Mauve Area G-10/4, Islamabad - 44000
Telephone: 051-9203532 | Fax No: 051-9120158

P.O (I) No. 7552/23

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-23240452693 Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of EPPRA GOB. The Project Director PSDP Projects (159, 160, 164, 165 GPI) invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates.

Tender Fee Rs.1000/- and Bid Security 2%

S. No.	Name of Work	E/Cost
1	Supply and Installation of 100 KW Solar Power System at Cold Store Hub & Awaran	70,000,000

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. Turnover of at least 6,650,000 PKR Amount in2 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Registration with Pakistan Engineering council (PEC) C-4 and above (Upto 200 million) In Relevant Category and Specialized Code is EE11(i) (Solar), EE11(ii) (Solar Energy), EE11(iii) (Solar Energy system). **Procedure of Procurement:** Single Stage One 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 NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gob.pk **Issuance of tender Documents:** Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gob.pk **Last Date of bid submission:** Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by **21 June, 2024** till **12:00 PM** through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at **01:00 PM** on **EPPS System Address:** Directorate General Agriculture Extension, Ferozabad, Sariab Road, Quetta **Phone no:** 3332455233 **Email:** pmdrbl@gmail.com

All No. 544/06-6-2024

Project Director PSDP Projects (159, 160, 164, 165)
Green Pakistan Initiative Balochistan, Quetta

TENDER NOTICE

Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER-ROADS CWP/P&H DEPARTMENT DISTRICT KHARAN 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.2000/- and Time limit 1 Year

S##	Name of Work & PSDP No & TSE No	E/Cost
1	REHABILITATION & WIDENING OF BT ROAD FROM KHARAN CITY TO KHAMUCH TO KHARAN ROAD DISTRICT KHARAN PSDP NO: 2660 Z2023-1091 (2023-24) TSE-23240456593	496,386,043

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 01 Assignments of similar nature of work. Registration with Pakistan Engineering council (PEC) C-3 and above (Up to 500 million) In Relevant Category and Specialized Code is CE01, CE09, CE10. Turnover of at least **248,878,850** (PKR Amount in 5 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm **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 NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gob.pk **Issuance of tender Documents:** Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gob.pk **Last Date of bid submission:** Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by **25 June, 2024** till **11:00 AM** through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at **12:00 PM** on **EPPS System Address:** Office of The Executive Engineer Roads, Communication Works PP&H Department Kharan **Phone no:** 08473-10074 **Email:** eeroadskharan@gmail.com

Executive Engineer Roads
CWP/P&H Department District Kharan

PRO No. 2652/06-6-2024

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S. Korean envoy, CM Bugti discuss investment opportunities

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: The South Korean ambassador to Pakistan, Park Kijun, on Thursday called on Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti and discussed investment opportunities and mutual cooperation in various sectors, including tourism, IT, livestock and minerals.

The chief minister invited Korean investors to visit Balochistan and explore investment opportunities in the province.

The two officials discussed the potential for investment in Balochistan's large coastline, fisheries, livestock, minerals and tourism sectors.

The chief minister assured the Korean ambassador that the provincial government would provide a conducive environment and full protection to Korean investors, as well as facilitate their investment endeavours.

The Korean envoy showed interest in investing, various sectors, including tourism, IT, infrastructure, livestock and fisheries and praised the unique culture of Balochistan.

The meeting concluded with an agreement to promote cooperation and investment in various sectors, and an exchange of souvenirs.

The chief minister also informed the ambassador about the provincial government's plan to provide vocational training to 30,000 youth.

It will enable the skilled youth to secure employment in foreign countries and contribute to the national economy through remittances.

The South Korean ambassador appreciated the plan, acknowledging its potential to strengthen the national economy.

The meeting reflected the strong diplomatic relations between Pakistan and South Korea and the desire to further strengthen trade and economic ties between the two countries.

QUETTA: A Sui Southern Gas Company employee checks gas meters at laboratory.—AFP

PM's visit a milestone in China ties: Ahsan Iqbal

BEIJING: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal Thursday said that the ongoing visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China would prove to be a milestone in the development of Pakistan-China relations.

"This is the first official visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China after the establishment of new government in Pakistan early this year and the visit will prove to be a milestone in the development of Pakistan-China relations," he told AFP.

He said that Pakistan and China had laid the foundation of historic project of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in 2013 and this pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has resulted in significant social and economic development in Pakistan during the last 10 years.

The minister pointed out that a large number of achievements have been made particularly in the energy sector, adding, more than 8,000 MW of power projects were constructed while motorway and highways were also built.

Similarly, we laid foundation of information highway through fiber optic cable and upgraded Gwadar seaport as well as work was initiated on the construction of special economic zones.

But unfortunately, that momentum could not be maintained between the years 2018 and 2022 due to some political changes, Covid-19 pandemic and climate disaster in the country in the year 2022 which caused a colossal loss to the economy, he added.

Mr Iqbal remarked that the present government has resumed work on CPEC projects with new vigor and commitment adding, "Now we are entering in the phase-2 of the CPEC under which five new corridors have been identified as per consensus reached between the leadership of both the countries".

These new corridors include growth corridor, livelihood corridor, innovation corridor, green energy corridor and open and inclusive regional development corridor, he added.

He said in the second phase, the government is focusing to promote industrial cooperation with China through business-to-business linkages.

In this regard, the Pakistan-China Business Conference was organized in coastal city of Shenzhen during first leg of the prime minister's visit to China which was attended by more than 350 entrepreneurs from both Pakistan and China.

The federal minister said that agreement would be signed with China to upgrade agriculture sector as the present leadership intends to benefit from China's experience in modern agriculture and also use of science and technology in this sector.

"We will send our agriculture scientists to China for training and borrow modern techniques so that Pakistan could enhance agricultural productivity," he added.

About cooperation in science and technology, he said that both countries would further enhance cooperation in this sector.

About upgradation of railways, he said, the present government is trying to modernize the 150 year-old railways system which was damaged during floods in the country and initiate the ML-1 project.

Mr Iqbal said that work will start on green energy projects such as hydel power projects in Kohala, Azad Pattan having 2000 MW capacity, this year.

He said that Huawei, China's leading high-tech company has made a strategic partnership with Pakistan and it will help us to implement digitalization process in the country.

Prof Ahsan Iqbal is accompanying the prime minister during his five-day visit of China.—APP

UN official in Loralai to assess conditions at refugee camps

By Our Staff Correspondent

QUETTA: The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) representative in Pakistan, Philippa Candler, arrived in Loralai on Thursday to assess the conditions of Afghan refugees in camps.

Ms Candler was accompanied by UNHCR's northern Balochistan representative Nasrullah Khan Musakhel and Commissioner at Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees, Balochistan, Arbab Talib Kasi.

She visited the UNHCR's vocational training centre in Loralai and met Loralai division Commissioner Baloch Aziz and Deputy Commissioner Miran Baloch. She thanked them for their support and security arrangements. She also inspected the residences of the commissioner and deputy commissioner built during British rule.

She inaugurated the Government Girls Model High School in Loralai and distributed 40 tablets among top-performing students.

The UNHCR official also visited the Girls Middle School in Pahari area funded by Refugee Affected and Hosting Area (RAHA). She also held meetings with DIG Nazar Ahmed Kurd and other police officials and expressed her gratitude for the security arrangements.

Contract signed to reconstruct runway

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: In a bid to enhance its airside infrastructure and accommodate larger aircraft, the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) has signed a contract for the reconstruction of Jinnah International Airport's main runway.

The contract was signed by the PCAA's director planning and development, and the director of Umar Jan and Company at a ceremony held at the PCAA headquarters on Thursday.

According to a PCAA spokesman, the reconstruction of the main runway (07L/25R) will enable the Karachi airport to seamlessly accommodate wide-body aircraft up to category 4F, including Airbus A380. The project, set to commence soon after Eidul Adha, aims to improve safety, reliability, and capacity to handle growing passenger and aircraft traffic.

The upgrade, according to the spokesman, will feature the latest energy-efficient lighting system, an extended runway by 1,000 feet, making it 11,500 feet, and reconstructed taxiways and overruns at both ends.

Four taxi links near the 07L end will also receive an asphaltic overlay, and a control and monitoring system will be installed in the control tower.

The PCAA expects this upgrade to attract both domestic and international airlines to operate at the airport in the future.

Disastrous start as minnows US edge out Pakistan

Continued from Page 1

end of opener Mohammad Rizwan, spinner Noshadh Kenjige had Usman Khan caught at long-off. Pakistan-born pacer Ali Khan made matters worse for the country of birth when he had Fakhar Zaman caught at short fine leg.

Pakistan were in danger of being wrapped up early only for a 72-run partnership between Babar Azam (44) and Shadab Khan (40) sparking hopes of a revival.

But Shadab, who hit three sixes in his 25-ball knock, and Azam Khan fell in successive balls to Kenjige, forcing Pakistan to build again after being reduced to 98-5.

Babar became the sixth batter to fall, five to Jaskeep Singh and after Iftikhar Ahmed fell on the first ball of the penultimate over, Pakistan had to rely on an unbeaten 23 by tailender Shaheen Shah Afridi to post a competitive total.

The US got off to a solid start thanks to skipper Monank Patel (50) and Steven Taylor. After Taylor was caught behind for 12 off Nosetoon Shah, Andries Gous joined Patel in belting Pakistan bowlers to all parts.

But Haris Rauf cleaned up Gous, who hit five fours and a six in his 26-ball 35, to revive Pakistan hopes and Mohammad Amir had Patel caught behind soon after.

Pakistan sensed a comeback and tight overs from Haris and Amir set up a grandstand finish.

The US needed 15 to win off the final over and Aaron Jones (36 not out) provided them the impetus with a six on the fourth delivery by Haris.

With five needed off the last ball Nitish Kumar (14 not out) lofted Haris over mid-off to force the Super Over.

Jones then capitalised on an error-strewn eliminator over by Amir, where just 10 runs came off the bat but the US still posted 18/1.

Iftikhar got caught on the third ball of Pakistan's reply Shadab got a lucky four on the fourth ball but Pakistan ended with 13 to spark US celebrations after their famous victory.

Scoreboard

PAKISTAN
Mohammad Rizwan c Taylor b Nethravalkar 0
Babar Azam lbw b Jaskeep 44
Usman Khan c Kumar b Kenjige 3
Fakhar Zaman c Taylor b Ali 11
Shadab Khan c Nethravalkar b Kenjige 40
Azam Khan lbw b Kenjige 0
Iftikhar Ahmed lbw b Nethravalkar 14
Shaheen Shah Afridi not out 23
Hasan Nawaz not out 3
EXTRAS (LB-4, W-4) 8
TOTAL (for eleven wickets, 20 overs) 158
DID NOT BAT: Naseem Shah, Mohammad Amir
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0 (Rizwan), 2-14 (Usman), 3-20 (Fakhar), 4-68 (Shadab), 5-68 (Azam), 6-125 (Babar), 7-138 (Iftikhar), 8-146 (Shaheen), 9-155 (Kenjige), 10-158 (Haris)
BOWLING: Kenjige 4-0-30-3; Nethravalkar 4-0-18-2; Ali 4-0-37-1 (2w); Harmeet 4-0-34-0; Patel 1-0-8-0; Jaskeep 3-0-27-1; Gous 1-0-9-0; Anderson 1-0-9-0
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
S. Taylor c Rizwan b Naseem 12
M. Patel c Rizwan b Amir 50
A. Gous b Haris 35
A. Jones not out 36
N. Kumar not out 14
EXTRAS (LB-1, W-1) 2
TOTAL (for three wickets, 20 overs) 159
DID NOT BAT: C. Anderson, H. Singh, J. Singh, N. Kenjige, S. Nethravalkar, A. Khan
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26 (Taylor), 2-102 (Gous), 3-111 (Patel)
BOWLING: Shahnawaz 4-0-33-0 (2w); Amir 4-0-25-1 (1w); Naseem 4-0-36-1 (2w); Haris 4-0-37-1 (1w); Shadab 4-0-27-0 (1w); Iftikhar 1-0-3-0
RESULT: US won the Super Over

40 injured as protests take violent turn

Continued from Page 1

gas shells.

Shahid Rind, a spokesman for the Balochistan government, said the forces and local administration tried their best to disperse the protesters, but when they started attacking the forces, they responded and used rubber bullets.

"At least 17 security personnel were injured in clashes while a policeman received a bullet in his hand," he confirmed, adding that some protesters were also injured.

Other sources said that over 20 protesters received rubber bullet injuries during the clashes and were shifted to the district hospital in Chaman. Six of them were shifted to Quetta for treatment.

"We have received 13 people who were hit by rubber bullets along with other injured," Dr Rasheed of the district hospital said.

Official sources said that law enforcement agencies have arrested over four dozen protesters for pelting stones at the security forces and attacking government buildings.

"As many as 56 people were taken into custody from different areas of Chaman," security officials told Dawn, adding that more security personnel were deployed in the border town.

Asghar Achakzai, a local journalist, told *Dawn* by phone from Chaman that the town resembled a battlefield during the clashes, with disrupted internet services for the past two days complicating reporting efforts.

However, by late evening, tribal elders and political leaders headed by Mufti Qasim and Muhammad Hasan mediated negotiations with Chaman Deputy Commissioner Azhar Abbas Raja, after which the protesters dispersed and the situation became normal.

However, Molvi Abdul Manan, a protest leader, vowed to continue demonstrations "until the release of our seven leaders who were arrested by Levies the other day and shifted to Quetta Jail". He demanded that all people arrested over the past two days be released immediately.

Govt to open Badini crossing

Meanwhile, the Balochistan government has decided to open the Badini border crossing at the Pakistan-Afghan border in the Qila Saifullah district for trade with Afghanistan due to uncertainty in Chaman amid months-long protests.

An official notification issued on Thursday said that in recent months, the Badini crossing was used for the repatriation of illegal foreign nationals on a regular basis, however, the crossing is yet to be fully utilised for trade purposes.

The notification also asked the chief collector of Balochistan Customs and the FIA's provincial director to take concrete measures in this regard.

Pakistan elected

Continued from Page 1

groups to ensure geographical representation. Even uncontested candidates within their group must secure the support of over two-thirds of the General Assembly to win a seat. A candidate chosen by a group is referred to as an "endorsed" candidate.

This year, the regional groups endorsed Somalia for an African seat, Pakistan for an Asia-Pacific seat, Panama for a Latin America and Caribbean seat, and Denmark and Greece for two primarily Western seats.

The five council members elected on Thursday will assume their positions on Jan 1, succeeding those whose two-year terms conclude on Dec 31 — Mozambique, Japan, Ecuador, Malta, and Switzerland.

They will join the five permanent members with veto power and the five countries elected last year — Algeria, Guyana, South Korea, Sierra Leone, and Slovenia.

Four other members elected on Thursday were Denmark, Greece, Panama, and Somalia. Denmark received 184 votes, Greece 182, Panama 181, and Somalia 179 votes. As the sole UN body with the authority to make legally binding decisions, including the imposition of sanctions and authorisation of the use of force, the Security Council holds significant global influence.

In a statement issued in Islamabad, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said: "We are grateful to all members of the UN General Assembly for their confidence in Pakistan and for electing it as a non-permanent member of the Security Council."

Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch added: "We are also grateful to the members of the Asia Pacific Group for endorsing Pakistan's candidature for the council."

The FO pointed out that Pakistan brings to the UN Security Council a rich experience and a strong legacy of contributions towards the maintenance of international peace and security. This legacy "is manifested by its strict adherence to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter as well as its UN peacekeeping and peacebuilding endeavours across many regions of the world," it added.

Govt lays 'controversial' ordinances

Continued from Page 1

decided through voting. The House also extended The Seed (Amendment) Ordinance, 2024 for 120 days with effect from June 13.

Wheat scandal

During the question hour, Minister Tarar informed the National Assembly that the investigations into the wheat import scandal were underway while opposing the idea of a judicial probe. "You can take a briefing from the minister for food security in the chamber and examine the inquiry report," he said. The minister said the issue must not be taken to the judiciary as it was the job of the executive and parliament. He explained that the permission for import had been given to the private sector on the basis of market assessment, and the government did not import wheat itself.

The minister said the crash in the global wheat market led to domestic prices falling to between Rs 2,800 and Rs 3,200 per mound. He said that the State Bank was asked for additional funds, resulting in Rs2.250 billion in loans for the agriculture sector and provinces have also been urged to play their role to facilitate the farmers.

Mr Tarar said agriculture contributes up to 23 per cent of GDP, making it a crucial sector.

The National Seed Development Regulatory Authority has been established, a seed procurement tracking system has been introduced, and both central and provincial budgets will reflect subsidies for the agricultural sector, he said.

The response failed to satisfy the house members who rejected the inquiry calling it an eye-wash. Dr Nafisa Shah said, "Even if these responsible are not to be punished we should be told what happened [in wheat scam]". She also sought the details of SIFC's corporate farming, including the land acquisition and status of the project.

PTI lawmaker Aslam Ghumman claimed that he could "prove that the then caretaker prime minister [Anwaarul Haq Kakar] and the caretaker Punjab chief minister [Mohsin Naqvi] were involved" in the scandal.

Chaman sit-in

National Assembly Opposition Leader Omar Ayub, while speaking on a point of order, called for an end to enforced disappearances and condemned restrictions "being imposed on the use of camera by media persons and YouTubers on premises of the Parliament House".

JUI-F chief Maulana Fazalur Rehman, meanwhile, talked about the sufferings of people in Chaman in Balochistan and Angor Ada and Jamrud in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Presiding officer Shehla Raza said the interior minister should come to the National Assembly and give a statement on the Chaman issue.

MQM-P lawmaker Waseem Hussain mentioned the death of 25 people in a cylinder blast in Hyderabad and condemned the federal government for not responding to the sufferings of victims there.

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Crude Oil Assays Library for Linear Programming Model. Note: Details along with other terms and conditions are specified in our ARIBA event.	PKR 100,000/-	Bid Submission: Through SAP ARIBA 06.07.2024 1300 hrs. Bid Opening: 06.07.2024 1330 hrs.	Tender Issuance: Through SAP ARIBA 07.06.2024 to 21.06.2024 / Free of Cost	https://discovery.ariba.com/rfx/15600245

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Item Description	Bid Submission / Opening Date	Tender Selling Dates
Tender # 9000003178 Complete oceanography services required for upcoming Turnaround (TA-05), at PARCO-MCR, Mahmoodkot. Bid Bond Amount: Rs. 200,000/-	Bid Submission: Through SAP ARIBA 05.07.2024 1300 hrs. Bid Opening: 05.07.2024 1330 hrs.	Tender Issuance: Through SAP ARIBA 07.06.2024 to 25.06.2024 Free of Cost

SAP ARIBA PORTAL LINK
https://discovery.ariba.com/rfx/19002774

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DAWN

OPINION

Addressing contempt

THE judiciary should have long ago redrawn the line that separates acceptable and unacceptable criticism. It is realising quite belatedly that matters have gone too far. As the Supreme Court proceeds in its contempt case against Senator Faisal Vawda and MNA Mustafa Kamal, 34 television channels have been issued show-cause notices for airing problematic remarks made by the two lawmakers, ostensibly in violation of broadcast regulations. Some weeks ago, Messrs Vawda and Kamal had, on separate occasions, made several insinuations regarding the judiciary. Their remarks were aired live by many news channels, prompting concerns over what, prima facie, seemed to be an open attack on senior judges. The incident prompted the SC to take notice and summon the two lawmakers for an explanation.

While Mr Kamal subsequently attempted an apology, Mr Vawda has not appeared remorseful. It may be recalled that Mr Vawda doubled down on his stance some two weeks ago in a speech he made in the Senate, in which, protected by House privileges, he said he stood by every word uttered in his press conference. Another senator also seized the occasion to level his own condemnations against the judiciary. Separately, a bill was presented to the National Assembly secretariat seeking a bar on individuals with dual nationality from serving in the judiciary, ostensibly to target a justice of the Islamabad High Court. Given the context in which these developments took place, the SC had to take a forceful stand. It must now take this case to its logical conclusion. The TV channels that have been put on notice must explain themselves and commit to following broadcast regulations, while errant lawmakers must pay a price for their ad hominem attacks. It has been noticed that, in recent years, prominent individuals have taken to assailing the judiciary whenever rulings have gone against them. This has slowly given rise to a culture normalising contempt. It is imperative that this culture be dismantled and the boundaries of acceptable criticism defined once again.

Lastly, it is encouraging to note that the judiciary, while demonstrating more strictness on the matter of contempt, is taking a measured approach to rectifying the problem. Pemra, which had earlier issued a blanket ban on the coverage of court proceedings in its "overzealous" response to the court's concerns, has been admonished for an illogical order. The apex court has warned it against "creating hurdles in the way of court proceedings" and promised action if it did not comply. Separately, the IHC chief justice has also reaffirmed the media's right to report fairly on ongoing proceedings. Pemra should now withdraw its order forthwith and let the media do its job. Its strange diktat has caused enough trouble for reporters merely covering their beat.

Averting disaster

PAKISTAN stands on the precipice of yet another potential flood disaster. According to the National Disaster Management Authority, the country is likely to experience 40-60pc more rainfall than usual during the coming monsoon season. This excess precipitation, coupled with melting glaciers and a westerly weather system, are said to have the potential to trigger flooding reminiscent of the devastating 2014 floods which claimed 367 lives. The abnormal rains are expected to begin on July 25 and persist into August, threatening to inundate northern Punjab and its eastern rivers — Ravi, Jhelum, and Chenab. Additionally, flash floods are anticipated in the northern regions due to four forecasted Glacial Lake Outburst Flood events. These floods, while expected to be less severe than the catastrophic floods in 2010 and 2022, still pose a substantial threat. The 2010 floods affected over 20m people, causing nearly 2,000 deaths and significant infrastructure damage. Similarly, the 2022 deluge resulted in 1,696 fatalities, injuries to 12,867 individuals, and affected 33m people, decimating over 4m acres of crops and 1m livestock. These events underscore the impact of climate-induced disasters on Pakistan's population and economy. As things stand, we can ill afford another one of such magnitude.

With the anticipated floods less than two months away, we must prepare by briskly implementing several key measures. To begin with, the government should expedite the reinforcement of embankments and drainage systems in vulnerable areas to prevent overflow and waterlogging. In addition, conducting public awareness campaigns is essential to educate communities on emergency procedures and evacuation routes. Moreover, pre-positioning relief supplies, such as food, water, medical kits, and temporary shelters, in strategic locations will ensure rapid distribution during crises. Strengthening early warning systems to provide timely and accurate flood forecasts will enable proactive evacuations. It is commendable that the NDMA has endeavoured to get ahead of the situation. It conducted multi-hazard simulation drills focused on improving coordination among provincial disaster management agencies and showcased mock responses to simulated scenarios. By learning from past experiences — the most recent cataclysm was less than two years ago — Pakistan can better protect its citizens and minimise the devastating effects of natural disasters. The time to act is now, before the rains hit and history repeats itself.

Overzealous state

INSTEAD of addressing the core issues that fuel discontent amongst the citizenry, the state prefers to go after those who highlight and criticise its deficiencies. This is borne out by the case of Kashmiri poet Ahmed Farhad Shah. Mr Shah was reportedly picked up from his Islamabad home on May 15 and 'surfaced' two weeks later in an Azad Kashmir village after the Islamabad High Court was approached to seek his whereabouts. The poet remains in detention, denied bail, and faces a slew of charges, including in the Anti-Terrorism Act. His apparent 'crime' is the fact that he published material linked to the antigovernment protests that had rocked AJK last month, with prosecutors alleging Mr Shah 'incited hatred'. His counsel have argued that the poet was in Islamabad at the time of the alleged offence in Muzaffarabad.

Ahmed Farhad Shah is not the first critical voice to be detained for simply voicing an opinion. Over the decades, countless poets, writers, journalists and political activists have been hauled up under similarly ominous charges. Terrorism charges are an extreme overreaction to publishing a poem or a critical social media post. Moreover, the way in which the poet was apprehended, and later 'surfaced', speaks of the dubious methods the state employs against dissidents, while circumventing due process. Instead of hunting down dissenting voices, and accusing them of spreading violence, the government does little about those sectarian and communal groups whose actual bread and butter revolves around promoting hatred. The state should consider dropping the extreme charges levelled against Mr Shah and let him return to his family. Sadly, instead of honestly confronting the economic and other issues that are fuelling discontent in AJK, Gilgit-Baltistan, Balochistan and elsewhere, the state prefers to deal with the symptoms and not the cause of the malaise. After decades of applying failed prescriptions, it is time for a new approach to alleviate popular concerns.

BY FAISAL BARI

No country for the young

Our fear of young people and their potential makes us want to control them.

A STUDENT is expelled for bringing a *rubab* to the university hostel and playing it. A university in Lahore expels two students when they embrace each other after one of them proposed to the other publicly. Baloch students get harassed and picked up every so often from various universities across the country. Policing what students wear, especially females, is common on many campuses. Women are told they cannot wear jeans or tights, etc. Some universities even have rules on how close men and women can come when they are talking to each other. Student unions continue to be illegal.

What are young people supposed to do? How are they supposed to get ready for life after university if we are not going to allow them to talk to each other, interact with each other, be responsible for what they wear (they are over 18 and adults by all definitions), and have confidence in themselves and their choices? It is okay for these young people to get married and have children and to vote once they turn 18, but it is not okay for them to talk to the other gender or decide how much distance to keep from others or what to wear!

As soon as it comes to women's dress, people ask: are you saying we should allow people to wear whatever they want? What if someone comes to university scantily clad or in very revealing clothes? But have we seen a lot of women walking around on Pakistani campuses dressed like this? Pakistan already has decency laws. They should apply to campuses as well. Why should there be separate laws for university campuses?

It is not about clothes, poetry or music. It is about policing. It is about the fact that we do not trust young people and we are afraid of young people. And by we, I mean we as a collective — especially the elites and people who have power and privilege. Of all constituencies, it is the young who have the potential to shake existing power structures. But that can only happen if the youth are organised, if they have spaces to reflect on what they stand for, what they want and how they wish to go about achieving it. The power holders are afraid of exactly this.

Pakistan is a young country. The 2017 population census showed that 40.51 per cent of our population was under 15 years of age, and another 19.19pc between 15 and 24 years. Almost 60pc of the population, therefore, was under 24 years of age. This country should be for young people; it should work to ensure that the youth, the future of this country, get every opportunity to develop. But our fear of young people and their potential makes us want to control them.

Dr Adil Najam and I were the lead authors of the 2017 *UNDP National Human Development Report* for Pakistan, which was on youth. As part of the data collection for the report, and among other things, we also did a nationally representative youth perception survey. Some of the facts that came up in the survey were very revealing. For instance, 94pc of the surveyed youth said they had no access to a library, 93pc said they had no access to sports facilities, 97pc had never heard a live music concert, 97pc had never been to a cinema, 94pc had never been to watch a sports event, 60pc said they played sports infrequently, and 85pc said they had no access to the internet. I saw a report on a youth survey conducted recently by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics and the numbers quoted there, in terms of youth having access to entertainment and other healthy activities, were very similar.

But the rhetoric in the country is that youth development is a national priority, as we want to benefit from the 'dividend' of this demographic goldmine — ie, a high number of youth. We want them to get technical education so that they can be gainfully employed and can be exported as labour to other countries if possible. We want them to be computer literate so that we can increase our software and IT-based exports. We want them to be entrepreneurs and risk-takers so that they can be job creators rather than job seekers. But we are not willing to give them space for debate and discussion. We do not want to empower them, allow them the freedom to think and act, and we definitely do not want them to be 'political'! With the voting age at 18 years, we want them to vote but we do not want them to be political, or politically aware, and we definitely do not want them to take part in politics or question the political settlements/arrangements in the country.

This is the crux of the problem. We cannot have the spirit of risk-taking and inquiry in entrepreneurship and/or business and not in other areas. If the youth are going to be empowered to be the vanguard of business, entrepreneurship and the computer sciences, they have to have the same opportunities in other areas as well. They will have to have a say in the political, social and economic developments in the country. They will need to be in political parties, they will need to be in assemblies, they will need to be members of all sorts of governance fora. To do all of the above, they will need to develop their confidence in their own abilities and thinking. We will need to create the space for young people to do that. If we are not willing to give them space, it is hard to expect that we will have a leadership in the future — in all walks of life — that is different to the disastrous one we have today. ■

The writer is a senior research fellow at the Institute of Development and Economic Alternatives, and an associate professor of economics at Lums.

BY ZOFEEN T. EBRAHIM

Can courts fix the climate crisis?

THE realities of climate change that seven-year-old Rabia Ali had warned us of eight years ago have hit home. Take, for example, the latest heatwave which thousands are experiencing across Pakistan. "It's like sitting in a oven," says Niaz Jumejo, a resident of Jacobabad, Sindh, where temperatures have reached up to 51 degrees Celsius.

Back in 2016, Ali had taken the government of Pakistan to court for violating her fundamental "right to life" by mining coal in Tharparkar and polluting the air and the water she breathed and consumed. She reminded the state of its legal obligation towards its citizens, warning that its apathy towards climate change could become an existential threat in times to come.

A year before, Asghar Leghari, a lawyer, had also charged the state with violating his fundamental right to life due to its inaction in meeting its climate change adaptation targets which, he warned, impacted the country's water, food and energy security. It was the year when Pakistan, along with almost every nation in the world, signed the Paris Agreement, promising to limit any rise in global average temperatures to well below 2°C — in fact, a maximum of 1.5°C — above pre-industrial levels. Leghari recalled the court's historic ruling to be "affirmative" and thus quite significant, after it set up a climate commission to oversee the working of the state departments.

The right to a clean environment may not expressly be mentioned in Pakistan's Constitution, but the courts have interpreted the Constitution to include it as a fundamental right. In the 'Shehla Zia vs Wapda' case in 1994, Justice Saleem Akhtar explained that the right to "live" does not only mean "the vegetative or animal life or mere existence from conception to death". Life, as he saw it, should "include all such amenities and facilities which a person born in a free country is entitled to enjoy with dignity, legally and constitutionally".

Although there is much awareness as well as acceptance about climate change since 2015, bringing about a systemic change has yet to happen. Perhaps we need to change the way we are looking at the phenomenon; perhaps it should be given a human face. That is what the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan is calling for — bringing climate change out of the folds of science and environment and examining it through the lens of climate justice.

The year 2024 started with a skewed and alarming weather phenomenon for Pakistan. Close on the heels of a soulless December in 2023, the new year began with some snow, but it was too little, too late. In the plains, the winter season began with a pall of dense smog. Then April received above average rainfall, making it the wettest month since 1961, resulting in over 140 fatalities in KP and Balochistan, not to mention damage to homes and schools.

And now the country is reeling from extreme heat. That is not all. Climatologists say soaring temperatures may lead to glacial melt with the danger of glacial lake outburst floods and flash floods.

> Perhaps we need to change the way we are looking at the phenomenon. Perhaps it should be given a human face.

So far, these climate disasters have failed to move the government to pore over the plethora of climate policy documents it has crafted over the years and find solutions from it. Imran Khalid, a climate expert, calls for a "people first" approach when policymaking happens. "Without involving and engaging with the communities for whom the policies are made, these strategies will remain nice-looking glossy documents with little impact on the welfare of folks who truly need it," he points out.

Reporting on loss of life, property and infrastructure during the several climate crises — floods, landslides, torrential rainfall, smog, melting glaciers, wildfires and deforestation — the country grappled with, the annual *State of the Human Rights* report for 2023, put the government in the dock and brought attention to the inadequate assistance, delayed reconstruction and lack of preparedness for climate-induced disasters on the part of the state.

One way of holding the government accountable is to take it to court, like Ali and Leghari did. Both brought human rights into the climate change equation.

To be fair, Pakistan is not alone. The story is the same across the globe. Ecological lawyer David Boyd, the outgoing UN special rapporteur on human rights and the environment, believes this game-changing strategy of slapping the state with a slew of court cases will make the state legally obligated to regulate businesses to respect climate, environment and human rights.

But Leghari warns that taking the state to court is no substitute for the "robust policymaking" that climate expert Khalid referred to earlier. "Courts can be a good tool," he says, but only if litigating is done strategically for it to have an impact.

Due to lack of subject matter expertise in the judiciary, in Pakistan at least, courts may come up with a "whimsical, and not very thought-through prescription", which, although given in good faith, may end up having a negative impact in the larger scheme of things. However, if it is business as usual — inaction on the part of the government and justice denied — it will only exacerbate the climate crises.

Thus, the upcoming climate change conference organised by the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (to be held on June 8, 2024, in Islamabad) could not have come at a more opportune time. Indomitable speakers like Dr Parvez Hassan and Justices Mansoor Ali Shah, Ayesha A. Malik and Jawad Hassan will feature at the event. The legal fraternity will deliberate on the climate-related challenges Pakistan is grappling with in different sectors, including agriculture, water, energy, etc, while considering the governance challenges that go with them, and play a part in reminding and holding the state accountable for its obligation to its people and to the planet. At the same time, it is only fair to the state that the people be made responsible for protecting, conserving and restoring the Earth. ■

The writer is a Karachi-based independent journalist.

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OPINION

BY JAN-E-ALAM KHAKI

Humility vs conceit

IN the very beginning of the second chapter of the Quran (Surah al-Baqara), God describes two kinds of people with two kinds of mindsets. The first five verses tell us that the Holy Book is a guidance for the pious who believe in the unseen (ghayb); they believe in what the Prophet (PBUH) has brought and what the earlier prophets preached. Moreover, they spend what they have been blessed with, and believe in the afterlife. In describing these attributes, the verses stress a humbler approach towards accepting God's guidance and to show an attitude of submission towards what one does not know.

On the other hand, right after these verses, the Quran tells us about those who adamantly refuse to submit and mislead believers. To those individuals, the divine scripture proclaims, it makes no difference whether they are warned or not. The Quran says that God has sealed their hearts, eyes and ears, and for them is punishment. It implies that this attitude itself invites punishment, because the refusal to see, hear, and reflect obviously blocks the grace of God from entering the heart. The Quran says God does not like those who are arrogant and vainglorious (4:36).

In life, we face many kinds of people, some who are very humble, ever seeking the truth. They find themselves in the first group mentioned above. Their quest or search makes them humbler and receptive to learning. They, in simple terms, have a more open mind. This connects them with many others who might be seeking similar answers to their questions, thus becoming co-travellers with other seekers.

On the other hand, there are those who claim to know too much, too early; they feel 'full' of knowledge and wisdom. Such people claim to have more answers than questions. Their knowledge (or ignorance?) makes them arrogant, assuming that they have found the final answers to all the perennial questions of life and death. Their attitude, then, makes them contemptuous towards others, and least willing to listen to alternative perspectives.

These people, then, tend to create a 'ghetto' around themselves in which they live and function. They tend to forget that when we open our mouth to describe others, we only describe ourselves, showing the limits of our own knowledge and understanding.

Let us find some more relevant verses from the Quran that portray or personify humble versus arrogant people.

There are many verses that portray the behaviour of humble people, how their hearts are soft and softened when they look at the miracles of God in the form of verses (ayaat in Quranic language). There is also admiration in the Quran for those whose hearts are soft, and when verses are recited to them, their hearts 'melt', leading to prostration with humility: "Only those believe in Our Signs, "who, when verses are recited to them fall down in prostration, and celebrate the praises of their Lord, nor are they (ever) puffed up with pride" (32:15).

Still another verse exclaims, "And to Allah prostrate all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth, of the live moving creatures and the angels, and they are not proud" (16:49).

Talking about their humility, the Quran says, "... When the verses of the Most Beneficent (Allah) were [or are] recited unto them, they fell [or fall] down prostrating and weeping" (19:58). Their hearts are so softened that they come to tears when the beautiful verses of the majestic Quran are recited to them. They are led to this state because their hearts are wide open to the glory and majesty of God's miracles in the world in the form of miraculous creation.

> The refusal to see, hear, and reflect blocks Divine grace.

On the other hand, various verses of the Quran portray arrogant people's hearts as stones, or even worse. In a particular verse, talking about hardened hearts, it describes them as "... like a rock and even worse in hardness.

For among rocks there are some from which rivers gush forth. ..." (2:74). Their hearts are hardened so much that they are unable to yield anything good. Thus, if one wants to check if we are humble or arrogant, we must check ourselves against the descriptions of these verses.

Very often knowledge itself gives a lot of pride to people, who then boast and make claims of having absolute truths. This very knowledge hardens their heart and they go on challenging others, believing they have the absolute truth, leading to arrogance. What needs to be remembered is that knowledge has many dimensions and it is interpreted from many angles. It is only through dialogue, discussion and bringing new angles to old truths that we tend to learn new ways of interpreting the old truths. These interpretations depend on how many branches of science we know. The more we know, the better informed we are. ■

The writer is an educationist with an interest in the study of religion and philosophy.

BY AASIM SAJJAD AKHTAR

Budgeting chaos

'STABILISATION' is the favourite word of mainstream economists. The IMF loves it, and has recently hinted that Pakistan's economy has 'stabilised' enough for it to dole out another three-year handout close to the $6 billion that our finance czars have been craving.

I cannot understand what has been stabilised, except if a slight dip in inflation from over 30 per cent to something like 20pc is a sign of major progress. The economy is still mired in an endemic balance-of-payments crisis, which sucks up all foreign exchange reserves to regularly pay off the interest on our $130bn external debt burden. And what is 'stabilising' about taking on even more debt from the IMF, Gulf emirs and other 'friends' via the fantastical SIFC, and an increasingly hollowed-out CPEC?

None of these basic facts about Pakistan's political economy will be acknowledged during the upcoming budget announcement, scheduled for June 12. The largely meaningless exercise is being preceded by chaos as ministers engage in an internecine conflict and bureaucrats do their own bidding. They'll get their act together in time for the budget performance and bandy about some numbers. But it doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that nothing is about to change.

Blue-collar working and white-collar salaried classes will be burdened with even more regressive taxes, while public spending on anything other than yet more big infrastructure will decrease again. There will be no honest figures circulated about matters that actually affect the mass of the working people — (un)employment, the huge shortage of affordable housing in metropolitan Pakistan, and the multi-pronged deprivation of the almost 40 million landless people in the rural areas.

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said recently that fixing Pakistan's economy does not require too many policy prescriptions, that established strategic objectives simply need to be executed. Among other things, the honourable minister has been very gung-ho about privatising all public assets, and inviting investors to develop (read: pillage) unexplored mineral and other resources. He need not mention real estate, because that is a sector in which investors and developers already enjoy windfall profits.

Pakistani officialdom and donors are on the same page about these strategic objectives. In fact, they've been saying more or less the same thing for decades in the name of 'stabilisation'. What's remarkable is that there is no little critique of these now-banal, straitjacket policies. I think it is a damning indictment of many purportedly independent voices that they continue to accede to such tired refrains.

In much of the Western world, the mantra of liberalising trade and finance while unabashedly privatising public assets has given way to talk of state-led industrial policy — the US is even explicitly engaging in protectionism vis-à-vis China. But in Pakistan, the 'experts' are unable to think beyond standard neoliberal speak.

It is no wonder that real estate moguls like Malik Riaz become powerful behemoths who cannot be named. Such figures are, as recent events show, deeply embroiled in the palace intrigues that constitute our establishment-centric political order. Which brings me to the role of the establishment in our crisis-ridden economy: will any of our 'experts' summon the courage to talk about the defence budget or hidden subsidies over the next few days?

We do require new policy proposals, Minister Sahib. Most of all, we need to talk about the redistribution of wealth. Our is a country where a small ruling class — including a khaki bourgeoisie — owns the vast majority of land, industrial and financial capital. This class is content to continue suckling itself, while the IMF and other donors are happy to allow such continuity so long as they get their interest payments back in the name of 'stabilisation'.

> What is 'stabilising' about taking on even more debt?

The ruling class and its foreign patrons are also intent on pillaging nature and destroying local ecologies in the name of 'development', which equates to future generations of working people being left with an even bigger debt burden and more frequent climate breakdown events to contend with.

If the status quo remains intact, more and more of our rapidly expanding young, working population will seek out livelihoods, housing and other basic needs in what is passed off as the 'informal' economy. If our ministers, donors and other experts had a finger on the pulse of the people, they would spend more time thinking about this than playing with macroeconomic numbers and budgeting chaos; not least because it is also in the 'informal' economy that the ruling class makes billions, extorting the working poor in Chaman, Tatlian and so many other spaces. But our policy debate would rather live in the pretend world of 'stabilisation'. ■

The writer teaches at Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad.

FROM THE PAST PAGES OF DAWN

1974 | Fifty years ago

Rules of the game

EDITORIAL: A number of incidents in the past week ... have underlined the danger that is inherent in strife, divisiveness and erosion of public order. ... Let us ... take the disturbances caused by the Rabwah incident. The Government has acted with a full sense of responsibility and promptitude. ...

The Prime Minister's appeal to the people not to let law and order be subverted ought to be heeded. ... A poor and underdeveloped country like Pakistan will be doing enormous damage to its chances of social and economic progress, besides laying itself open to external dangers, if it allows its national energies to be frittered away through divisiveness and strife and permits the forces of lawlessness and anarchy to raise their head.

This is not to say that the opposition ... should be deprived of their right to dissent. ... But how this dissent is to be expressed is the central issue. Because of their commitment to the democratic process the opposition parties are under an obligation to play the game according to the rules. ... We hope that political, social and religious leaders will fulfil their duty of making the people aware of the dangers of over-reacting to events. . .

1949 | Seventy-five years ago

No agreement yet

SRINAGAR: The Governments of India and Pakistan have not acceded to the UNCIP's request for unreserved acceptance of the truce terms presented by the Commission on April 28, says an official statement made by the Commission's headquarters here today [June 6]. The Commission said that at present it was studying the replies of the two Governments in detail and would decide on its plan for the future after the consideration of all relevant factors. The UNCIP statement says: "Since June 1, when the replies were first made known, the Commission has been giving its undivided attention to the situation in the light of these replies. The Commission notes that the gap between the Indian point of view and that of Pakistan on certain issues has so far not appreciably narrowed.

"This gap relates mainly to the disposition and withdrawal troops from the State in such a way as to prepare the ground for the holding of a plebiscite to which both Governments committed. [It will be remembered that the major first step, a cease-fire accepted by the two Governments, was achieved on January 1, 1949." — News agencies

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@dawn.com

Letters may be edited for purposes of clarity and space. All letters should carry the writer's address, CNIC and phone numbers.

The young deserve to have a chance

THIS is with reference to the report 'Increase in retirement age to be across board: govt' (May 8), and subsequent discussion on various social media platforms on the subject. A proposal to extend the retirement age by five years has been under discussion, and the justification being given is that the life expectancy has improved, and the government wants to take advantage of the experienced hands.

Scientists, intellectuals, thinkers and philosophers, after a lot of brainstorming and research over a long period of time, developed a sort of consensus regarding human output parameters associated with age. For instance, the right school age is determined to be six years, prime age is considered between 18 and 30 years, the degeneration commences at 35 years, and faculties start waning at 60 years.

In the West, the retirement age in recent years has been upped to 65 years, because the population growth is less than one per cent, and, in some cases, it is even in the negative. These countries are having problems looking after the aging population. In Pakistan, however, that is not the case, with the annual population growth hovering around 2pc.

With the youth bulge increasing every year, unemployment growing by leaps and bounds, and the economy not doing well, the country will most likely witness an unpleasant rift when the already frustrated and dejected youths get to know that the retirement age has been increased and their chances of getting jobs have been further diminished.

In fact, senior citizens, like me, who have already played their innings should make way for our children. This is how nature has programmed the transition. For how long are we, the older generation, going to be a stumbling block for the young who need to be provided with the space and opportunities? After all, they have to shoulder this responsibility ultimately. Why should we delay the transition?

Similarly, improvement in terms of life expectancy does not mean that the goalpost for the young should be moved beyond their reach, while the already privileged get a bonus by way of extension in service.

As far as experience is concerned, in this age of artificial intelligence (AI) and fast-paced digital transformation, in which the younger ones are expert and well-versed through continuous upskilling, experience plays a secondary role anyway.

Muhammad K. Safi
Islamabad

Merit should prevail

I RETURNED home from my semester break, feeling a deep sense of joy and excitement after being away from my family for six long months. As evening turned into night, we gathered around the dinner table. My father and I began discussing a range of topics touching upon different aspects of our lives. It was during this exchange that my father shared a recent experience that had left him unsettled.

My father, one of the senior-most professors in the province, had recently appeared in the selection process for the position of a college principal (BPS-20). Given his extensive experience, he was confident about his chances. What he encountered during the interview process was a bit surprising to him and seriously disheartening to me.

As my father narrated, when he entered the interview room, he was taken aback to see his juniors sitting on the interview panel. These were individuals who, by any professional standard, should not have been in a position to evaluate someone of my father's seniority and experience.

His shock quickly turned into a sort of protest. He voiced his concerns, and questioned as to how it was appropriate for him to be interviewed by his juniors. This, my father insisted, was a glaring example of the flawed processes within the provincial College Education Department.

I could not help but feel a sense of sheer injustice. My father was facing a system that seemed indifferent to his various contributions. There is surely a need for a more transparent and merit-based selection process that truly recognises and rewards the deserving candidates.

The mere presence of a 'selection' process was not just an administrative flaw, but also a significant injustice that needs to be addressed urgently. Mediocrity should never be allowed to overshadow merit, and true progress requires both integrity and courage.

Name withheld on request
Lahore

Power sector woes

MANY are seen these days wondering if there is a solution to the country's power conundrum which is eating up the economy. The straightforward answer is, 'No'. Since the 1990s we have accepted dictation on power-sector policies totally from outside agencies, including the World Bank and other global financial institutions, without considering the implications over a longer period of time.

As a consequence, we find ourselves in the current quagmire that is taking us towards a catastrophe. There is no solution in sight to come out of this scenario anytime soon. No doubt, there was acute load-shedding in the beginning of the 1990s, which prompted us to accept one-sided power generation contracts. Surprisingly, however, similar unfavourable contracts with independent power producers (IPPs) were repeated in the 2000s. This was done mindlessly as if non-professionals were dealing with them. Relevant experts were not involved in the exercise.

The Power wing of Wapda was dismembered into several generation and distribution companies on the advice of the World Bank to improve efficiency, but it proved otherwise. Above all, there has been no accountability and corruption is rampant. There is no quick fix to correct the power problems. Unfortunately, we have to live with the follies of the policymakers.

Riaz Bhatti
Islamabad

Alternative energy

THIS is to bring to masses' attention the sheer injustice that is being served to the consumers of solar power in Pakistan. On a 5kW solar system, net-metering is possible, which means solar consumers can sell the excess produced energy to the government. The Lahore Electric Supply Company (Lesco) is purchasing this energy produced by the people at around Rs19 for a unit, but is selling the same back to us at around Rs60, including taxes. From the independent power producers (IPPs), it is purchasing energy at about Rs25 per unit.

The critical question is: why are solar consumers being discouraged, and subjected to this injustice when solar energy is supposed to be good for the planet?

As I write this, Lahore is sizzling and is 'unseasonably' hot at temperatures higher than 40 degrees Celsius. The government needs to pay serious and sustained attention to all its policies that are negatively impacting consumers of alternative energy, and will ultimately hurt the planet. Is it something worth doing?

Mariam Khan
Lahore

Ticking time bombs

IT is not surprising that the economic woes of Pakistan have driven many towards using liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) as a relatively inexpensive fuel alternative. This is particularly true of public transport vehicles. This shift, while understandable, presents a grave danger as the safety of these gas cylinders has remained largely unchecked.

As such, these unregulated cylinders, often transported in close proximity to schoolchildren as well as commuters, have become ticking time bombs. Besides, LPG cylinders in public transport, especially school vans, often lack proper maintenance and inspection. Reports indicate a disturbing trend of accidents and fatalities due to cylinder explosions.

In such a scenario, implementing mandatory safety checks, similar to those outlined in the Mineral and Industrial Gases Safety Rules 2010, is a key first step. Furthermore, public awareness campaigns are needed to educate the people about proper handling of LPG cylinders.

In essence, this is not just about saving money on fuel. It is about safeguarding lives. We cannot afford to turn a blind eye to this persistently growing threat. The future of our people, especially our children, depends on immediate and effective action. Unfortunately, the lack of proper regulatory oversight is exacerbating the issue, putting lives at risk.

The current dire situation demands immediate government intervention. Implementing thorough inspection protocols and mandatory cylinder replacements may prevent tragedies. Ensuring that LPG cylinders are safe, and drivers are held accountable will be fundamental in any such intervention.

Fauzia Shahjahan
Kamber Ali Khan

▶ **LAW AND ORDER:** Sui has a central position as it supplies natural gas to the whole country. However, despite being the hometown of the sitting provincial chief minister, the city stands cut off from Sindh as well as Punjab through land routes, while the road leading to Kashmore remains in the iron grip of dacoits. The provincial government should look into the matter, and ensure security of commuters on the said road. Besides, funds should be allocated for constructing new roads to link the city with Sindh and Punjab.

Tariq Baggi
Sui

▶ **CAMPUS IN TROUBLE:** With monsoon rains due in the days ahead, the students of the Laar Campus of Sindh University in Badin are apprehensive because the whole system collapses in a heap every time it rains. The campus remains inundated for weeks after a single spell of heavy showers. Ironically, about 94 acres of land remain unused except for providing space to illegal occupants and land-grabbers. The relevant government body needs to intervene in the matter, and sort out the mess urgently.

Abdul Jabbar
Badin

▶ **LEISHMANIASIS:** Leishmaniasis is a parasitic infection transmitted by sandflies. A common type found in our region is cutaneous leishmaniasis, characterised by painful as well as disfiguring ulcers. Unsurprisingly, a single injection for treating a leishmaniasis lesion can cost a staggering Rs3,000, placing a heavy burden on families that are already struggling financially. Moreover, the lack of awareness about leishmaniasis further exacerbates the problem. Many people might not recognise the early signs or have access to proper diagnosis and treatment. This can lead to delayed intervention, worsening the symptoms and increasing complications. The government should address the critical matter which has been particularly affecting life in rural areas.

Shakir Ullah Safi
Islamabad

External Ombudsman

Veteran journalist Muhammad Ali Siddiqi is *Dawn's* External Ombudsman (DEO). His duty is to attend to our readers' complaints, and to respond to them professionally. DEO is the investigating authority to whom all complaints can be referred, and it is DEO who takes notice of any alleged violations of *Dawn's* code of ethics, and informs the Editor for appropriate action.
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SCCI chief wants 'Tajir Dost Scheme' enforced for 20 years

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Fuad Ishaq on Thursday called for the approval of the Federal Board of Revenue's Tajir Dost tax scheme by parliament for the next 20 years.

He also said the government should promise not to impose new taxes on businessperson after the implementation of the scheme.

"There is a need for promoting close liaison and coordination between chambers, the business community, and tax authorities to take joint measures for amicable resolution of the traders' issues," Mr Ishaq told businesspersons during the visit of Peshawar Regional Tax Office chief commissioner Zafar Iqbal to the SCCI premises here.

Mr Iqbal was accompanied by chief coordinator for Tajir Dost Scheme Naseem Mir, RTO Peshawar commissioner Dr Syed Farooq Jamil, and additional commissioner Aisha Dilshad.

The meeting was also attended by SCCI vice president Ejaz Khan Afridi, former presidents Haji Mohammad Afzal, Zahidullah Shinwari and Shoribaz Bilour, former senior vice-presidents Ziaul Haq Sarhadi and Imran Khan Mohmand, executive members Javed Akhtar, Hamza Ibrahim Butt, Mohammad Ismail Safi, Kashif Amin, Nadeem Rauf, Sadder Gul, Ishtiaq Mohammad, Bakht Zaman, Atif Shahzad, Malik Khalid Farooq, Ihsanullah, and Aftab Ahmad, traders, importers, and exporters.

The RTO chief commissioner and other officials briefed participants about the salient features, importance, and benefits of the Tajir Dost Scheme and said the initiative was meant to broaden the tax net.

The SCCI president said reforms were required to simplify the taxation system and bring the tax rate to a single digit.

He also said traders should be facilitated under a one-window operation.

Mr Ishaq said Pakistan annually paid Rs8 trillion on head of debt servicing for internal and external loans, while the same amount was generated through various taxes, which was insufficient for the country's progress.

He called for the broadening of the tax base without imposing new taxes on taxpayers.

The SCCI chief said the business community wanted to see Pakistan join the ranks of developed nations, but for that purpose, authorities should adopt policies that were favourable and friendly to business, trade, and industry.

PHC reserves judgement over plea against postponement of Senate polls in KP

Petitioner Azam Swati wants decision of ECP declared illegal

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court on Thursday reserved its judgment over a petition challenging the decision of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to link Senate polls in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to oath of opposition members elected on reserved seats for women and non-Muslims.

A bench consisting of Justice Syed Mohammad Attique Shah and Justice Shakeel Ahmad heard arguments advanced by lawyers appearing for petitioner Azam Khan Swati and ECP.

Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf leader and former senator Azam Swati had challenged the ECP's March 28 orders about the possible postponement of Senate polls in the province. He had requested the court to order ECP to hold Senate polls in the province on April 2 as scheduled.

The petition was filed on March 30 before the ECP's April 2 order for postponement of Senate polls to the extent of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa until the administration of oaths to MPAs elected on reserved seats.

On March 28, ECP, in response to the applications of opposition's five women MPAs-elect, declared that if the speaker of the provincial assembly failed to comply with the high court's orders to administer oath to the law-makers elected on reserved seats, it would postpone Senate elections in the province until the swearing-in of the applicants. ECP got up the polls afterwards.

Petitioner's counsel Ali Zaman argued that Senate polls were conducted across the country, but ECP postponed the same in KP in light of the high court's orders for the provincial assembly speaker to administer oath to the members elected on reserved seats. He said that the order of ECP was illegal and unconstitutional.

He said that ECP didn't have the power to postpone Senate elections in the province when they were held in other parts of the country. He stated that the petitioner was a contesting candidate, but he was neither heard by ECP nor was he issued any notice for it.

The counsel said that during previous hearing the court had asked ECP to submit schedule of the polls to the court.

Lawyer for ECP Mohsin Kamran Siddique said that the court had not asked for the schedule rather it had sought a report from the commission. He stated that he had submitted a report on behalf of ECP to the court.

When the bench inquired from him about latest situation in the matter, he said that Supreme Court of Pakistan had adjourned to June 24 hearing of the cases related to non-allocation of reserved seats to Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) and allotting the same to other political parties.

He stated that the apex court had ordered that it would conduct day-to-day hearing in those cases.

He said that one of the cases pending before SC was about the PHC's decision to dismiss the plea of SIC against the ECP's March 1 order to deny that party seats reserved for women and non-Muslims.

He said that the court had issued a stay order in that case.

The other case, he said, pertained to PHC's orders for KP Assembly speaker to administer oath to those opposition members and to allow and facilitate their voting in Senate elections. He stated that in case the apex court decided to allot those seats to SIC, it would benefit the party in the polls.

Justice Shakeel inquired from petitioner's counsel as to why oath was not administered to those members on the order of high court. The counsel replied that the assembly was not in session, therefore, oath couldn't be administered to them.

When the bench against inquired as to why its order was not implemented, the counsel said that the petitioner was a contesting candidate in Senate polls and provincial government could give a reply to it.

The bench wondered that if Senate polls were conducted and the apex court upheld the judgement of the high court about administering oath to the members, then what would happen.

The petitioner's counsel stated that on the same analogy what would be the status of polls conducted if the apex court decided the matter in favour of SIC. He wondered whether results of polls in other provinces would be reversed then.

Advocate Syed Hussain Shah appeared for Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and opposed the petition.

MTRA starts registration of people for organ donation

Speakers say lack of awareness hampers treatment of patients requiring human organs

By Ashfaq Yusufzai

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Medical Transplantation Regulatory Authority on Thursday launched registration of people wanting to donate their organs to save lives of others amid calls by experts that lack of awareness has been hampering treatment of patients requiring human organs.

"In Pakistan, the number of renal transplants is about 1,800 against the need of 10,000. There is huge deficit of demand and supply, which can be bridged through scaling up awareness regarding organs donation," Prof Asif Malik, the chairman of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Medical Transplantation Regulatory Authority (MTRA), said.

Speaking at a ceremony held here to mark World Transplant Day at Khyber Girls Medical College, he said that they launched a portal where the people could donate their organs that could be used for saving the lives of needy patients.

"Lack of donation culture has led to buying of organs from people. It is illegal and entails complications. Donation of organs as per law is a source of healthiness for both donors and recipients," he said.

Prof Malik, a former transplant surgeon at Institute of Kidney Diseases (IKD), said that they had authorised 13 hospitals for organs transplant including renal and eye where people could undergo procedures in the safest manner by professional surgeons.

"Recently, we organised 'transplant games' wherein about 100 patients, who had recovered after transplants, took part and enjoyed," he added.

Dr Arzaee Rehman, also a former transplant surgeon at IKD, said they were starting 'deceased donors scheme' to retrieve kidneys of the people with dead brain and transplant the same to patients with damaged urinary organs. "Similarly, we are also considering launching pair donation in which families can exchange kidneys to match recipients to resolve the issue of match-ability of both," he added.

Prof Samaullah Jan, the director of Pakistan Institute of Community Ophthalmology (PICO) at Hayatabad Medical Complex, painted a grim picture of organ donations in the country and said that they had to wait for donations from the USA and other countries to carry out corneal transplants.

"There are 3,700 patients awaiting their transplants at PICO only and we urge people to start donating corneas so as to help restore the eyesights of the people blinded by cylinder blasts and other incidents. We are way behind from Nepal, Iran, Sri Lanka and India where people are in the habit of organ donation," he said.

Prof Qilda Ayaz, the former chairman of Council of Islamic Ideology, said that they had forwarded recommendation to government after in-depth research that organ donation was allowed in Islam.

"We need to establish an endowment fund to strengthen transplantation in the province," he added.

Khyber Medical University Vice-chancellor Prof Ziaul Haq, KGMC Dean Prof Zahid Aman, HMC Prof medical director Shehzad Akbar Khan, deputy director of FIA Saeedullah Khan and others also spoke on the occasion.

Skits were also displayed by students to send a message that donation was legal and people must donate organs.

Health Minister Syed Qasim Ali Shah said that doctors in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were capable to carry out transplants and other latest procedures in the field of medical sciences.

He stressed the need for preventive measures to put brakes on diabetes and other ailments.

He said that government was providing free health services to people on Sehat Card Plus as per vision of PTI founder Imran Khan. He claimed it was not possible even in developed countries where people paid premium to get health insurance.

"In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, all people get cashless treatment services," he added.

Displaced Kukikhels start returning to Tirah

KHYBER: The displaced families of Kukikhel tribe started returning to their homes in Tirah valley after repeated protests and demonstrations.

Some 50 families left Jamrud late on Wednesday while another batch of similar number of families belonging to Maniyakhel sub-tribe of Kukikhel started their return journey to Pak Darra on Thursday.

A Kukikhel elder, Malak Nasser Ahmed, told *Dawn* that though the returning families were not provided with sufficient assistance except for a tent, a mattress and some kitchen items, the returning families arranged transport for their return journey from their own limited resources.

He accused the government departments concerned of ignoring their repeated requests and appeals for a comprehensive package on the pattern of the rest of IDPs from other tribal districts in recent past.

He said most of the homes in the Kukikhel areas of Tirah valley were uninhabitable for living as these homes were either damaged in military operations or had collapsed during snowy and rainy season during a decade of displacement of the local tribesmen.

Members of some of the returning families said that it was very difficult for them to accommodate one whole family in just one tent while none of them were provided food, which was essential for their survival for at least three months.

The remaining Kukikhel families' exact number could not be ascertained as they had not registered themselves with the erstwhile Fata Disaster Management Authority back in 2012 when they left their homes.—Correspondent

Two friends shot dead by rivals in Swabi

SWABI: Two friends were shot dead in Kala village while separately an senior citizen drowned in Gohati canal here on Thursday.

Mohammad Ibrahim, brother of one of the deceased Mohammad Asim, told police that he was at home when he got the information that his brother and a relative, Ishtiaq Ali, were killed by unknown persons in Kala mountainous area. He claimed that both were shot dead by Musawil Khan and his two other unidentified accomplices. He said before the incident, they were invited to the spot on mobile phone where they were killed under a well-planned strategy.

The crime of the incident was stated to be a one-and-a-half-month old feud in which Mohammad Asim was injured in firing by Musawil Khan. Mohammad Ibrahim claimed that Musawil took the extreme step as he was expecting a revenge attack from Asim.

Police have registered an FIR and started investigation.

Meanwhile, Gul Mohammad, 80, drowned in Gohati canal on Thursday when he was bathing on its bank but slipped into deep water. Rescue 1122 officials said. Saqib Shah, a rescue official, told *Dawn* that soon after receiving information they reached the canal, recovered the body and handed it over to the family.

Also in the day, dead bodies of two youngsters, who had drowned in the Indus River four days back, were recovered in Thal area by local divers on Thursday.

The bodies of two youngsters, Zeeshan Ahmad, 17, and Mohammad Tayyab, 16, were handed over to their families for burial. They were hailing from Garmsara village.—Correspondents

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1. National Insurance Company Limited, owned by the Federal Government of Pakistan and working under the administrative control of Ministry of Commerce, invites Electronic Expression of Interest (EOI) from consultant firms, registered with Income Tax and Sales Tax Department and having registered offices in Karachi, Lahore or Islamabad for consultancy services related to various tasks of Human Resources Department, Head Office (Karachi) as per the schedule below:

Bid Submission Deadline	Technical Bid Opening
27th June 2024, 2:00 p.m	27th June 2024, 3:00 p.m

2. Electronic Expression of Interest documents containing the scope of work, terms and conditions and evaluation criteria for pre-qualification are available for download by registered suppliers on EPADS at https://epprocure.gov.pk with bid submission to be accepted and bid opening to be conducted via EPADS in presence of bid opening committee and representatives of suppliers as per the schedule mentioned above and at the address mentioned below.
3. Clarifications, if any, may be submitted to the respective procurement via EPADS by 25th June 2024, 5:00 p.m. Any clarifications received on call, in person visits or email shall not be considered.
4. The shortlisted consultants shall be notified regarding the next stage of the procurement process accordingly.

Chief Manager (Procurement)
05th floor, NIC Building,
Abassi Shaheed Road, Karachi.

PLANNING COMMISSION
MINISTRY OF PLANNING DEVELOPMENT & SPECIAL INITIATIVES
Block "P" Pak Secretariat, Islamabad - Pakistan

ADDENDUM
CHIEF ECONOMIST

This addendum extends the last date for the position of Chief Economist originally published on February 4, 2024. The position carries the package of Special Professional Pay Scale (SPPS)-1. If you have a PhD in economics from a leading national or international university and you are looking for a challenging but a distinguished career in public service in development economics, you may apply online through: epp.gov.pk OR pc.gov.pk. The new deadline for submission for this position is seven (7) days from the date of publication of this addendum. Please Note: Candidates who previously applied for this position are not required to resubmit. Their applications will be considered in the selection process. The final selection will take place after legal formalities are completed.

PHA FOUNDATION
Ministry of Housing & Works, Government of Pakistan
E-INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

PHA Foundation, Ministry of Housing & Works, Government of Pakistan invites applications for pre-qualification of contractors against the following mentioned work from the bidders registered with PPRA- EPADS and having valid licensed by the Pakistan Engineering Council in the relevant category.

Sr. #	Name of Work	Category (PEC)	Submission Date & Time
1	Construction of Main Boulevard along with Services Works at PHAF Residencia Peshawar	C-1 and above with specialization codes CE-01, CE-09, CE-10 and EE-04	09-07-2024 at 1300 hours
2	Construction of Category-I Houses and related Earthwork under Package-1A at PHAF Residencia Peshawar	C-1 and above with specialization codes CE-01, CE-09, CE-10	09-07-2024 at 1300 hours
3	Construction of Category-II Houses and related Earthwork under Package-1B at PHAF Residencia Peshawar	C-1 and above with specialization codes CE-01, CE-09, CE-10	09-07-2024 at 1300 hours
4	Construction of Category-III Houses and related Earthwork under Package-1C at PHAF Residencia Peshawar	C-1 and above with specialization codes CE-01, CE-09, CE-10	09-07-2024 at 1300 hours
5	Construction of Category-IV Houses and related Earthwork under Package-1D at PHAF Residencia Peshawar	C-1 and above with specialization codes CE-01, CE-09, CE-10	09-07-2024 at 1300 hours

1. Pre-qualification documents that contain detailed terms and conditions and the procedure for submission of applications, evaluation criteria etc. against each work separately shall be downloaded from the official website of PPRA-EPADS (epprocure.gov.pk) and contractors are required to provide an original pay order amounting to Rs. 3,000/- in favor of "Pakistan Housing Authority Foundation (PHA-F)" as documentation fee against each work (if applying for more than one work).
2. Only Contractors registered PPRA with E-PADS as vendor are eligible to download prequalification documents.
3. The Contractors are required to submit their applications prepared in accordance with the instructions in the prequalification documents, online through E-PADS at http://epprocure.gov.pk (Scanned Copy) and Original must be submitted in sealed envelope in the office of Director Engineering-I at Pakistan Housing Authority Foundation (PHA-F), located on the First Floor of Shaheed-e-Millat Secretariat, Jinnah Avenue, Blue Area, Islamabad as per the schedule date and time. Applications received after lapse of the aforementioned date and time shall not be considered.
4. Interested bidders can obtain any further clarifications from the office of Dy. Director Engg-I & IV at PHA Foundation.
5. The name and address of the contractor shall be clearly marked on the envelope.
6. Only Contractors pre-qualified under this procedure will be invited to Bids.
7. In case of any ambiguity or discrepancy between the hard and soft copies, the hard copy shall prevail.
8. No Prequalification Documents shall be available for download on the date fixed for submission.
9. In case of any unforeseen reasons, public holiday or force majeure on the submission / opening date, the Applications shall be submitted/opened on the next working day at the same place and time.
10. In case of false information provided by the bidder the concerned firm will be blacklisted/debarred under PPRA rules, decision of the employer in the case should be final.
11. All the prevailing PPRA Rules/Act and government notifications issued from time to time will be applicable.
12. PHA Foundation reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or proposals at any time prior to the acceptance of a bid in accordance with Rule 33 of PPRA 2004.

CHIEF ENGINEER
PHA Foundation, Ministry of Housing and Works
Ground Floor, Shaheed-e-Millat Secretariat, Jinnah Avenue, Islamabad, Tel: 051-9201817

NATIONAL ELECTRIC POWER REGULATORY AUTHORITY (NEPRA)
POWER WITH SAFETY

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SEEKING COMMENTS
IN THE MATTER OF SUBMISSION OF DRAFT CONNECTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN DISCO AND BPC

All stakeholders, interested parties/consumers and the general public are informed that the Authority is considering the draft Connection Agreement (CA) between DISCO and BPC. This draft CA establishes the terms and conditions for connecting a BPC to the distribution network operated by a DISCO. It encompasses the evaluation of application, negotiation of terms, engagement of service providers, and compliance with relevant regulations, aiming to ensure reliable and efficient power supply to BPC while adhering to industry standards and legal requirements.

(2). In view of the above, all stakeholders, interested parties/consumers and the general public are invited to offer their views/comments on the subject matter within fifteen (15) days of this publication. The submitted draft CA can be accessed on the official website of NEPRA (i.e., https://nepra.org.pk/news.php). For any further clarification/information contact office of the Registrar on the following address: -

Registrar NEPRA
NEPRA Tower, Attaturk Avenue (East), G-5/1, Islamabad.
Tele: 051-9206500/2013200; Fax 051-9210215/2600026
E-mail: registrar@nepra.org.pk

Note: Consideration of the CA submitted to the Authority does not construe as approval of the Authority.

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FBR to miss FY24 target by Rs175bn 'due to stay orders'

Govt plans to raise tax rates and withdraw exemptions

By Mubarak Zeb Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has estimated a shortfall of Rs175 billion in the current fiscal year (2023-24) as the superior courts have suspended the implementation of new measures announced by the government to tax the rich.

"We have informed Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif about the amount stuck due to decisions by superior courts," a tax official told *Dawn* on Thursday.

The courts stayed collection of super tax and windfall income tax.

According to the official, since 90 per cent of the cases pending in courts pertain to large taxpayers, including banks and multinational corporations, tax will be collected easily from them during the last 10 days of this month. Assistance has been sought from the Attorney General for Pakistan in the matter, he added.

In the last budget, the government imposed new tax measures on wealthy taxpayers totalling more than Rs400bn.

"We have requested the prime minister to resolve these cases before June 30," the official said, adding that otherwise the revenue collection target of Rs9.415 trillion for the current fiscal year would be missed by a large margin.

The Supreme Court directed wealthiest taxpayers to deposit 50pc of the super tax in February this year. As a result, the shortfall is now expected to be under Rs200bn, according to the tax official.

In 11M FY24, the FBR collected Rs8.122tr against a target of Rs8.162tr target. The FBR will need to raise Rs1.25tr this month to meet the FY24 budgetary target of Rs9.415tr.

The June target was projected at Rs1.178tr, but it now adds up to Rs2.5tn due to the backlog from previous months.

The Finance Division, FBR, and the IMF have differing revenue collection targets for 2024-25. All three have different projections based on their calculation, the official said.

According to him, there is a disagreement regarding taxation measures for the coming budget. The impact in money terms of these differences range from Rs500bn to Rs1.8tr.

In an effort to generate more revenue, the government plans to increase the current tax rates and eliminate sales tax exemptions, a politically sensitive matter.

According to FBR estimates, autonomous revenue collection (based on GDP growth and inflation) will be around Rs11.5tn in FY25.

In addition, the federal government will review the revenue measures in consultation with the IMF for the next fiscal year.

During the recent IMF technical meetings, the FBR revenue target was projected to be between Rs12.4tr and Rs12.6tr, based on expenditure projections.

However, the finance division's initial estimate for FY25 is Rs13 trillion.

Contrary to these two projections, FBR has projected that revenue collection will be Rs12tr for 2024-25. However, the final revenue collection target will be determined by the finance division, the official said.

According to the official, the actual tax target would be set when the government releases numbers for inflation and GDP growth.

The government will need to boost imports in the next fiscal year as well.

The IMF has asked the government to match the salary slab to the incomes of pensioners. However, no final decision has been taken so far.

The Fund has asked FBR to collect taxes from traders and wholesalers, who are currently not contributing to tax collection.

The IMF focus is on sales and income taxes, particularly withholding taxes. Currently, the sales tax exemption exceeds Rs1.2tr.

The government will face a difficult decision to revoke exemptions for food, international agreements, and pharmaceutical products. A few items, such as insecticides and solar panels, may be subject to sales tax.

At the same time, the government is expected to raise existing withholding tax rates and introducing new ones, such as reviving the tax on cash withdrawals from banks.

Furthermore, the finance ministry is considering imposing a tax on the import of exempted raw materials while increasing tax rates on the existing ones.

REGULATOR'S decision would raise Rs29bn more for Discos.—Dawn/file

Rs3.33 per unit hike for April notified

By Khalooq Qiani

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) on Thursday notified Rs3.33 per unit additional fuel cost against consumption in April to enable ex-Wapda distribution companies (Discos) to raise another Rs29 billion in June as the government confirmed on record a minor impact of solar net metering on electricity sales.

Nepra "has reviewed and assessed a National Average Uniform increase of Rs3.3321/kWh in the applicable tariff for ex-Discos on account of variations in the fuel charges for April 2024", said an order issued by the regulator.

The net tariff increase due to FCA's impact would be about Rs6 per unit because of its partial spillover to the quarterly tariff adjustment (QTA) to follow later.

The "adjustment of Rs3.3321/kWh shall apply to all the consumer categories except Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (EVCS) and lifeline consumers. The adjustment will be shown separately in the June bills based on units consumed in April", said Nepra's notification.

In its determination, the regulator also placed on record that the Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA) had "included 200 GWh (gigawatt hours) for the net metering units procured during April based on information provided by PITC", which works out to be just 1.15pc of the total 8,640Gwh in the national grid. In March, the CPPA claimed a 54.7 Gwh contribution from solar net metering, accounting for only 0.7 pc of the total grid supply of 7,756 Gwh.

This indicated that the narrative against the homeowners of solar net metering was being pushed to cover up certain other efficiency-related matters in the power network. Consumption in April was almost 16pc lower than the same month last year, mainly because of lower temperatures, changed consumption patterns due to the economic slowdown, and consumers shifting to alternate sources.

Nepra quoted the CEO of CPPA as saying there was lower generation from hydro and local coal than the generation assumed in the reference tariff. He said there was not much variation in actual fuel prices vis-a-vis reference values; however, certain fuels like RLNG were utilised in higher quantities than the reference values because of system requirements and contractual obligations.

CPPA told the public hearing that "orders for procurement of RLNG were already placed due to the anticipated increase in demand in April, and in case of non-utilisation of the ordered quantity, the power sector would have to bear the financial burden". The financial impact of the high use of RLNG was reported as Rs32bn in April against Rs75bn total fuel cost.

Regarding the low utilisation of Thar coal power plants, CPPA informed that the overall utilisation of these plants remained around 50pc during April, keeping in view the system stability and demand pattern. Regarding the curtailment of Thar-based plants, NTDC responded that due to weather conditions, the demand remained low.

This increase in FCA is on top of about 26pc increase in annual base tariff and another 18pc hike under two quarterly tariff adjustments to be paid by consumers at the rate of Rs4.65 per unit.

SBP's reserves rise, banks' fall by $116m

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) foreign exchange reserves have remained around $9 billion since the IMF's $1.1 billion arrival in April, reflecting no other inflows.

The central bank reported on Thursday that its reserves increased by a meagre $35 million to $9.105bn during the week ended May 31 without mentioning the source of this inflow.

However, the reserves of the commercial banks fell by $116m to $5.1bn during the week, bringing the country's total down by $100m to $14.2bn.

Alarmingly, sources in the financial circle revealed that Pakistan is facing a daunting challenge. The country is expected to pay up to $10bn in debt servicing till July 31, which is more than the SBP's overall forex holding. This dire situation underscores the country's urgent need for immediate assistance to bolster its reserves.

Earlier, there were widespread reports in the media about a potential loan package from the IMF in July. While sources have indicated the possibility, it's important to note that the amount required is significantly larger than the current reserves, which could pose a challenge for the country.

However, it was also observed that the financial experts were hopeful for yet another rollover of Chinese loans. Pakistan owes about $26bn to China. The prime minister, finance minister and foreign minister are in China just before the budget. Speculations about the rollover of loans were stronger due to the visit.

Talks continuing virtually: IMF

By Our Correspondent

WASHINGTON: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Thursday it is continuing virtual talks with Pakistan on a new, homegrown Extended Fund Facility (EFF).

IMF spokesperson and Director of Communications, Julie Kozack, told journalists at a news briefing in Washington that an IMF staff mission visited Pakistan from May 13th through May 23rd.

"We made significant progress towards reaching a staff level agreement on a homegrown program that can be supported under a new EFF with the Fund. Those discussions are continuing virtually."

Responding to a question about the requirement to publish the list of properties of Pakistani politicians, she said she did not have details of the progress made on this requirement.

Freelancers get new payment option

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Since its launch earlier this year, over 50,000 freelancers in Pakistan have signed up with Elevate to receive their earnings from foreign countries.

Freelancers are growing rapidly in the country, but most of them complain that banks are charging too much for their services.

Elevate, a fintech based in London and Dubai, has secured $5 million in financing to expand further into South Asia. The company has raised a total of $10m in equity and debt from investors.

JazzCash users cross 11m

JazzCash, a leading mobile wallet and digital financial services platform has surpassed 11 million active app users. Overall, JazzCash hosts 44 million registered users, with more than 30pc female customers, 17m monthly active users, 300,000 merchants and over 245,000 agents across Pakistan.

US envoy visits NSCL

A US delegation, led by Acting Consul General Jimmy Mauldin of the US Consulate in Karachi, visited the National Steel Complex (NSCL) on Tuesday at Port Qasim.

According to a press release, it is the country's first and largest fully integrated, environmentally friendly steel complex and uses Direct Reduced Iron (DRI) technology.

Mr Mauldin emphasised the crucial role of a robust steel sector in driving economic development. He identified NSCL as a potential catalyst for Pakistan's industrial progress. This visit underscores the US commitment to strengthening trade ties between the two nations.

'Shun protectionist approach for economic stability'

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Pakistan needs to shift from protectionist to an economy-centric approach for the sake of stability and recovery, says Prof Dr Ihsan Mohi-ud-Din Qadri.

"Economic recovery is impossible without minimising surge areas for local and foreign investment and without shedding the protectionist approach," the deputy chairman of Mirbaj University's board of governors told a pre-budget seminar on Thursday.

He said that the international thinking and approach of open economic trade should be adopted so that local and foreign investors can confidently invest in the areas of their choice.

Economists Dr Amanullah, Senior Vice-President of Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry Zafar Mahmood, Dr Muhammad Tayyab and Dr Khurram Shehzad also expressed their views at the seminar.

"Many areas closed to local and foreign investors. The state needs to take bold decisions in view of the huge financial crisis facing the country. Otherwise, the crisis will deepen with each passing day," Dr Qadri warned.

Despite initiatives like the Tax Reforms Commission and Asset Declaration Scheme, challenges like a complex tax system, red tape, resistance to change because of widespread corruption, and infrastructure deficiencies are hindering substantial progress, he said. He added that external factors like IMF programmes have also influenced policy directions, often necessitating austerity measures and structural adjustments.

The economist suggested taking onboard stakeholders for effective changes in the tax structure, cutting the number of tax payments, a fair distribution of taxes across sectors, and bringing retail, real estate and services sectors into the tax net.

He suggested a shift towards a direct taxation system, phasing out subsidies to nonproductive sectors, targeting support for the have-nots, repealing the minimum turnover tax and instead evaluating business profits directly, removing discretionary tax exemptions granted to ex-Fata/Pata regions, and curbing the discretionary power of tax men.

Dr Qadri also proposed elevating the GST exemption limit from Rs10 million to Rs30 million to incentivise smaller enterprises to formalise their operations.

US DOLLAR BUYING Rs277.33 SELLING Rs279.47	EURO BUYING Rs300.01 SELLING Rs302.99
GBP BUYING Rs352.83 SELLING Rs355.24	UAE DIRHAM BUYING Rs75.27 SELLING Rs75.98
KSA RIYAL BUYING Rs73.82 SELLING Rs74.22	GOLD TOLA Rs243,000 10 GMS Rs208,333

First cherry shipment sent to China

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan exported its first batch of fresh cherries to China using a reefer container and projected a total quantity of 260 tonnes by the end of this month.

An official announcement from the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) said the first cargo was six tonnes, followed by 12 tonnes, beginning Monday and lasting until June 30.

The country's success in exporting the fruit is due to the phytosanitary agreement signed between China and Pakistan in 2022, under which Beijing granted Islamabad market access for fresh cherries.

China imports most of its cherries from Chile, with an annual demand of around 350,000 tonnes valued at $3 billion.

Approximately 5,000 tonnes of cherries are produced in Gilgit-Baltistan per season. These cherries are mostly sold at low prices in local markets. The protocol with China has allowed the growers to meet the Chinese market's demand.

To implement the protocol, the TDAP and Department of Plant Protection (DPP) assisted eligible orchard owners in registering with the General Administration of Chinese Customs (GACC). Pakistan Horticulture Development & Export Company (PHDEC) also conducted cherry product development activities to educate farmers on producing renowned varieties like black and French cherries.

With these efforts, more than 500 cherry orchards and a cold storage and packing house at Rahim Abad are registered with GACC. The approval of the cherry orchards and the processing facility led to the expedition to export fresh cherries to China. The National Logistic Cell (NLC) has provided the required reefer containers.

The Export Development Fund (EDF) meets the logistic cost of cherry export.

TDAP Chief Executive Zubair Motiwala has said that growers will be a major beneficiary of the export of cherries. He said that TDAP and PHDEC are trying to ensure growers get maximum benefits by exploring the huge Chinese market. He also noted that the protocol on cherries was signed in November 2022, and within one year, we have not only registered more than 500 cherry orchards with GACC but also PHDEC has built growers' capacity.

PHDEC chief executive Athar Hussain Khokhar has said that by producing the required varieties of cherries, the country can capture a large chunk of the $3bn Chinese cherry market.

"Proximity and growing demand for the fruit in the Chinese market are a major competitive advantage to GB growers," he added.

Index falls below 74,000 on dismal outlook

By Muhammad Kashif

KARACHI: Amid growing uncertainty about the economic outlook ahead of the budget unveiling, which has been delayed to June 12, the bearish spell continued at the stock market for the fourth consecutive session on Thursday, dragging the benchmark index below the 74,000 level.

Ahsan Mehanti of Arif Habib Corporation stated that stocks closed lower due to concerns about economic uncertainty. Investor expectations for a cautious SBP monetary policy and subdued growth impacted investor sentiment.

He said reports of likely harsh conditions in the new IMF programme, such as a hike in power tariffs and fresh taxation measures in the budget 2024-25, contributed to the bearish close.

In its market report, Topline Securities Ltd noted that equities started the session positively. However, the index could not sustain the 74,000 level due to a selling spree triggered by concerns that the government may raise taxes on dividends, capital gains and interest income in the upcoming budget.

Key contributors to the decline included Fauji Fertilizer Company, OGDC, Mari Petroleum, MCB Bank and PSO, which collectively subtracted 136 points from the index. However, Bank Alfalah, Systems Ltd, Lucky Cement, Engro Corporation and Millat Tractors attracted some buying interest, adding 65 points.

As a result, the benchmark index hit an intraday high of 74,591.13 and a low of 73,798.40. However, the KSE 100 index settled at 73,862.93 points after shedding 356.51 points or 0.48pc on a day-on day basis.

However, the overall trading volume edged up by 1.2pc to 352.71 million shares. However, the traded value tumbled 24.87pc to Rs12.87bn day-on-day.

Stocks contributing significantly to the traded volume included WorldCall Telecom (17.60m shares), Kohinoor Spinning (14.85m shares), Dewan Motors (13.69m shares), Fauji Cement (12.07m shares) and Ghani Global (11.12m shares).

The shares registering the most significant increases in their share prices in absolute terms were Hallmark Company (Rs14.98), Sapphire Textile (Rs13.26), Philip Morris (Rs9.28), Hafiz Ltd (Rs7.29) and Data Agro Ltd (Rs6.18).

The companies registering the major decreases in their share prices in absolute terms were Sanger Engineering Works Ltd (Rs52.72), Service Ind (Rs45.50), Honchet Pak (Rs38.33), Exide Pakistan (Rs32.11) and Rafhan Maize Products Company Ltd (Rs27.26).

Foreign investors turned net sellers as they offloaded shares worth $0.69m.

PAKISTAN STOCK EXCHANGE

THE TOP FIVERS

GAINERS		LOSERS		LEADERS*	
Hallmark Company	14.98	Sanger Eng	52.72	WorldCall Telecom	17.60
Sapphire Textile	13.26	Service Ind	45.50	Kohinoor Spinning	14.85
Philip Morris	9.28	Honchet Pak	38.33	Dewan Motors	13.69
Hafiz Limited	7.29	Exide Pakistan	32.11	Fauji Cement	12.07
Data Agro Ltd	6.18	Rafhan Maize	27.26	Ghani Global	11.12

(Rise / decline in rupees) * Volume in millions of traded shares

INDICATORS	Thursday	Previous	Change
KSE 100-SHARE INDEX (Points)	73,862.93	74,219.44	▼ 356.51
KSE 30-SHARE INDEX (Points)	23,918.72	23,779.36	▼ 69.09
MARKET CAPITAL (Rs billion)	9,946.896	10,006.819	▼ 59.923
TRADING VALUE (Rs billion)	12.913	16.389	▼ 4.076

ACTIVITY	
Total listed	532
Active	450
Gainers	134
Losers	249

PARTICIPANTS	
Foreign	▼ $0.69m
Companies	▲ $.007m
Banks	▲ $1.44m
Mutual Funds	▲ $1.66m
Individuals	▼ $2.92m

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China's probe moves moon samples to spacecraft

BEIJING: China's Chang'e-6 probe transferred samples it collected from the moon's far side to a spacecraft in lunar orbit on Thursday, state news agency Xinhua reported.

After receiving the samples, the uncrewed spacecraft will fly back to Earth, with an expected landing in China's Inner Mongolia region on June 25. If successful, China will be the first country to ever return lunar matter from the side of the moon that permanently faces away from Earth.

The Chang'e-6 probe took off from the moon's far side on Tuesday, after spending two days on the surface digging up samples. While on the moon, the probe unfurled a Chinese flag made of basalt, a material that is abundant on the lunar surface.

The mission has been a source of national pride in China. The probe's launch last month drew thousands of tourists to the southern island province of Hainan and its every subsequent move, from landing on the moon's far side to the return journey to Earth, has been a viral item on Chinese social media.

The successful transfer on Thursday of the precious samples, which scientists hope can reveal more about the origins of the solar system, also comes as the United States expresses growing concerns about the advances in China's lunar and space exploration programmes.

Asked about the Chang'e-6 mission on Wednesday, Nasa chief Bill Nelson congratulated China, but asked it to be more open about its space activities. Nelson has repeatedly warned that the United States is in a "space race" with China to go back to the moon and that China would claim any water resources it found there as its own.

Responding to Nelson's comments, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said on Thursday that the Chang'e-6 probe's successful sampling on, and departure from, the moon's far side represented historic steps for "mankind's peaceful use of outer space" and that many countries praised the mission.

Mao criticised the Wolf Amendment, a law passed by the US Congress in 2011 that banned Nasa from collaboration with "China or any Chinese-owned company unless such activities are specifically authorised".—Reuters

Himalayan blizzard kills nine Indian trekkers

NEW DELHI: At least nine Indian trekkers died in the Himalayas after getting trapped during a blizzard, authorities said on Thursday, as rescue teams airlifted their bodies and five survivors to safety.

The Indian Air Force shared footage on Thursday that showed rescue teams working near a helicopter in the snow-covered mountains.

The group of climbers from the southern state of Karnataka were hit by heavy snowfall in the remote mountains of Uttarakhand state in north India, said Krishna Byre Gowda, a top Karnataka minister.

"Snow intensified into blizzard. By 6pm, 2 trekkers succumbed to bad weather. Snow and wind made movement impossible. Visibility dropped to nil. They huddled together for the night on the route. Some more succumbed in the night," Gowda wrote in a social media post on Wednesday.

A guide with the group alerted rescuers about the situation on Tuesday evening after trekking for a while to find mobile network connectivity, and teams reached the spot early on Wednesday, the minister added.—Reuters

PARDUBICE (Czech Republic): A view of the site of the crash in which a passenger train collided with a freight train, on Thursday. Four people were killed and more than 20 injured in the accident.—Reuters

Rights body urges Biden to halt arms supply to Israel

WASHINGTON: A civil rights organisation urged President Joe Biden on Thursday to "indefinitely" halt all weapons deliveries to Israel and pressure the US ally to end its bombardment of the Gaza Strip, sending a reminder that his support for Israel could hurt him among Black voters in November's election.

The call by the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP) was a rare instance of an influential body taking a position on US foreign policy towards a country without a significant Black population. It appeared likely to deepen the Democrat president's election-year challenges as he tries to back a key ally abroad and temper unrest among his supporters at home. The NAACP urged Hamas to return the Israeli prisoners and called upon Israel to "commit to an offensive strategy that is aligned with international and humanitarian laws". The NAACP, which has advocated for racial justice and rights for Black Americans, said the US must use its influence with Israel to bring a permanent ceasefire to Gaza.

"The NAACP calls on President Biden to draw the red line and indefinitely end the shipment of all weapons and artillery to the state of Israel and other states that supply weapons to Hamas and other terrorist organisations. It is imperative that the violence that has claimed so many civilian lives, immediately stop," the organisation said in a statement.

The NAACP stance represents the latest warning sign that Biden may pay a price at the ballot box among Black voters on Nov 5 for his staunch support of Israel.

Black voters have long been a loyal Democratic constituency, and they played a significant role in Biden's victory in 2020 when he beat Republican Donald Trump, whom he faces again this year. But polls show a lack of enthusiasm for Biden among Black voters.

Earlier this year, a group of more than 1,000 Black pastors called on Biden to secure a ceasefire in the crisis. A poll by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in March found that 59 per cent of Black Americans believe US military aid to Israel should only be used for self-defence and in accordance with human rights standards.

Biden's re-election campaign is not as concerned that Black voters will shift toward Trump as they are that too many of them may sit out the election due to lack of enthusiasm, campaign officials say.

After growing domestic pressure and international outrage, Biden paused a shipment of bombs last month to avoid their possible use in Israel's assault on the Gaza city of Rafah. But the pause was limited, and the US remains the top supplier of military aid to Israel.

Biden said last week Israel had proposed a fresh Gaza ceasefire in exchange for the release of prisoners. He called on Hamas to agree to the new offer, saying it was the best way to end the conflict.

Moral leadership

In an interview, NAACP President Derrick Johnson said the US needs to show moral leadership and stop sending weapons to Israel because of civilian deaths.

Johnson said the NAACP's decision to speak out was driven in part by young Black Americans horrified by the images of dead Palestinian civilians on their smart phones.

"It's raising a lot of questions around why our tax dollars are being used to harm civilians," Johnson said.

Democrats are deeply divided over Biden's handling of both the Gaza crisis and the US campus protests against it, a Reuters/Ipsos poll found.—Reuters

Boeing's Starliner safely docks with space station

WASHINGTON: Boeing's new Starliner capsule and an inaugural two-member Nasa crew safely docked with the International Space Station on Thursday, meeting a key test in proving the vessel's flight-worthiness and sharpening Boeing's competition with Elon Musk's.

The rendezvous was achieved despite an earlier loss of several guidance control jet thrusters, some of them due to a helium propulsion leak, which Nasa and Boeing said should not compromise the mission.

The CST-100 Starliner, with veteran astronauts Barry "Butch" Wilmore and Sunita "Suni" Williams aboard, arrived at the orbiting platform after a flight of nearly 27 hours following its launch from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida.

The roundish, gumdrop-shaped capsule, dubbed 'Calypso' by its crew, was lofted into space on Wednesday atop an Atlas V rocket furnished and flown by Boeing-Lockheed Martin's United Launch Alliance joint venture.

It autonomously docked with the ISS while both were orbiting some 400 km over the southern Indian Ocean at 1734 GMT, as the two vehicles soared around the globe in tandem at about 28,160 km per hour.

The spacecraft's final approach to the ISS and docking, following a brief interval when Wilmore manually controlled the capsule, was shown on a Nasa webcast.

"Nice to be attached to the big city in the sky," Wilmore radioed to mission control in Houston shortly after docking.

Once securely coupled to the space laboratory with a series of 12 hooks, Wilmore and Williams must conduct a series of standard procedures, such as checking for airlock leaks and pressurising the passage between the capsule and the ISS, before opening the entry hatches.

That process was expected to take about two hours.—Reuters

US couple hooks safe stuffed with $100,000, in ruined notes

NEW YORK: Two modern day treasure hunters in the United States appeared to strike gold when they uncovered a safe stuffed with $100,000 in cash — but there was a catch. The notes were ruined.

Barbara Agostini and James Kane, both in their 40s, have been propelled to celebrity status beyond their magnet fishing community after making the discovery in a New York pond over the weekend.

"It's surreal, I thought it was a joke until I saw it with my eyes," said Barbara Agostini.

Though not the pair's first time discovering a safe, it was their first one containing more than random odds and ends, although because the safe was not air-tight many of the notes were wet or mud-smeared.

Fearing the money could be linked to crime, the couple went to the New York police, saying they "didn't want to have a problem on our hands".

But police washed their hands of the cash.

"As a general matter, found property valued at ten dollars or more is required to be reported to, and deposited with, the police," a police spokesman said.

"In this instance, the value and authenticity of the alleged currency could not be determined due to the severely disintegrated condition of the property."—AFP

Acclaimed Ukrainian writer Sergiy Zhadan joins military

A former soldier sentenced to five years in jail on charge of colluding with Moscow

KYIV: In a move that sent shockwaves internally, one of Ukraine's most celebrated writers and poets, Sergiy Zhadan announced on Thursday that he had joined the military. The armed forces of Ukraine are seeking to 'bolster their ranks', after more than two years of conflict.

The 49-year-old novelist and poet, whose books have been widely translated, posted a picture showing him in camouflage and kneeling in front of an automatic rifle. "I joined the ranks of the 13th Brigade of the National Guard of Ukraine, Chartia. I am undergoing training. I serve the people of Ukraine," he stated on social media.

His announcement comes at a time when the Ukrainian military has been working to replenish its ranks, specifically after Kyiv introduced 'new mobilisation legislation', designed to help lift army numbers.

Zhadan, stashed in the Kharkiv region where Russian forces recently launched a ground offensive and has 'close connections' with the brigade that mainly operates in the eastern border territory.

Despite Kharkiv coming under intense fire from Russian troops, Zhadan remained put when it seemed the city 'could be seized in by Russian forces', during the first months of the war.

In 2022, Zhadan told reporters' before a reading in Kyiv, that the Kremlin's decision to invade meant 'those outside the country must pick a side'. "People must clearly position themselves: either you support the aggressor, or you support Ukraine".

'Soldier sentenced'

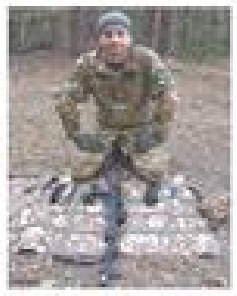
A former Ukrainian soldier, who sent the location of sensitive military targets to Russia, has been sentenced to five years in jail, according to Ukrainian prosecutors.

Ukraine has detained 'thousands of people' on 'suspicion of collaborating with Russian troops', since the war began in February 2022. Many of those whom have been detained belong to the east and south of the country.

Prosecutors in the northeast Kharkiv region said that the man (whom they did not name), allegedly contacted a "representative of the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB)" using the Signal messaging app.

He then went on to send the 'FSB' the 'positions of soldiers and military equipment' in the Kharkiv region and southern Mykolaiv region, they added.

"The enemy needed this information to conduct targeted air strikes on Ukrainian defenders," the prosecutors allege. The man was detained near the frontline town of Kupiansk and "fully admitted his guilt", they added.—AFP



WRITER Sergiy Zhadan with his arms.—Photo courtesy *Kyiv Post*

NEWSMAKERS

SEOUL: Cannons fire a 21-gun salute at a cemetery as South Korea marks Memorial Day, which honours those who died during the 1950-53 Korean war, on Thursday.—AFP

SHANGHAI: An exhibitor shakes hands with a humanoid robot at the 2024 China Humanoid Robot Developers Conference, on Thursday.—AFP

LONDON: A gallery assistant studies *REMEMBR*, a seven-channel interactive AI-powered video installation by US artist Alex Israel, at Gagosian Davies Street on Thursday.—AFP

A WOMAN walks out of a mill in Arnhem, the Netherlands, after voting in the European Union's parliamentary elections.—Reuters

Dutch kick off EU vote with all eyes on far right

BRUSSELS: The Netherlands on Thursday kicked off a marathon four-day European Union election, in an early test of predictions the far right is headed for big gains in the bloc's parliament. Geert Wilders' far-right Freedom Party (PVV) is riding high and projected to claim up to nine European Parliament seats — after failing to win any five years ago.

"We want less immigration, we want to toughen up asylum rules and policies," Wilders, whose party is in a Dutch coalition government after a surprise election win last year, said after voting. His call has resonated with voters like Simone Nieuwenhuys, a 48-year-old government worker.

"I want the EU to change," she said after casting her ballot for the PVV. "I think we're too open. We should be more critical as to who we let in because it costs a lot of money." Surveys suggesting the far right could grab a quarter of the EU parliament's 720 seats have rattled its main groupings, the conservative European People's Party (EPP) and the leftist Socialists and Democrats. Current European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen, seeking a second term, has opened the door to her EPP working with the far right to ensure legislation is passed.

Von der Leyen, a polyglot former German defence minister, has been courting Italian premier Giorgia Meloni, who heads the post-fascist Brothers of Italy party.

EU leaders, including Meloni, will decide after the elections who should helm the commission. Their choice needs the backing of a single majority in the European Parliament.—AFP

NEW YORK: (Left to right) Tracy Aftergood, Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy of Pakistan, Diane von Furstenberg, Fabiola Beracasa Beckman and Trish Dalton attend the opening night premiere of a documentary, *Diane Von Furstenberg: Woman in Charge*", during the Tribeca Festival at BMCC Theatre, on Wednesday.—AFP

JACUMBA HOT SPRINGS: Migrants from East Punjab pause for water while walking beside the US-Mexico border wall in the US state of California. Migrants from India, Turkiye, Jordan, Guatemala, Nicaragua and China made their way on foot into the United States before being met with by Customs and Border Patrol agents for processing. The United States temporarily closed its Mexico border to asylum seekers on Wednesday as President Joe Biden tries to neutralise his political weakness on migration ahead of November's election battle with Donald Trump.—AFP

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Israeli soldier killed, nine injured in Hezbollah strike

JERUSALEM: The Israeli military said on Thursday a soldier had been killed in a drone strike launched by Hezbollah, the latest fatality in months of border clashes.

Staff Sergeant Refael Kanders "fell fighting in the north" on Wednesday, the military said on its website.

In a briefing to reporters, military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Peter Lerner said Kanders, 39, was killed in a Hezbollah drone attack that struck the northern Israeli town of Hurfeish.

"It had a devastating result, of course, of a soldier killed," Lerner said.

The Times of Israel newspaper reported that the attack also left nine troops wounded, one of them seriously.

Lerner said that "Hezbollah... have for the last eight months been escalating almost every day their attacks against Israel" and "trying to penetrate Israel's defensive mechanisms".

The latest fatality takes the toll to at least 15 soldiers and 11 civilians killed in Israel's north, according to the military, since the clashes with Hezbollah, a Hamas ally, began on October 7.

In Lebanon, the cross-border violence has killed at least 453 people, mostly fighters but including 88 civilians, according to a tally.

According to the Israeli military, 645 soldiers have been killed during and since the October 7 raid, including 294 in its campaign against Hamas in the Palestinian territory. —AFP

PEOPLE inspect the destruction outside a charred building hit by an Israeli air strike in the southern Lebanese town of Wadi Jilo, east of Tyre, on Thursday. —AFP

Extreme summer heatwave peaks in western US

LOS ANGELES: An extreme early-summer heatwave peaked on Thursday across much of the western United States, where millions were scrambling to cope with the sudden sharp rise in temperatures.

Las Vegas was baking in 111 degrees Fahrenheit (44 degrees Celsius) heat, while in the Death Valley desert the mercury was expected to shoot past 120F, due to an oppressive high-pressure weather system smothering the region.

"Widespread high and low temperature records are likely to be tied or broken between California, Nevada and Arizona today," said the National Weather Service, in a bulletin. Experts warn the unseasonably scorching temperatures could signal the start of a brutal summer.

Dangerously hot temperatures in Las Vegas have been running 10-15 degrees above average, and an excessive heat advisory was extended into Saturday. Cooling stations have been opened in the desert gambling metropolis, and some events including a farmers' market have been forced to move indoors to escape the furnace.

"One of the things with it being so hot so quickly is we really haven't had an opportunity to acclimate to the heat," Glen Simpson, senior director at Community Ambulance, told Las Vegas-based ABC affiliate Channel 13.

"Locals just aren't used to it, even though they may have grown up here, spending every summer out here, their bodies haven't acclimated to that." California's Central Valley – a sprawling region, known mainly for its vast agriculture – was also "of particular concern" on Thursday, federal officials said.

"Little to no overnight relief from the heat will affect those without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration," said the NWS.

While temperatures should cool slightly in coming days, the heatwave is expected to expand north into Oregon and Washington on Friday and Saturday. But densely populated coastal areas including Los Angeles appear to have been spared the worst of the heat.

A blanket of cool clouds from the Pacific Ocean — known locally as "June gloom" — restricted temperatures in the nation's second-largest city to a balmy 79F Thursday.

Worse to come

The ridge of high pressure has swept in from Mexico, which has been withering under a punishing heatwave. Late last month Mexico City — which sits 7,350 feet (2,240 meters) above sea level and has traditionally enjoyed a temperate climate — logged its highest ever temperatures.

Officials say dozens of people have died in repeated heatwaves that have scorched the country, with hundreds of others sickened. Experts say there could be worse to come.

This year is on course to be "the warmest year in history," Francisco Estrada, coordinator of the Climate Change Research Program at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, has warned. —AFP

Over 100 killed as rebels attack village in Sudan

UN warns internal displacement figures could top 10m within days

PORT SUDAN: A Sudanese pro-democracy activists' committee on Thursday reported "more than 100" dead in a single day when paramilitary forces attacked a village, as the UN warned of mass displacement and starvation.

The Rapid Support Forces (RSF), which have been at war with the regular army since April 2023, on Wednesday attacked the central village of Wad al-Noura in al-Jazira state "in two waves" with heavy artillery, the Madani Resistance Committee said.

It reported on Wednesday that the feared paramilitaries had "invaded the village", causing dozens of casualties and widespread displacement.

The attack "claimed the lives of more than 100 martyrs" and "injured hundreds" said the committee, one of hundreds of similar grassroots groups across Sudan, adding that it reached the toll via "initial communication with village residents".

The UN resident coordinator for Sudan, Clementine Nkweta-Salami, said she was "shocked by reports of violent attacks and a high number of casualties" in the village.

She called for an investigation and for "those responsible to be held accountable".

"Human tragedy has become a hallmark of life in Sudan. We cannot allow impunity to become another one," she added.

On social media, the committee shared footage of what it said was a "mass grave" in the public square, showing rows of white shrouds laid out in a courtyard.

In a little over a year, the war has killed tens of thousands of people, including up to 15,000 in a single West Darfur town.

Toll unclear

However, the war's overall death toll remains unclear, with some estimates of up to 150,000, according to US special envoy for Sudan Tom Perriello. The RSF has repeatedly besieged and attacked entire villages across the country, and has been notorious for widespread looting as well as sexual and ethnic violence.

In a statement, the RSF said it had attacked three army camps in the Wad al-Noura area, and clashed with its enemy "outside the city".

The resistance committee called the RSF's statement an "unprecedented attempt to "criminalise the people of Wad al-Noura and label them a legitimate target".

It also said the villagers had "called for help from the armed forces, which did not respond". The military has not issued an official comment, but Sudan's ruling sovereignty council, under army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, called Wednesday's attack a "human massacre of defenceless civilians".

The army has come under repeated criticism from Sudanese civilians for "abandoning" them and retreating in the face of RSF offensives, particularly in al-Jazira and the western Darfur region.

Both the army and the RSF — commanded by Burhan's former deputy Mohamed Hamdan Daglo — have been accused of war crimes, including targeting civilians, indiscriminately shelling residential areas and looting or obstructing humanitarian aid.

'War crime'

The Emergency Lawyers, a pro-democracy group of volunteers who document the war's atrocities, said on Thursday the attack on Wad al-Noura was a "war crime" and called on the international community to "exert pressure" on both sides to abide by international law.

The UN migration agency warned on Thursday that internal displacement figures in Sudan could "top 10 million" within days.

Since the war began, more than seven million people have fled their homes for other parts of Sudan, adding to 2.8 million already displaced from previous conflicts in the war-torn country of 48 million inhabitants.

"The world's worst internal displacement crisis continues to escalate, with looming famine and disease adding to the havoc wrought by conflict," the International Organisation for Migration said in a statement.

Across Sudan, 70 per cent of those displaced "are now trying to survive in places that are at risk of famine", it added. The UN says 18 million people in Sudan are acutely hungry, with 3.6 million children acutely malnourished.

Widespread hunger has haunted the country for months, while aid agencies say a lack of data has prevented the official declaration of a famine.

If the current humanitarian situation continues, 2.5 million people could die of hunger by the end of September, according to recent estimates by the Clingendael Institute, a Dutch think tank. That figure is "almost 15 percent of the population in Darfur and Kordofan", the country's vast western and southern regions which have seen some of the worst fighting, the institute said.

The UN has accused both sides of "systematic obstructions and deliberate denials" of humanitarian access. —AFP

Yemen clashes kill 18 fighters in fresh flare-up

DUBAI: At least 18 combatants have been killed in battles between Yemeni government forces and Houthi rebels in the country's southwest, two military officials said on Thursday.

The clashes on Wednesday were triggered by a Houthi attack on a frontline area between government-controlled parts of Lahij governorate and Houthi-run parts of Taez province, said Mohammed al-Nagib, a spokesperson for the Southern Transitional Council, a separatist group allied with the government.

The attack came despite a lull in fighting that has largely held since the expiry of a six-month truce brokered by the United Nations in April 2022. Yemeni government "forces succeeded in repelling the attack, but five soldiers were martyred and others wounded", Nagib said.

A Houthi military official in Taez said that 13 rebels, including a senior commander, were also killed in the fighting. Yemen's internationally-recognised government condemned the Houthi offensive as a "treacherous attack".

In a statement on social media platform X on Wednesday, Information Minister Moammar al-Eryani said the counterattack by Yemeni government forces "inflicted heavy losses on (Houthi) militia members", without specifying a toll.

While hostilities have remained low, sporadic fighting has occasionally flared in parts of the country. In April, a surprise Houthi attack killed 13 fighters loyal to the Yemeni government in Lahij province. —AFP

Russian nuclear sub to dock in Havana next week

HAVANA: A Russian nuclear-powered submarine — which will not be carrying nuclear weapons — will visit Havana next week, Cuba's communist authorities said on Thursday.

The nuclear submarine Kazan and three other Russian naval vessels, including the missile frigate Admiral Gorshkov, an oil tanker and a salvage tug, will dock in the Cuban capital from June 12-17, Cuba's Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces said in a statement.

"None of the vessels is carrying nuclear weapons, so their stopover in our country does not represent a threat to the region," the ministry said.

The unusual deployment of the Russian military so close to the United States — particularly the powerful submarine — comes amid major tensions over the war in Ukraine, where the Western-backed government is fighting a Russian invasion.

Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel met with Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin last month for the annual May 9 military parade on Red Square outside the Kremlin.

During the Cold War, Cuba was an important client state for the Soviet Union. The deployment of Soviet nuclear missile sites on the island triggered the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962, when Washington and Moscow came close to war.

Relations between Russia and Cuba have become closer since a 2022 meeting between Diaz-Canel and Putin. —AFP

UN condemns mass public flogging in Afghanistan

KABUL: The United Nations on Wednesday slammed a mass flogging of dozens of people in Afghanistan, and called on the Taliban authorities to end the practice.

About 63 people were publicly lashed in the northern Sarigal province on Tuesday, the United Nations mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) reported.

"UNAMA reiterates its condemnation of corporal punishment and calls for respect for international human rights obligations," the mission said in a statement posted on X.

Since their return to power in August 2021, the Taliban authorities have reintroduced an extreme interpretation of law.

Crowds have watched public executions and corporal punishments, mainly flogging.

The latter is mostly employed for crimes including theft, adultery and alcohol consumption. —AFP

SpaceX's megarocket nails ocean splashdown

BOCA CHICA: SpaceX's massive Starship rocket achieved its first ever splashdown during a test flight on Thursday, in a major milestone for the prototype system that may one day send humans to Mars.

Scraps of fiery debris came flying off the spaceship as it descended over the Indian Ocean northwest of Australia, dramatic video from an onboard camera showed, but it ultimately held together and survived atmospheric reentry.

"Despite loss of many tiles and a damaged flap, Starship made it all the way to a soft landing in the ocean!" SpaceX CEO Elon Musk wrote on X. "Today was a great day for humanity's future as a spacefaring civilization!" he added.

The most powerful rocket ever built blasted off from the company's Starbase in Boca Chica, Texas, at 7:50am (1250 GMT), before soaring to space and coasting halfway across the globe, for a journey that lasted around an hour and five minutes. With its fully reusable design, Starship is essential to fulfilling Musk's ambitious vision of colonizing the Red Planet and making humankind an multiplanetary species. Nasa meanwhile has contracted a modified version to act as the final vehicle that will take astronauts down to the surface of the Moon under the Artemis programme later this decade.

Three previous test flights had ended in Starship's destruction, all part of what the company says is an acceptable cost in its rapid trial-and-error approach to development. "The payload for these flight tests is data," SpaceX said on X, a mantra repeated by the commentary team throughout the flight.

During the last test in March, the spaceship managed to fly for 49 minutes before it was lost as it careened into the atmosphere at around 27,000 kilometers per hour (nearly 17,000 mph). Since then SpaceX made several software and hardware upgrades.

Around seven minutes after liftoff, the first stage booster, called Super Heavy, succeeded in an upright splashdown in the Gulf of Mexico, to massive applause from engineers at mission control in Hawthorne, California. —AFP

As ties thaw with Saudi Arabia, thousands of Syrians fly for Haj

DAMASCUS: For the first time in more than a decade, thousands of Syrians are travelling directly from government-held parts of Syria to Saudi Arabia for Haj, a signal of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's gradual reintegration into the Arab fold.

After Syria's conflict erupted in 2011, Saudi Arabia cut ties with Assad and backed figures opposed to him — including by granting Syria's opposition thousands of visas to be distributed among Syrian pilgrims in Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and Turkiye.

But Riyadh re-established ties with Assad last year and in May appointed its first envoy to Syria since the rift.

Direct flights also resumed, allowing pilgrims to head straight from Damascus to Jeddah to perform the Haj. "I'm extremely happy. I still can't believe that I will participate in Haj," Berlanta Dimashqiya, an 84-year-old resident of Damascus, said.

While some Syrians living in government-held areas had been able to attend the Haj in past years by taking flights with layovers, such long trips had proved too strenuous for many elderly people.

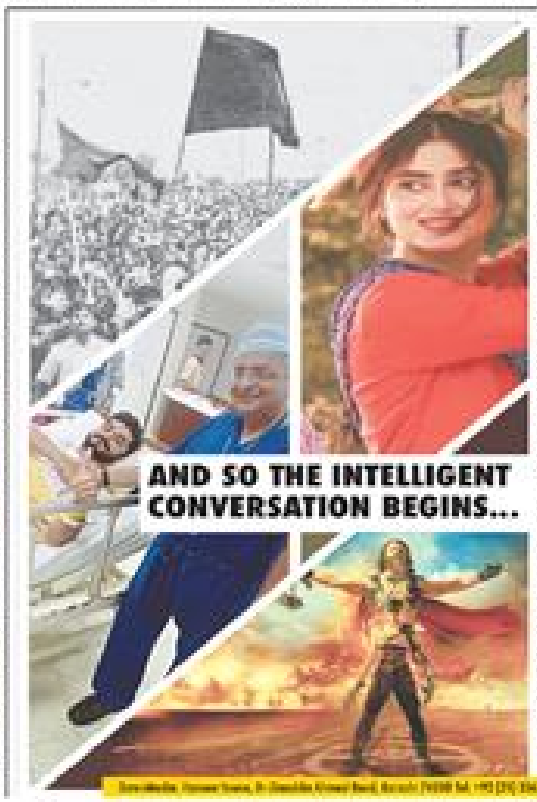
Huda Abu Sha'ar said she had felt a "big joy" when she heard direct flights had restarted. She had carefully prepared her bag, including a sheet of paper with a long list of prayers that her relatives has asked her to make on their behalf in the holy city of Makkah.

At least 7,000 Syrians have already flown to Makkah since the flights resumed, Bassem Mansour, the director-general of the Syrian Civil Aviation authority, said.

"Our equipment and airports are safe, our airstrips are good, and our planes are good," Mansour said.

Damascus International Airport has been hit by suspected Israeli air strikes repeatedly in recent years, part of Israel's campaign against Syrian installations used by Tehran for weapons transfers. —Reuters

SYRIAN pilgrims wait at Damascus airport to board a flight to Saudi Arabia for Haj. —Reuters



THIS SUNDAY'S HIGHLIGHTS:

EOS

PERSPECTIVES ON SOCIETY, CULTURE, IDEAS.

COVER: THE RISE AND FALL OF THE LABOUR MOVEMENT

ESSAY: MY LIFE WITH A BRAIN TUMOUR

CRICKET: THE GREAT CLASH

BOOKS&AUTHORS:

PLUS:

ICON

INSIGHT INTO ENTERTAINMENT, PERFORMING ARTS, STYLE, CELEBRITY.

SPOTLIGHT: NAVIGATING THE PATH LESS TAKEN

THE ICON REVIEW: FURIOSA

PLUS:

DAWN

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Left rejected, right put in fetters by Indian voters

- Critics believe PM punished for 'misusing' religion
- CPI-M fails to grab a single seat from W. Bengal, again
- Poor showing has BJP in a bad mood; Maharashtra's deputy CM resigns
- Modi likely to take oath on 9th

By Jawed Naqvi

NEW DELHI: As the waning of independent MPs from a pool of 17 interrogated on Thursday to boost Prime Minister Narendra Modi's fragile coalition ahead of his likely swearing in on Sunday, a cursory survey of the poll results revealed the voters' rejection of the left while putting fetters on the right.

The CPI-M couldn't win a seat for the second consecutive time in West Bengal although it produced a ray of hope in BJP-ruled Rajasthan by getting a seat there.

In Kerala, where it runs a state government, its tally of MPs dropped to just one, embarrassingly the same as the first time BJP winner from the state's Thrissur constituency. Even the Indian Union Muslim League got two, one more than the communists, while the Congress took the day with 14.

Anxiety over the decimation of the Left Democratic Front (LDF) is expected to be the main issue when the CPI-M meets in the state capital in mid-June. *The Hindu* quoted LDF insiders as not being entirely optimistic about the ruling front's prospects in the local body elections in 2025 and beyond.

Their concerns add weight to the potential challenges the LDF may face, including in the Assembly by-elections for the seats vacated by a Congress and a CPI-M MLA who has been elected to the Lok Sabha. The Congress-led United Democratic Front's (UDF) domination in 110 Assembly constituencies and BJP-led National Democratic Alliance's leads in 11 has unsettled the LDF, *The Hindu* said.

While the BJP is breathing better in Kerala and a clutch of states where it has formed governments this week, its outlook looks out of joint. On the face of it, it looks cheerful though.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to attend Mr Modi's oath ceremony, and top leaders of Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal and Mauritius are also likely to be present.

But there were reports of strained relations within the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), whose MPs were required to formally elect Mr Modi as their leader before he could secure the support, which he did, of the National Democratic Alliance members. The deputy chief minister of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnavis resigned on Wednesday claiming responsibility for the debacle in the state.

But this was being seen as a ploy to force Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to also accept responsibility for the poor show in his state where the BJP suffered the heaviest losses. Mr Adityanath is said to be locked in a running turf war with Home Minister Amit Shah. It is widely claimed that upper caste Thakurs of his ilk didn't show any enthusiasm for the BJP candidates this time around.

Mr Adityanath would be hoping that the two critical secular allies critical for Mr Modi's survival would not allow Mr Shah to remain home minister.

The accusations over the UP setback have been flying thick and fast, possibly contributing to Mr Modi's rush to secure the NDA's support even before the party MPs met.

In a terse message to Hindutva supporters, and against the communal speeches made by Mr Modi, the voters upset the rightwing campaign with the only way they knew. They elected a secular MP from the constituency in Rajasthan where Mr Modi had called Muslims infiltrators and thieves. Apparently, a legal case is being framed too over the abusive speeches.

Even more telling in this vein was the victory of the opposition in Ayodhya from where Mr Modi launched his election campaign by hurriedly inaugurating a half-built temple to Lord Ram. To make it worse for Mr Modi, the BJP was routed in all the districts abutting on Ayodhya, prompting his critics to claim that he was being punished for misusing Ram's name.

Two BJP leaders Mr Modi is said to be wary of are seen as potential challengers for his job. They are cabinet minister Nitin Gadkari and former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who won by a landslide of over 800,000 votes. To rub home the point for Hindutva, the only leader to upstage him in a face-to-face contest was a Muslim candidate for the Congress from Assam who won with a lead of 11,00,000 votes. The wooing of independent voters, meanwhile, had another purpose: to prevent them from swelling the opposition's numbers.

Kangana slapped by airport security woman

NEW DELHI: Actress Kangana Ranaut, BJP's newly elected MP was slapped by a female security guard at the Chandigarh airport on Thursday.

The actress-turned-politician was travelling to New Delhi days after her Lok Sabha elections win from Himachal Pradesh's Mandi constituency.

The CISF constable, identified as Kulwinder Kaur, has been suspended. An FIR is being registered against her, reports said. A complaint has also been given by the CISF to the local police. *CNN-News18* reported that after the security check, Kangana was going to the boarding gate where she was slapped by the security woman.

While it remains unclear what provoked the CISF guard to attack the newly-elected MP, it seems she was upset with some of Kangana's previous statements about the farmers' protest in India.

Kaur said that Kangana gave a bad statement about Punjab women during the farmers' agitation against three farm laws.—Correspondent

PM vows to follow Chinese development model

Seeks investment for communications infrastructure project; swift completion of Sahiwal Coal Power Plant praised

By Syed Irfan Raza

PRIME Minister Shehbaz Sharif receives a briefing at the Zhongguancun Science Park in Beijing, on Thursday.—PPI

ISLAMABAD: Appreciating the Chinese development model, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Thursday Pakistan can become a great nation if it followed that model through hard work and focus on industrial and agricultural growth.

"All Pakistanis will also have to pass through this thorny process. There is no other way to earn respect in the world," the prime minister said at the 4th Pakistan-China Friendship and Business Reception in Beijing.

Earlier, PM Shehbaz met the Chairman of China International Cooperation Agency, Ambassador Lao Zhaohui and exchanged views on promotion of cooperation driven by common development, strategic trust and mutual benefit.

The prime minister appreciated the CIDCA's support for CPEC projects and establishment of Pakistan-China Friendship Hospital, the Desalination Plant in Gwadar, and the New Gwadar International Airport. They expressed confidence that the momentum would continue in the CPEC phase II.

During his meeting with the chairman of the China Northern Industry Corporation, PM Shehbaz invited the company to invest in Pakistan's communications infrastructure project, particularly the Karachi Circular Railway.

The chairman mentioned "Punjab and Pakistan Speed", referring to the swift completion of development projects during Mr Sharif's stint as chief minister.

In a statement, a corporation representative said that Lahore Orange Train project also came under discussion.

In his meeting with China Export-Import Bank Chairman Dr Wu Fulin, the premier highlighted his government's reform agenda focused on governance, taxation, and ease of doing business to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

He also discussed the possible role of the China EXIM bank in financing Pakistan-China joint venture projects and trade financing.

Reiterating his government's commitment to strengthen the alternative energy system in the country, PM Shehbaz said a huge potential existed for investment in the sector.

In a separate meeting with Chairman of Power China, he said his government was taking massive action to curb power theft across the country.

The chairman appreciated the high quality and swift completion of Sahiwal Coal Power Plant.

The company chairman informed the PM that an MoU would be signed with Pakistan to improve the power transmission network and reduce line losses.

Later, PM Shehbaz visited Zhongguancun Science Park, China's Silicon Valley near Beijing where he was briefed on China's tech start-ups culture and the innovative environment and cutting-edge research taking place in the Science Park.

The premier also witnessed signing of various MoUs to expand cooperation in different fields between China and Pakistan.

An MoU was signed regarding manufacturing of solar panels and VTO trackers.

The MoU was signed between Habib Rafique Limited and Beijing Global Hydrogen Industries Company Limited.

Israeli strike on UN school in Gaza leaves 40 dead

- UN says attacking, targeting its buildings against international law
- US, other states call on Tel Aviv, Hamas to swiftly finalise truce deal
- Ceasefire talks in Doha show no sign of breakthrough

CAIRO: Israel hit a Gaza school on Thursday with what it described as a targeted airstrike on up to 30 Hamas fighters inside, and a Hamas official said 40 people, including women and children, were killed as they sheltered in the UN site.

Video footage showed Palestinians hauling away bodies after the attack, which took place at a sensitive moment in mediated talks on a ceasefire that would involve releasing prisoners held by Hamas and some of the Palestinians held in Israeli jails.

The United States issued a joint statement with other countries on Thursday calling on Israel and Hamas to make whatever compromises were necessary to finalise a deal after eight months of war in the Gaza Strip.

Ismail Al-Thawabta, the director of the Hamas-run government media office, rejected Israel's assertion that the UN school in Nuseirat, in central Gaza, had hidden a Hamas command post.

"The occupation uses ... false fabricated stories to justify the brutal crime it conducted against dozens of displaced people," Thawabta told *Reuters*.

Israel's military said its fighter jets had carried out a "precise strike" and circulated satellite photos highlighting two parts of a building where it said the fighters were based. "We're very confident in the intelligence," military spokesperson Lt Col Peter Lerner said, accusing Hamas and Islamic Jihad fighters of deliberately using UN facilities as operational bases.

He said 20-30 fighters were located in the compound, and many of them had been killed, but had no precise details as intelligence assessments were being carried out.

As people at the school cleared rubble from bloodstained classrooms, survivor Huda Abu Dhaher described waking up to the sound of rockets. "People's remains were scattered inside the yard and outside. The gas canister exploded," she told *Reuters*.

"My nephew was martyred (killed), he lost his leg and arm, he was a 10-year-old ... This woman's leg got a fragment in it, her son bled from his mouth and leg, her mother-in-law sustained three injuries."

The school, run by the UN Palestinian refugee agency (UNRWA), was sheltering 6,000 displaced people at the time, UNRWA chief Philippe Lazzarini said.

"At least 35 people were killed and many more injured," he wrote on X. "Claims that armed groups may have been inside the shelter are shocking. We are however unable to verify these claims. Attacking, targeting or using UN buildings for military purposes are a blatant disregard of International Humanitarian law."

Thawabta said a medical source said 40 had been killed, including 14 children and nine women.

Ceasefire efforts

Israel announced a new military campaign in central Gaza on Wednesday as it battles fighters relying on hit-and-run tactics. It says there will be no halt to fighting during the ceasefire talks, which have intensified since US President Joe Biden outlined a proposal.

"At this decisive moment, we call on the leaders of Israel as well as Hamas to make whatever final compromises are necessary to close this deal," said the statement issued by the White House jointly with Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Britain, Canada and others.

Hamas seeks a permanent end to the war. Israel says it must destroy the group first.

CIA director William Burns met senior officials from mediators Qatar and Egypt on Wednesday in Doha to discuss the ceasefire plan. Two Egyptian security sources said talks continued on Thursday but had shown no sign of breakthrough.

Biden has repeatedly declared that ceasefires were close over the past several months, but there has been only one, week-long truce, in November.—Reuters

Spain joins S. Africa's case against Israel at ICJ

MADRID: Spain said on Thursday it would join South Africa's case at the UN's top court in which Pretoria has accused Israel of "genocide" in the Gaza Strip.

His statement came a week after Spain, along with Ireland and Norway, recognised the state of Palestine, sparking fury from Israel.

"Our sole goal is to put an end to the war and to advance on the road of applying the two-state solution", Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares told journalists.

Albares, asked if he felt Israel's actions in Gaza amounted to genocide, said it was up to the court to decide. "At the moment we see a large-scale war that does not distinguish between civilian and military targets in Gaza, as well as the enormous risk of regional spillover," he added.

Several Latin American nations, including Colombia and Mexico, have already joined South Africa's proceedings before the court.

Until now, however, no European country has taken that step. Ireland has also indicated it plans to join the case.—AFP

Zilhaj moon sighted in Saudi Arabia, Eid on June 16

RIYADH/Saudi Arabia's Supreme Court has announced the sighting of Zilhaj moon with the last month of the Islamic calendar starting today (Friday).

Eidul Adha will be observed on June 16.

The rituals of Haj will commence on June 14 with the Day of Arafat on June 15.

Pakistan's Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee will meet on Friday to sight the moon, *AFP* reported.

This meeting will take place at the Pakistan Meteorological Department building in Karachi, with simultaneous zonal meetings in the provincial capitals and Islamabad.—Agencies

WHO confirms first fatal human case of H5N2 bird flu

GENEVA: A person died of bird flu in Mexico in the first confirmed case of a human infected with the H5N2 variant, the World Health Organisation said on Wednesday.

The 59-year old, who died on April 24 after developing fever, shortness of breath, diarrhoea and nausea, had "no history of exposure to poultry or other animals" and "multiple underlying medical conditions", the WHO said in a statement.

The resident of the State of Mexico was hospitalised in Mexico City and died the same day, the statement said. It was the "first laboratory-confirmed human case of infection with an influenza A(H5N2) virus reported globally", the WHO added.

Mexican health authorities reported the confirmed case to the UN health body on May 23 after conducting laboratory tests.

The source of exposure to the virus was unknown, the WHO said, although cases of H5N2 have been reported in poultry in Mexico.

Mexico's health ministry said in a statement that the person who died was "a 59-year-old man with a history of chronic kidney disease, type 2 diabetes, (and) long-standing systemic arterial hypertension".

"There is no risk of contagion for the population," the statement said, adding that "all samples from identified contacts (of the patient) have been negative".

Authorities are monitoring farms near the victim's home and have established a permanent monitoring system to detect other cases in wildlife in the area, the statement added.—AFP

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SPORT

Amnesty urges FIFA to assess human rights risks before awarding World Cups

ZURICH: FIFA and countries bidding to host the 2030 and 2034 World Cups should agree to binding commitments and legal reforms to prevent human rights violations connected to the tournament, Amnesty International said on Wednesday.

In October, football's world governing body awarded the 2030 World Cup to Morocco, Spain and Portugal while Saudi Arabia is the lone bidder for the 2034 edition, with Amnesty saying there are "serious human rights" risks that must be addressed.

"FIFA should ensure a rigorous and transparent bidding process, based on meaningful stakeholder participation, including genuinely independent human rights risk assessments and comprehensive human rights strategies," human rights organisation Amnesty said.

"FIFA should be prepared not to award the rights to host the World Cup until such agreements are made, and until it is clear that human rights violations can and will be prevented, mitigated and remedied."

Amnesty said the commitments must prevent human rights violations in relation to "labour rights, discrimination, housing, freedom of expression, policing and privacy" before finalising a decision to approve any bid.

FIFA had included human rights standards as part of the bidding requirements for the two World Cups, but Amnesty fears single bids for each tournament undercut their leverage to ensure there are no violations.

FIFA had set a July deadline for the submission of bids for the 2034 World Cup, which will be evaluated later this year while the hosts will be officially appointed in the fourth quarter of 2024.

Amnesty said accident rates at construction projects in Spain and Portugal are above EU levels, while discrimination in stadiums in Spain is an issue as they highlighted the racism suffered by Real Madrid forward Vinicius Jr.

They also said Morocco and Portugal must increase the number of labour inspectors by over 50% to meet International Labour Organisation (ILO) benchmarks.

Amnesty said they have shared their report with FIFA. Reuters has contacted FIFA and the football associations of the countries bidding for the World Cup for comment.

Amnesty said the risks associated with hosting the 2034 tournament in Saudi Arabia are of a "different magnitude and severity" that will test FIFA's commitment to its human rights policies.

Amnesty researcher Dana Ahmed said that although they were allowed to do research on migrant workers in Qatar, which hosted the 2022 World Cup, leading to several reforms, they have not had any access in Saudi Arabia.

"It is extremely difficult to do research from the outside," she told reporters.

Reuters has contacted the Saudi Ministry of Sport for comment.—Reuters

PLAYERS of Pakistan (green) and Saudi Arabia in action during their FIFA World Cup qualifier second leg at the Jinnah Stadium on Thursday.—Tanveer Shahzad/White Star

Saudis break through defensive Pakistan to advance in World Cup qualifying

ISLAMABAD: For most parts of the game, Pakistan were cooped in their own half, looking to keep out Saudi Arabia. But Roberto Mancini's side found a way, breaking down the hosts' defence three times for a 3-0 victory here at the Jinnah Stadium to advance into the third round of Asian's 2026 World Cup qualifiers with a game to spare.

Feras Al-Buraikan scored twice, both his goals coming in the first half, before Musab Al Juwayr added a third to leave Pakistan without a point in Group 'G' heading into their last game against Tajikistan next week. Saudi Arabia, meanwhile, top the group with 13 points from five games ahead of their clash against Jordan.

The top two in each of the nine qualification groups advance to the next phase in the quest for one of Asia's eight guaranteed berths at the 48-team World Cup in Mexico, the United States and Canada.

Pakistan had vowed they had worked on improving their confidence and Stephen Constantine's men showed good composure in the early stages despite the Saudis having plenty of the ball.

They kept the visitors out until Al-Buraikan got the opener in the 26th. A cross from Moteb Al-Harbi on the left found its way to Sultan Al Ghannam, who headed it into the box and Al-Buraikan scored with a brilliant piece of skill. The 24-year-old Al Ahli striker took a touch with his right foot to toss it up and then swivelled to send a rifling shot with his left past goalkeeper Yousaf Butt.

It was a matter of time till the Saudis got their second and it arrived 14 minutes later with Al Ghannam the creator. The wing-back's cross eluded every Pakistan defender, landing perfectly for Al-Buraikan to nod it in.

The second half continued in the same way and the Saudis got their third in the 67th to end the match as a contest. Abdul Rahman Ghareeb on the right found a willing runner in Al Juwayr to collect his square pass and the midfielder's first-time shot from an acute angle found the back of the net.

SOUTH KOREA PROGRESS

Saudi Arabia joined South Korea in qualifying for the final round of qualifying after their fellow Asian heavyweights trounced hosts Singapore 7-0 with Paris St Germain's Lee Kang-in and Tottenham Hotspur's Son Heung-min both scoring twice.

The win moved the Koreans onto 11 points from five games and guaranteed them first place in Group 'C' with one match remaining.

Lee gave the Koreans the lead in Singapore with a rising shot into the roof of Hassan Sunny's goal in the ninth minute before Jeo Min-kyu's header doubled the advantage 11 minutes later.

Capta Son scored twice after the interval, either side of a second for Lee while Bae Jun-ho and Hwang Hee-chan were also on target in interim coach Kim Do-hoon's first game in charge.

Next up for Son's side on June 11 is a home game in Seoul against China, who need a point to clinch the second qualifying place after Branko Ivankovic's side drew 1-1 at home to Thailand despite Fei Nandao's first half penalty miss in Shenyang.

Supachok Sarachat had put the Thais ahead with a 20th minute header before naturalised Brazilian Fei Nandao fired over the bar in 51st minute.

But defender Behram Abdiweli swept his effort past substitute goalkeeper Saranon Anuin with 11 minutes left as China stayed in second place, three points ahead of Thailand with one game remaining.

Indonesia would have guaranteed their progress from Group 'F' with a win against already qualified Iraq.

But they slumped to a 2-0 defeat in Jakarta, finishing the game with 10 men after Jordi Amat was red carded as Iraq made it five wins out of five.

Vietnam lie one point behind Indonesia in the fight for the second qualifying spot after a thrilling 3-2 win over the Philippines.

Kevin Ingreso thought he had rescued a draw for the Philippines when he made it 2-2 in the 89th minute in Hanoi.

But in the fifth minute of added time Pham Tuan Hai bagged the winner to keep his side's hopes alive of making the final round of qualifying.

Vietnam travel to Iraq while Indonesia host the Philippines in their final group games on Tuesday.

CHHETRI DOWN OUT

In Kolkata, India legend Sunil Chhetri fought back tears as he made his 151st and final appearance for his country.

Thousands cheered an emotional Chhetri as he was given a guard of honour on leaving the pitch, bringing to a close an international career which put him among the world's all-time leading scorers.

Nearly 29,000 fans in Kolkata came to see their captain in an India shirt for the last time in a 0-0 draw against Kuwait — a remarkable turnout in a country where football comes a distant second to cricket in popularity.

The 39-year-old scored 94 goals over nearly two decades for India, behind only Cristiano Ronaldo, Iran's retired Ali Daei and Lionel Messi in the all-time international scorers' list.

Already qualified Japan maintained their unblemished record in Group 'B' as Koki Ogawa scored twice in a 5-0 win in Yangon over Myanmar while Oman boosted their chances in Group D with a 3-0 victory over Taiwan.

Australia also remained perfect with a 2-0 win in Dhaka against Bangladesh in Group 'I' and Mehdi Taremi scored a hat-trick in Iran's 4-2 success against hosts Hong Kong in Group 'E'.—Agencies

Late penalty hands Tunisia victory as Africa's World Cup qualifiers resume

CAPE TOWN: Tunisia needed a late penalty to beat Equatorial Guinea 1-0 and move to the top of the standings in their World Cup qualifying group as Africa's preliminaries for the 2026 finals resumed on Wednesday.

Mohamed Ali Ben Romdhane struck the 81st-minute spotkick to deny Equatorial Guinea a deserved point as they looked to shrug off the FIFA sanctions that stripped them of the six points from their opening two qualifiers in November.

FIFA found striker Emilio Nsue, a former Spanish junior international, was ineligible to play for the small central African nation despite being in the team over the past 11 years, and reversed Equatorial Guinea victories in their opening two matches against Namibia and Liberia.

But the sanction that has seen Nsue, top scorer at the Africa Cup of Nations finals at the start of the year, suspended for six months looked to have little ill effect on Equatorial Guinea, as they again punched above their weight against one of Africa's top achievers.

The goal came after a collision between Jannick Buyla and Tunisia's flying fullback Hamza Mathlouthi that the referee deemed a push.

Tunisia move to nine points in Group 'H', above Namibia who were held earlier in the day to a 1-1 draw by Liberia in Soweto, South Africa.

Tijjee Karusombe made a surging run from deep in midfield to get onto a delightful chip from Ben Namib to steer home the ball after eight minutes for Namibia, forced to move the match because of the lack of a suitable stadium.

Terry Sackor got the equaliser in the 45th minute as Liberia finally profited from the long throw that created endless havoc in the home defence.

Elsewhere, Sierra Leone and the Central African Republic recorded their first wins while Togo drew for the third time.

Augustus Kargbo scored the early second-half goal that earned Sierra Leone a 2-1 win over bottom team Djibouti in a clash of Group 'A' minnows in the Moroccan port city of El Jadida.

French lower-league forward Yannick Balesda struck in the first half in Oujda as the third-placed Central Africans edged Chad 1-0 in Group 'I'.

Khalid Narey gave fourth-placed Togo a 61st-minute lead over South Sudan in Group 'B', but South Sudan levelled through a Roger Abelon own goal soon after to force a 1-1 draw in Lome.—Agencies

Swiatek, Paolini set up Paris final showdown

PARIS: Iga Swiatek moved closer to a third successive French Open title by dismantling American third seed Coco Gauff on Thursday and she will play Jasmine Paolini in the final after the Italian downed Mirra Andreeva.

Four-time Grand Slam champion Swiatek's 6-2, 6-4 semi-final win was her 11th victory in 12 meetings with Gauff, but the 23-year-old Pole had to endure tough moments in the second set before matching her longest winning streak on clay.

"I was pretty intense and putting pressure on Coco," Swiatek said. "Most of the things overall in my game worked today, so I'm proud of myself."

Paolini joined her in the final by defeating Russian 17-year-old Mirra Andreeva 6-3, 6-1 to continue Italy's golden Roland Garros, with Jannik Sinner also through to the men's semi-finals.

The 12th seed had never gone beyond the second round of a major before the start of this year, winning a total of four matches in 15 Grand Slams before advancing to the fourth round of the Australian Open in January.

Now she is one win away from the title at Roland Garros as she tries to emulate compatriot Francesca Schiavone, who won the 2010 French Open.

"I learned I think a little bit later than other players, to dream is the most important thing in sport and in life," said Paolini. "I'm happy I could dream this moment. I don't know what to say, I'm so emotional."

Andreeva had become the youngest Grand Slam semi-finalist in 27 years with a shock victory over second seed Aryna Sabalenka in the last eight.

But her bid to be crowned the youngest major champion since Martina Hingis at the 1997 US Open was cut short as Andreeva appeared overawed by the occasion, leaving the court in tears after an error-strewn display.

Gauff will rise to number two in the rankings behind Swiatek but the loss to the Pole, who also beat her in the 2022 final and last year's quarters, was a bitter pill to swallow for the 20-year-old.

"I think she's progressing a lot," Swiatek said of the US Open champion. "Last year's U.S. Open showed she's tough. At this age, it's obvious she's going to just grow. It's nice to see her handling everything well around her, because it's not easy. I'm sure we'll have plenty more intense matches at the highest level."

In Wednesday's night session, Alexander Zverev reached his fourth consecutive semi-final in Paris by seeing off Australian 11th seed Alex de Minaur 6-4, 7-6, (7/5), 6-4.

COCO Gauff of the US hits a backhand return against Poland's Iga Swiatek during their French Open semi-final at the Roland Garros Complex on Thursday.—AFP

The German fourth-seed, still bidding for his maiden Grand Slam title, will next face Casper Ruud, the 2022 and 2023 runner-up, on Friday for a place in the final after the Norwegian was handed a walkover following Novak Djokovic's withdrawal with a knee injury.

Slow court conditions took some of the bite out of Zverev's powerful serve, forcing the German to win extended rallies against his speedy opponent.

A key moment came in the second set tiebreak when Zverev fell behind 4-0 and the crowd rallied around the Australian.

"I stayed calm," Zverev told reporters. "I knew that the conditions today are extremely difficult to hit winners. I knew that it has to go the long way sometimes, and that's what I did in the tiebreak. The serve today didn't play such a big role as it did maybe the other days just because it was very, very slow."

Zverev, 27, is playing under the shadow of an ongoing trial in Berlin over allegations of assaulting an ex-girlfriend.

Djokovic had been due to face Ruud in a repeat of last year's final, but the 24-time Grand Slam champion's title defence was abruptly ended by the knee injury he suffered during his dramatic last-16 victory over Francisco Cerundolo.

The injury ended the Serb's quest to win a record-extending 25th Grand Slam trophy and will result in him losing his top ranking to Italian Jannik Sinner on Monday.

Djokovic confirmed on Thursday he had undergone an operation on his right knee and that it "went well", but gave no timeframe for his return, putting his participation at Wimbledon and the Paris Olympics in doubt.

Djokovic made no mention of whether he would be fit to take part at Wimbledon which begins on July 1 but added that he was going to his best to be healthy and fit to return to the court as soon as possible.

Sinner goes up against Carlos Alcaraz in Friday's other men's semi-final. There will be a first-time French Open men's champion for the first time since 2016 on Sunday, with Ruud the only man left in the draw who has previously reached the final.—Agencies

Pakistan make semis

LAHORE: Pakistan's senior team defeated Vietnam 3-2 in the quarter-final of the AVC Challenger Volleyball Cup in Bahrain.

According to the information released by the Pakistan Volleyball Federation on Thursday, Pakistan won the match 19-25, 27-25, 25-23, 21-25, 15-12.

In the semi-final, Pakistan will face either Korea or Bahrain on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's junior team lost to Iran 3-2 at the CAVA U-18 Volleyball Championship in Tashkent. Iran won 25-23, 25-13, 23-25, 21-25, 8-15.—Sports Reporter

LONGEVILLE-LES-METZ: France's Kylian Mbappe (C) shoots under pressure from Enes Mahmutovic of Luxembourg during their international friendly at the Saint-Symphorien Stadium.—AFP

Mbappe on target as France grab friendly win

METZ: France strolled to a comfortable 3-0 win over Luxembourg in a pre-Euro 2024 friendly in Metz on Wednesday as striker Kylian Mbappe sealed the win after delivering two assists.

Forward Randal Kolo Muani put France in front just before the break, heading in from a precise Mbappe pass, before Jonathan Clauss's thunderous strike from outside the box doubled the advantage in the 70th minute.

Mbappe added a third 15 minutes later with a low, first-time shot from near the penalty spot for his 47th goal for Les Bleus.

The 25-year-old, who finalised his widely anticipated move to Real Madrid on Monday, has now been involved in 80 goals for France in 78 games.

"(Mbappe) is a formidable leader ever since he's been with us," said manager Didier Deschamps.

"He did a good job today... his head and body weren't used to playing very much these past couple of weeks, so some juice was missing... but he decided he wants to win everything, it's gotten way better for him. He has been a good example all week."

The World Cup runners-up had Luxembourg pinned back inside their own half for large chunks of the opening 45 minutes but the visitors' disciplined defence held firm to thwart their efforts.

Ranked 85th, Luxembourg missed out on what could have been their first-ever major tournament with a 2-0 loss to Georgia in their Euro 2024 qualification playoff semi-final.

Goalkeeper Anthony Moris denied Mbappe from close range before the half-hour mark until Kolo Muani found a way in two minutes before half-time.

Little changed after the break as France, who are among the favourites to win Euro 2024, continued to dominate and substitute defender Clauss increased their lead from another Mbappe assist before the striker wrapped up the scoring.

Forward Bradley Barcola, who set up Mbappe, made his France debut when he replaced Marcus Thuram in the 81st minute.

"It's a source of pride, I was really looking forward to this match to show what I can do," said the 21-year-old.

"I'm happy, I made an assist and we won 3-0. No pressure, it's a friendly match, (but) I gave everything."

France play Canada on Sunday in Bordeaux in their last warm-up match before Euro 2024 starts on June 14.

France, who were knocked out of Euro 2020 in the last 16 on penalties by Switzerland, face Austria on June 17 before playing the Netherlands on June 21 and Poland four days later.—Reuters

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Stoinis shines as Australia cruise past Oman in opener

BRIDGETOWN: Marcus Stoinis shone with bat and ball as Australia launched their bid for a grand slam of major cricket titles with a 39-run victory over Oman at the T20 World Cup in Barbados on Wednesday.

Stoinis smashed a game-changing 67 not out off just 36 balls to power Australia to 164-5 and then took three wickets for 19 runs as Oman were restricted to 125-9 in reply at Kensington Oval.

"It was a nice start," player of the match Stoinis said afterwards. "Maybe a few cobwebs for us but we're better for it, and nice that we got the win.

"And nice that I got to spend some time in the middle and have a bit of a bowl." Stoinis hammered six sixes and two fours during a swashbuckling batting performance that led Australia's recovery after they had slumped to 50-3 earlier in the innings.

David Warner helped provide some stability with a half century as Australia eventually got going after captain Mitchell Marsh and Glenn Maxwell fell off successive balls to seamer Mehran Khan in the 11th over.

After a steady couple of overs, Stoinis went on the attack, dominating a 102-run fourth-wicket partnership which effectively wrested the initiative away from the Omanis.

Warner, in his final tournament before international retirement, compiled 56 off 51 balls, including six fours and one six, before falling in the penultimate over.

Warner's innings propelled him beyond former captain Aaron Finch as Australia's top run-getter in T20 Internationals with a tally of 3,115.

Four of Stoinis' six sixes meanwhile came in the 15th over of the innings, bowled by Mehran, and triggered such a pace of acceleration that the 2021 champions were able to more than double their total over the last six overs of the innings.

"Davey (Warner) and I talked about (tactics) before that over," Stoinis added in explaining the sudden batting onslaught. "And then you know how it is when you get the first couple balls away for boundaries, you just think you might as well try to turn it into a big over." Beaten by Namibia in a thrilling super over finale in their opening game on Sunday, Oman had seemed in the mood for a fight with the early dismissal of Travis Head followed by the Marsh-Maxwell double-blow.

However, Australia's competitive know-how saw them through that tricky period as they made a winning start to their campaign to become the first nation to hold all three global cricket titles — Test, One-Day and T20 — simultaneously.

Mitchell Starc, who left the field before the end of his spell with cramp, made his trademark early strike in defence of Australia's total and finished with two wickets, as did fellow pacer Nathan Ellis and leg-spinner Adam Zampa.

Oman captain Aqib Ilyas meanwhile took encouragement from the performance of Oman's bowlers after a solid start.

"Playing against a top side today was a great experience, especially following on from the Super Over last game," Ilyas said. "They played really well, but credit goes to our bowlers. Our bowlers can do really well on turning tracks."—AFP

BRIDGETOWN: Australian batter Marcus Stoinis hits out as wicket-keeper Nasseem Khushi of Oman looks on during their Group 'B' match at the Kensington Oval.—AFP

PAKISTAN CABLES
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Scoreboards

PAPUA NEW GUINEA VS UGANDA

PAPUA NEW GUINEA:

A. Vala lbw b Ramjani	0
T. Lea c Mukasa b Kyewuta	1
S. Bau c Mukasa b Miyagi	5
L. Siaka run out (Kyewuta)	12
H. Hiri lbw b Nsubuga	15
C. Amini b Nsubuga	3
K. Doriga lbw b Ramjani	12
C. Sugai b Musaba	4
Ila Vanua c Ssekajja b Kyewuta	5
A. Mao b Miyagi	7
J. Kanio not out	0
EXTRAS (B-4, LB-6, NB-1)	13
TOTAL (all out, 19.1 overs)	77

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0 (Vala), 2-17 (Bau), 3-19 (Lea), 4-36 (Siaka), 5-48 (Amini), 6-51 (Hiri), 7-65 (Doriga), 8-67 (Sugai), 9-77 (Bau)

BOWLING: Ramjani 4-1-17-2; Kyewuta 3.1-0-17-2; Miyagi 4-0-10-2; (Hiri) Musaba 4-0-17-1; Nsubuga 4-0-8-2

UGANDA:

R. Mukasa lbw b Mao	0
D. Ssekajja lbw b Mao	4
R. Obuya c Vala b Vanua	4
R. Khan c Kanio b Vanua	38
A. Ramjani b Sugai	8
D. Nsekavu c(6) Vala	0
J. Miyagi run out (Patrick)	63
R. Waswa not out	2
B. Masaba (c) not out	0
EXTRAS (W-10)	10
TOTAL (for seven wickets, 18.2 overs)	78

DID NOT BAT: Kyewuta, Nsubuga

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1 (Mukasa), 2-6 (Obuya), 3-6 (Sseka), 4-25 (Ramjani), 5-26 (Nsekavu), 6-61 (Miyagi), 7-75 (Khan)

BOWLING: Mao 4-0-16-2 (3w), Vanua 4-0-19-2 (6w), Sugai 4-0-18-1 (1w), Vala 2-0-10-1, Kanio 4-0-18-0, Amini 2-0-2-0

RESULT: Uganda won by three wickets

AUSTRALIA VS OMAN

AUSTRALIA:

D. Warner c S. Khan b Kaleemullah	56
T. Head c Kashif b B. Khan	12
M. Marsh c S. Khan b M. Khan	14
G. Maxwell c Ilyas b M. Khan	4
M. Stoinis not out	67
T. David run out (Alhosani)	6
EXTRAS (LB-2, NB-3, W-1)	6
TOTAL (for five wickets, 20 overs)	164

DID NOT BAT: M. Wade, M. Starc, N. Ellis, A. Zampa, J. Hazlewood

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-19 (Head), 2-50 (Warner), 3-50 (Marsh), 4-152 (Maxwell), 5-164 (David)

BOWLING: B. Khan 4-0-38-1 (1w, 1nb), Kaleemullah 3-0-30-1, S. Ahmed 4-0-28-0 (1nb), M. Khan 4-0-38-2 (1nb), A. Ilyas 4-0-18-0, Z. Mangood 1-0-12-0

OMAN:

K. Prajapati lbw b Ellis	7
P. Alhosani lbw b Starc	0
A. Ilyas c Warner b Stoinis	16
Z. Mangood c Wade b Stoinis	1
K. Kashif c Maxwell b Starc	8
A. Khan c Hazlewood b Zampa	36
S. Khan b Zampa	0
M. Khan c David b Stoinis	37
S. Ahmed c Warner b Ellis	11
Kaleemullah not out	4
B. Khan not out	1
EXTRAS (LB-2, W-4)	10
TOTAL (for nine wickets, 20 overs)	125

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0 (Alhosani), 2-23 (Prajapati), 3-30 (Ilyas), 4-34 (Mangood), 5-56 (Kash), 6-57 (S. Khan), 7-89 (A. Khan), 8-117 (M. Khan), 9-123 (Ahmed)

BOWLING: Starc 3-0-20-2 (5w), Hazlewood 4-0-21-0, Ellis 4-0-28-2 (1w), Stoinis 3.0-19-3 (1w), Maxwell 2-0-11-0 (1w), Zampa 4-0-24-2

RESULT: Australia won by 39 runs

'Pakistan's team hotel changed after Mohsin's intervention'

By Our Sports Reporter

KARACHI: Pakistan's team hotel in Dallas was changed after the country's cricket board's chairman Mohsin Naqvi's intervention over the long distance between the accommodation and the Grand Prairie Stadium — the sport's match venue and practice facility in the city.

According to sources, Mohsin contacted the International Cricket Council (ICC) and expressed his dissatisfaction with the hotel arrangements for the Pakistan team. His efforts convinced the event organisers to change the team's hotel, sources added.

The initial hotel where the team was supposed to stay was a 90-minute drive from the stadium, while the new hotel is only a five-minute drive away.

Sources further revealed that Mohsin warned the ICC that he would not allow his team to endure long travel distances for any T20 World Cup matches, including the matches on June 9 and June 11 in New York.

The PCB chief made it clear to the ICC that if the Pakistan team's hotel was not changed, he would relocate the team to a better and more convenient location at the board's expense.

Sources added that Mohsin stressed to the ICC that the national cricket team is his responsibility, and he will ensure the players' comfort at all costs.

Reports suggest that the Indian cricket team is staying just 35 minutes away from the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York, while other teams' hotels are more than an hour away.

South Africa and Sri Lanka have already expressed concerns about the facilities provided during their stay in the city.

The Babar Azam-led unit are scheduled to play arch-rivals India on June 9 and Canada on June 11, with their final first-round match against Ireland on June 16 in Lauderhill, Florida.

ICC admits NY pitches not up to the mark

NEW YORK: The pitches used in the T20 World Cup matches played in New York have not been up to standard and ground staff are working on remedying them for the rest of the tournament, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said on Thursday.

The temporary Nassau County International Cricket Stadium has hosted two games so far, both of which were low-scoring encounters due to the nature of the drop-in pitch which has made batting extremely difficult due to the movement and bounce.

Fans expecting a run-fest were left disappointed when Sri Lanka were bowled out for 77 — their lowest ever score — against South Africa while India bowled out Ireland for 96 in Wednesday's one-sided contest.

"T20 Inc and the ICC recognise that the pitches used so far at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium have not played as consistently as we would have all wanted," the ICC said in a statement. "The world-class grounds team have been working hard since the conclusion of yesterday's game to remedy the situation and deliver the best possible surfaces for the remaining matches."

The stadium is set to host six more matches, including Sunday's blockbuster game between India and Pakistan.

India's batting coach Vikram Rathour described it as a "challenging wicket" having also played a warm-up match at the venue.

"It is what it is. We need to find a way to deal with it and I think we have enough skills in the team and enough experience in the team to deal with it," he said.

Ireland coach Heinrich Malan said the surface didn't live up to expectations after pundits slammed it as "dangerous."

India won the Group 'A' game by eight wickets after they bowled Ireland out for just 96.

"When you play the game you need a really good surface or as good as surfaces you can get and unfortunately what we've seen over the last couple games just doesn't necessarily live up to that. So hopefully, over the next day or so it can hopefully flatten out a little bit and we can see some good cricket come Friday," he said.

"I think we just want to see good cricket, don't we? It's the pinnacle of our event and it doesn't have to be 200 play all the time, it just needs to be an equal contest and I think if you look at today it is debatable where that was," said Malan.

Andy Flower, the former Zimbabwe player and ex-England team director, told ESPNCricinfo that he felt the surface was not up to scratch.

"I've got to say that is not a good surface to play an international match on. It's bordering on dangerous," said Flower.

"You saw the ball bouncing from a length both ways, to skidding low occasionally but in the main bouncing unusually high and striking people on the thumb, on the gloves, on the helmet and making life very, very difficult for any batsman," he added.—Agencies

Uganda claim first-ever T20 World Cup victory with win over PNG

GEORGETOWN: Uganda claimed their first ever T20 World Cup win with a three-wicket victory over Papua New Guinea at Providence Stadium on Wednesday in a low-scoring but tense encounter.

The African side bowled out PNG for 77 and after struggling at 26-5 in reply reached the target in 18.2 overs with Riazat Ali Shah top-scoring with 33.

Shah put on a crucial sixth wicket partnership of 35 with Juma Miyagi (13) which effectively won the game for the tournament debutants.

But PNG will rue the moment that Shah, on eight, was dropped by Charles Amini, who misjudged a relatively simple catch.

The Pacific Islanders had their work cut out trying to defend such a low total but were also undone in part by some loose bowling, conceding 15 wides.

After that let-off, Shah played a disciplined and focused innings until, with just three needed to win, he skied a catch to John Kariko at third man.

The Ugandans celebrated their victory with dancing on the edge of the field as the team, which beat out more established cricketing nation Zimbabwe to reach the tournament, picked up their first points.

"That's a pretty special win for us. You know, first win at the World Cup," said Uganda skipper Brian Masaba. "It doesn't get more special than this. I'm super proud of this group of guys. I mean, they've put in the work, they've put in such a shift. And to get a win for their country at the World Cup is very, very special," he added.

Masaba had won the toss and put Papua New Guinea in to bat and was rewarded when Alipoh Ramjani removed PNG captain Assad Vala with the second ball of the innings, trapping him lbw in what was a wicket-maiden opening over.

Sese Bau tried to drive Juma Miyagi but was snuffed up by Roger Mukasa who did well to get back and make the catch from mid-off.

Tony Ura went in similar fashion as his attempted drive off Cosmas Kyewuta became a simple catch for Mukasa at mid-on to leave his side struggling at 19-3 in the fourth over.

Lega Siaka looked confident making 12 off 17 balls before an ill-advised attempt to make a second run ended in a run-out and when Charles Amini was bowled by Frank Nsubuga it was damage limitation time.

But only Hiri Hiri (15) and Kiplin Doriga (12) were able to make double figures as the Pacific Islanders were bowled out with five balls left of their allotted 20 overs.—AFP

GUYANA: Uganda batter Juma Miyagi plays a shot during their Group 'C' match against Papua New Guinea at the Providence Stadium.—courtesy ICC

'Don't bend your elbow': Steyn gets bowling tips in New York

NEW YORK: Staff at a street cricket set-up in New York patiently gave Dale Steyn pointers on how to bowl, not knowing they were giving tips to a fearsome South Africa fast bowler who took nearly 700 international wickets.

Steyn, who played across all formats of the game in a career spanning 15 years before retiring in 2019, decided to travel to New York, one of the host venues for the current T20 World Cup.

As the 40-year-old tried his luck and bowled a ball at the wicket, one staff member showed him how it should be done.

"Keep in mind to not bend your elbow. It's a swinging motion going forward... and if you want you can do a little skip," he said.

Steyn struggled to contain his smile before he managed to hit the stumps with a full toss.

"It should have bounced before it hit the ground," the staff member said.

Cricket is a niche sport that is gaining interest in the United States, who are playing in and co-hosting the T20 World Cup for the first time. They host neighbours Canada in their first group game.—Reuters

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DAWN

METRO South

KARACHI Friday, June 7, 2024

KARACHI

Sunset	07:30 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	05:41 am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	28°C
Maximum	34°C
Outlook	Partly Cloudy

Saudis break through Pakistan to advance in World Cup qualifying

Pg.17 SPORT

'Sindh govt building 2.1m houses for flood-hit people'

Dawn Report

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that his government has started the reconstruction of 2.1 million houses to rehabilitate more than 12.6 million flood-affected people, which exceeds the population of 154 countries.

"We are also supporting water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions. A funding of Rs39 billion has been secured to construct 264,250 houses with safe sanitation facilities."

This he said while talking to journalists after reviewing the progress of reconstruction of the houses at the Sindh Peoples Housing for Flood Affectees (SPHF) office on Tipu Sultan Road on Thursday.

Provincial ministers Sharjeel Memon, Nasir Shah, Makhdoom Mahmood and DG SPHF Khalid Shaikh were present on the occasion.

The chief minister said that Rs550bn was required for the construction of 2.1m houses against which his government, with the support of donor agencies, had secured Rs440bn and the shortfall of Rs110bn would be met through foreign funding and federal government support.

Murad Ali Shah said the initiative aimed at implementing a sustainable rehabilitation strategy after 2.1m houses were damaged by the floods of 2022, affecting 12.3bn people. A total of 85 per cent of the affected homes were mud-thatched houses.

Mr Shah said that the initiative was driven by the vision of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari who, being the foreign minister, successfully mobilised funds at Geneva Conference in January 2023 and the Donors Conference in Sindh on February 8, 2023.

The CM said 525,000 houses were currently under construction and over 100,000 houses had already been completed.

"At the project's inception, we received financial assistance from the World Bank amounting to $500 million, supplemented by $227 million from the Sindh government. To date, we have secured around 70 per cent of the necessary funding for the project's successful completion, with additional support currently in the pipeline from the Islamic Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank," he said.

He added that by the end of next year, the government would complete between 1.2 and 1.5m houses.

"When we talk about the reconstruction of 2.1m new houses, we are talking about the rehabilitation of more than 12.6m flood-affected population, which exceeds the population of 154 countries."

Mr Shah said that the positive impacts of this comprehensive housing reconstruction program were evident through the beneficiaries' self-reliance, as they were rebuilding multi-hazard-resistant houses themselves.

He added that the programme employed the latest and most transparent technologies/Management Information Systems, ensuring that grants for housing reconstruction were transferred directly into the beneficiaries' bank accounts.

PASSENGERS prepare to embark on a Peoples Bus as a new route was launched in the city on Thursday. —Online

Govt's battle to save city from flooding begins amid excessive rain forecast

- Gears up for monsoon with comprehensive plan
- 586 drains, 310 choking points to be cleaned across Karachi

By Imran Ayub

KARACHI: To deal with more than "normal rainfall" which is expected this monsoon, the city administration came together on Thursday and decided in a meeting to clean 586 drains and clear over 310 choking points across Karachi.

According to Meteorological department and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the heavy downpour would mainly affect the southern parts of Sindh.

After the advisory and warning issues by the National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC), Met office and the NDMA, the city administration held a meeting with Sindh Chief Secretary Syed Asif Hyder Shah to discuss the arrangements for the upcoming monsoon rains, wherein he sought details of preparations done so far and discussed ways for effective operation of the departments concerned during the rains.

The meeting was attended by key officials, including Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab, Commissioner Karachi Syed Hasan Naqvi, Secretary Local Government Syed Khalid Haider Shah, Secretary Rehabilitation Waseem Shamshad, officials from the Water Board, Pakistan Navy, representatives of the Cantonment Boards, all district deputy commissioners, and municipal commissioners, K-Electric, DG Rescue 1122 among others.

A statement issued after the meeting said that a contingency plan for Karachi Division was also presented in light of the expected monsoon rains. The chief secretary highlighted that during current year, higher than normal rainfall was anticipated but assured that the Sindh government will support the KMC and other departments wherever necessary.

Mr Shah emphasised the crucial role of K-Electric in ensuring a continuous power supply for water drainage operations during the rains. He called for special arrangements by K-Electric to prevent any loss of life due to electrical issues. Additionally, he directed all town chairmen to ensure proper drainage of water

Continued on Page 14

Another 'robber' lynched, accomplice beaten by mob

By Imtiaz Ali

KARACHI: A suspected robber was lynched while another injured by an angry mob in New Karachi Industrial Area on early Thursday morning, police said.

Area SHO Mohammad Nawaz Gondal said two suspects allegedly snatched five cell phones from citizens within the remit of the Bilal Colony police station.

When they attempted to loot some young men sitting near Farooq-i-Azam Masjid in Sector 5-G, the victims put up resistance and the area people also joined them.

The people overpowered both the suspects and subjected them to severe beating and hit them with cemented blocks and other blunt instruments.

As a result, one suspect, identified as 30-year-old Sherry, was killed while his accomplice Farman Ashraf, 27, was arrested with severe injuries.

The body and the injured were taken to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities.

The police claimed to have recovered five snatched cell phones, one motorcycle and weapons from their possession.

The SHO said five robbery victims had also approached the police and identified the killed and injured suspect.

Earlier on Wednesday a suspected robber was also lynched by an angry mob in Ishaat Town in the morning.

Woman found buried in house

A young women was found dead and buried inside the courtyard of a house in Bin Qasim Town on Thursday, police said.

They added that the deceased woman, identified as 25-year-old Sajna Mayi, was 'brutally' tortured before being killed and buried inside a house in Ali Mohammed Brohi Goth.

Area SHO Inayatullah Marwat said that after receiving information from the neighbours, the police rushed to the spot and exhumed the body from the ground.

Her husband, Nawab Ali Chandio, and other family members had fled the house, the SHO said, adding that the woman appeared to have died two days ago.

The corpse was taken to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for medico-legal formalities.

SHO Marwat said the victim's father, Mashooq Ali Brohi, had told the police on phone from Khairpur that he suspected that his son-in-law Nawab and other family members had killed his daughter over some 'family dispute'.

He also told the police that he would get an FIR registered against the nominated suspects on Friday.

Governor summons PA session today

KARACHI: Governor Kamran Tessori has summoned the Sindh Assembly session on Friday (June 7).

According to a notification, the governor, in exercise of his powers conferred upon him under Clause (a) of Article 109 of the Constitution of Pakistan, summoned the provincial assembly to meet on Friday (June 7) at 3pm at the Sindh Assembly building in Karachi. —APP

Sarim remanded to FIA in child trafficking case

FIR says suspects concealed facts regarding adoption of babies

By Sumair Abdullah

KARACHI: A judicial magistrate on Thursday handed over rights activist Sarim Burney to Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) for two days in a case pertaining to "child trafficking by way of illegal adoption" on the complaint of US authorities.

The investigation officer (IO) of the FIA, Bilal Ahmed, produced Mr Burney before Judicial Magistrate (East) Khaliq ul Zaman, seeking his physical remand.

The IO informed the court that the suspect needed to be interrogated "thoroughly" and that it was necessary to recover "crucial records pertaining to the adoption/guardianship of children" who had been adopted by families abroad.

The IO further stated that the bank accounts of Mr Burney and his trust needed to be scrutinised.

Additionally, he pleaded that remaining suspects needed to be traced, examined, and arrested.

On the other hand, Mr Burney's legal team, including advocates Aamir Warraich, Aijaz Hussain, and Nawaz Dahri, requested judicial custody for their client, stating that their client was ready to provide all necessary documents and that his office was available to cooperate with the IO.

Additionally, Advocate Warraich also asked the court to dismiss the case under Section 63 of the criminal procedure code. The legal team also submitted a bail application, which is set to be heard on Saturday.

Earlier in March, the FIA received a letter 'illegal adoption by NGO' from the US Department of State Diplomatic Security Service.

The letter alleged that the trust was "misleading courts and changing children's names".

The letter stated: "It appears in the case of [three baby girls] were relinquished by biological parents with a consent to hand over any interested family for an adoption, whereas court proceedings show that all three children were abandoned at the gate of Sarim Burney Welfare Trust Int., despite of all efforts biological parents were not traced, or anyone claimed for the children."

The US department referred the matter to the FIA for further investigation.

Responding to the allegations, Mr Burney told the court: "I was the one who informed the US authorities that the child was abandoned. However, if there is an issue with the child being mentioned as an orphan in a document, it might have been a typo error made by a member of our team or an advocate."

After hearing the IO and the defence counsels, the court remanded Mr Burney in physical custody for two days, observing that the IO's submission appeared "genuine and convincing".

According to the FIR, an inquiry concluded that Sarim Burney and his associates Basalat Ali Khan, Humaira Naz, and others colluded to provide false information, make misdeclarations, and conceal facts before the Honorable Family Courts District East Karachi under the guise of illegal adoption/guardianship of three baby girls using fraudulent documents.

It stated that the statement by the suspects that "the three baby girls in question were orphans and found from outside the gate of M/s Sarim Burney Trust and it tried level best to find their parents but no person came forward for claiming them" was contrary to the facts, adding that these baby girls in question dropped by their biological parents to the trust was also contrary to the facts.

The case was registered against Mr Burney, Basalat Ali, Humaira Naz under Sections 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property), 468 (forgery for purpose of cheating), 471 (Using as genuine a forged document), 109 (abetment) of the Pakistan Penal Code read with Sections 3 (trafficking in persons), 4 (aggravating circumstances) and 5 (abetment and criminal conspiracy) of the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2018.

It also stated that the role of others will be determined after the investigation.

Children's plays on sustainable future provide food for thought

Khairpur school wins MagnifiScience Drama Competition

By Aleezeh Fatimah

KARACHI: Students of the Government Higher Secondary School Hussainabad, Khairpur, celebrated their victory by dancing to traditional songs like 'Hum Sindh main rahne wale Sindhi' and 'Ho jamalo' after winning the grand finale of the MagnifiScience Drama Competition on Thursday.

Held by The Dawood Foundation (TDF) in partnership with the US Consulate General Karachi on Thursday, the event featured performances from the top five entries of schools in Sindh and Balochistan.

A panel of distinguished judges, including renowned actors Khalid Anam and Shamoon Abbasi, announced the results.

A total of 53 schools registered for the competition, with 41 submitting drama scripts. These schools followed guidelines to perform and record their dramas, which were then evaluated by a jury panel.

Judges Rumana Husain and Uzma Salleem assessed all entries from Sindh and Balochistan in the second phase.

Their expertise helped select the top five entries for the final stage and provided constructive feedback to the students.

The theme, "Sustainable Future: Children in Action", motivated participants to actively contribute to global sustainability, encouraging their engagement in caring for the world.

The top five schools were Khadija Kazi Ali Memorial High School, Karachi; United Charter School, North Nazimabad, Karachi; Aga Khan School, Garden Campus, Karachi; The School of Scholars, Khairpur; and Government Higher Secondary School, Hussainabad, Khairpur.

Theatre enthusiasts packed the auditorium to watch the children perform on stage. Each play made an impact, but the performance by The School of Scholars, a girls' school, stood out. Its theme focused on how natural disasters affect women's education, revolving around a protagonist who had to drop out of school due to floods. Later, she got married and never had the chance to build a life for herself.

The winning play by Government Higher Secondary School Hussainabad, Khairpur, movingly addressed the plight of the endangered blind dolphin, threatened by factors like climate change. Through compelling characters, the students conveyed a powerful message: marine conservation is urgent and should be prioritised by the authorities. They also inspired the audience to take personal action in protecting marine life, making the play both impactful and thought-provoking.

"The need to address social causes is urgent, and there is no better way to do so than through art," Mr Abbasi, judge, said in his closing remarks. Mr Anam revealed his thoughts and wholeheartedly appreciated the efforts made by the schools who're educating

Continued on Page 14

CHILDREN perform a skit on theme of climate and long-term sustainability, on Thursday. —Fahim Siddiqi/White Star

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PRAYER

Fajr	4.12
Zuhr	12.30
Asr	5.20
Maghreb	7.22
Isha	8.48

Starting time in Karachi

REFLECTIONS

CC WHOEVER FORSAKES TRUTH FINDS THAT HIS PATH OF LIFE HAS BECOME NARROW AND TROUBLESOME. 55

— HAZRAT ALI (A.S.)

784/0427

Post-flood rehabilitation challenges still persist, says study

By Faiza Ilyas

KARACHI: Basic services have not been rehabilitated to the level of public satisfaction almost one and a half years after the devastating floods in Sindh.

Millions of people are still deprived of drinking water, housing, education and health services and there are areas where water is still standing, says a study launched on Thursday by Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) at a local hotel.

Titled Rights of People and State of Flood Rehabilitation in Sindh, the report was conducted through a series of interactions with communities in three districts, that is, Khairpur Mirs, Dadu and Mirpurkhas.

According to the report, Pakistan witnessed an apocalyptic flood in 2022 with devastating consequences. Sindh was the worst affected province. Loss of life, private property and public infrastructure and services were reported from 24 districts of Sindh.

"The government of Sindh engaged development partners to mobilise resources to reconstruct damaged public service infrastructure including homes, water supply schemes, schools and health facilities. However, the pace of the rehabilitation process is slow, causing anxiety and distress among millions of flood affectees," it says.

Polluted drinking water

The report highlights that communities were not resilient enough and government departments were not prepared to deal with such a scale of disaster. Communities had to abandon their inundated homes and villages to seek refuge at nearest elevated dry spots. Government couldn't extend timely support in evacuation and relief at the initial stage.

"Some communities complained that relief support was politically influenced and many people were not able to receive it. Neglected affectees received some support from INGOs, NGOs and philanthropists.

"Evacuation and relief process did not provide preferred attention to vulnerable segments of communities e.g. persons with disabilities, lactating mothers, pregnant women, elderly people etc."

There are areas where flood water is still standing. Lack of drainage of flood water was noticed as a major challenge. Natural waterways are encroached, and this has been identified as a major cause of flooding and slow evacuation of flood water.

The flood, the report points out, caused more hardships for menstruating, pregnant and lactating women due to lack of privacy and sanitation facilities.

All communities, the paper says, invariably complained of polluted drinking water since groundwater had become contaminated in most of the flood affected areas due to stagnant pools of water on the surface.

Security guard remanded in custody for killing TikToker

KARACHI: A judicial magistrate on Thursday remanded a private security guard in police custody for three days for allegedly killing a young TikToker near Sarina Mobile Market in North Nazimabad.

The investigation officer (IO) brought Hamad Gul before the judicial magistrate (Central), seeking his 14-day remand for further interrogation.

After hearing the IO, the court remanded the guard for three days and directed the IO to submit a progress report at the next hearing.

According to the FIR, the complainant father of the victim informed police that he had received a phone call. The caller informed him that his son Saad Ahmed Rad been shot and shifted to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital. But when the complainant reached the hospital, he learnt that his son had passed away.

A friend of his son told the complainant that Saad was making a vlog near Sarina Mobile Market, asking people for their opinions about the upcoming Pakistan-India World Cup match. Saad also attempted to interview security guard Hamad Gul.

But when Saad took out his mobile phone, the guard shot him with his rifle. The complainant also stated that Hamad Gul and his security company were responsible for his son's murder. —Staff Reporter

Govt's battle to save city

Continued from Page 13

from the internal streets during the rains.

He instructed the secretary local government to convene meetings with all town commissioners to discuss the preparedness. Furthermore, he directed the Karachi commissioner to establish control rooms at both divisional and district levels to manage emergency situations effectively. Rescue 1122 and the health department were also instructed to prepare comprehensive plans to deal with any emergencies that may arise.

Mayor Murtaza Wahab informed the meeting about the operations of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) which is currently engaged in cleaning 586 drains across the city. He also briefed about the recent construction of roads on both sides of the Gujjar Nullah to prevent encroachments. The mayor also informed that dewatering pumps will be installed at all major roads and underpasses of the city. The mayor also identified several locations where water may accumulate during heavy rains due to choking points.

Commissioner Hassan Naqvi stated that 310 choking points in the city will be cleared before the rains.

To curb the disposal of garbage into the city's drains, Section 144 had been imposed.

Children's plays

Continued from Page 13

children on what's important.

"STEM fields drive innovation and creativity, which are essential for economic growth and addressing global challenges such as climate change, health issues, and sustainable development. The US Consulate is proud to partner with the TDF on this project to support the STEM education in Pakistan," said Anastasia Koltvas, cultural attaché at the US Consulate General, Karachi.

The grand finale at TDF's MagnifiScience Centre concluded with the announcement that the winning school would receive a STEM Lab on their campus, aimed at cultivating a culture of innovation and scientific exploration.

Budget proposals presented to CM

Dawn Report

KARACHI: A delegation of the Management Association of Pakistan (MAP) called upon Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah at CM House on Thursday.

According to a press release, the delegates appraised the chief minister of the issues and concerns being faced by the corporate sector and also presented the CM their proposals for the upcoming 2024-25 Sindh budget.

The delegation included MAP President Senator Sarmad Ali, Talib S. Karim, Amir Jamil Abbasi, Muhammad Intesaruddin and Syed Ali Hasan Naqvi.

The meeting was also attended by Provincial Minister of Industries & Commerce Jam Ikramullah Dhareja and Secretary of Industries & Commerce Department Muhammad Yasoon Shar Baloch, as well as Abdul Rahim Shaikh, secretary to the CM.

HEADQUARTERS
PAKISTAN MARITIME SECURITY AGENCY
PLOT NO. 24-A, DOCKYARD ROAD, KARACHI.
PH. NO. 99214961, 99209194.

1. As per the rules/regulations in vogue, sealed quotations are invited from Sales Tax registered Suppliers/Contractors for:

a. Procurement of Calendar C.S Marine Engine Spares & Accessories of PMS-101-CS(NCB).

2. IT Forms/Specifications/Scope of work and quotation procedure may be obtained from the Procurement and Contract Cell during working hours (Telephone No. 99214961, 99209194, Fax No. 99214929) and on the PMSA website. The last date for submission of applications is 26th June 2024 at 1300 Hrs and the Tender will be opened on the same day at 2130 Hrs at the HQ PMSA (P & CC) Office. PMSA may reject all bids or proposals at any time prior to the acceptance of the bid or proposal as per PPRA Rule 33(1).

PID (S-30/12/23)

Deputy Director General

BEFORE : MR. SOHAIL JABBAR MALIK, JUDGE
IN THE BANKING COURT NO. II AT KARACHI
(Room No. 05, Pakistan Secretariat, Near Passport Office, Saddar, Karachi)
SUIT NO. 150 OF 2024
STANDARD CHARTERED BANK (PAKISTAN) LIMITED
(BANKING PLAINTIFF/REQUESTING OFFICE OF I.I. CHUNDRIGAR ROAD, KARACHI) ..... PLAINTIFF
Versus
(1) MAYE PRIVATE LIMITED, THROUGH ITS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, BUILDING NO. 1-C, SUMMIT COMMERCIAL STREET NO. 1, DHA, PHASE-II, KARACHI.
(2) RAGHEB ZAFAR SIDDIQUI ZAFAR ALI, CNIC: 42000-0460511-1
RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS:
H. DIRECTOR OF MAYE MINE PVT. LIMITED, BUILDING NO. 1-C, SUMMIT COMMERCIAL STREET NO. 1, DHA, PHASE-II, KARACHI.
(3) HINA RAGHEB NIO RAGHEB ZAFAR CNIC: 42000-0460511-0,
RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS:
H. HOUSE NO. 49-A/B, NEW ALMAS STREET, DHA, PHASE-II, KARACHI ..... Defendants
To the above named Defendant
WHEREAS the Plaintiff above-named has instituted a Suit against you under the Financial Institutions (Recovery of Financial Obligations) Ordinance 2001 (XV of 2001). You are hereby summoned to appear before the Court within Thirty Days from the service hereof to appear and defend the suit, and within such time to answer or represent to the admitted for you, the relief claimed by the Plaintiff will be awarded at any time after the expiration of such thirty days to the BANKING COURT UNDER SECTION 9 OF THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (RECOVERY OF FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS), 2001. Leave to appear may be obtained on an application to the Court on the form of affidavit accompanying this Plaint. There is a defence to the suit on merits, or that it is reasonable that you should be allowed to appear and defend the suit.
The matter is fixed for 22nd day of July 2024 at 09:00 am before the Banking Court II, Karachi.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 3rd day of June, 2024.
BY ORDER
ACTING READER
BANKING COURT NO. II, KARACHI

BEFORE: MR. SOHAIL JABBAR MALIK, JUDGE
IN THE BANKING COURT NO. II AT KARACHI
(Room No. 05, Pakistan Secretariat, Near Passport Office, Saddar, Karachi)
SUIT No. 153 OF 2024
BANK ALFALAH PAKISTAN LIMITED
(HOME FINANCE CONSUMER DIVISION, 1ST FLOOR, BAHRIA CITY, MARINE DRIVE, CLIFTON BLOCK 4, KARACHI) ..... PLAINTIFF
VERSUS
MUHAMMAD USAMA
HOUSE NO. 5-127, OSMAN GHAZI CITY, BIN QASIM TOWN, KARACHI ..... DEFENDANT
To,
The above named Defendant
WHEREAS the Plaintiff above-named has instituted a Suit against you under the Financial Institutions (Recovery of Financial Obligations) Ordinance 2001 (XV of 2001). You are hereby summoned to appear before the Court within Thirty Days from the service hereof to appear and defend the suit, and within such time to answer or represent to the admitted for you, the relief claimed by the Plaintiff will be awarded at any time after the expiration of such thirty days to the BANKING COURT UNDER SECTION 9 OF THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (RECOVERY OF FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS), 2001. Leave to appear may be obtained on an application to the Court on the form of affidavit accompanying this Plaint. There is a defence to the suit on merits, or that it is reasonable that you should be allowed to appear and defend the suit.
The matter is fixed for 22nd day of July 2024 at 09:00 am before the Banking Court II, Karachi.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 3rd day of June, 2024.
BY ORDER
ACTING READER
BANKING COURT NO. II, KARACHI

BEFORE: MR. SOHAIL JABBAR MALIK, JUDGE
IN THE BANKING COURT NO. II AT KARACHI
(Room No. 05, Pakistan Secretariat, Near Passport Office, Saddar, Karachi)
SUIT No. 154 OF 2024
STANDARD CHARTERED BANK (PAKISTAN) LIMITED
(HOME FINANCE CONSUMER DIVISION, 1ST FLOOR, BAHRIA CITY, MARINE DRIVE, CLIFTON BLOCK 4, KARACHI) ..... PLAINTIFF
VERSUS
LAKHANI ALI SUN SHEEN WILLIAM KHAN, CNIC: [illegible]
RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS:
1. HOUSE NO. [illegible], GULSHAN TOWN, DISTRICT MALIR, KARACHI.
2. FLAT NO. [illegible], FLOOR NO. [illegible], [illegible] TOWN, KARACHI.
3. HOUSE NO. [illegible], MAIN BUNDER ROAD, CLIFTON
RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS:
1. HOUSE NO. [illegible], GULSHAN TOWN, DISTRICT MALIR, KARACHI.
2. FLAT NO. [illegible], FLOOR NO. [illegible], [illegible] TOWN, KARACHI.
3. HOUSE NO. [illegible], MAIN BUNDER ROAD, CLIFTON ..... DEFENDANT
To,
The above named Defendant
WHEREAS the Plaintiff above-named has instituted a Suit against you under the Financial Institutions (Recovery of Financial Obligations) Ordinance 2001 (XV of 2001). You are hereby summoned to appear before the Court within Thirty Days from the service hereof to appear and defend the suit, and within such time to answer or represent to the admitted for you, the relief claimed by the Plaintiff will be awarded at any time after the expiration of such thirty days to the BANKING COURT UNDER SECTION 9 OF THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (RECOVERY OF FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS), 2001. Leave to appear may be obtained on an application to the Court on the form of affidavit accompanying this Plaint. There is a defence to the suit on merits, or that it is reasonable that you should be allowed to appear and defend the suit.
The matter is fixed for 22nd day of July 2024 at 09:00 am before the Banking Court II, Karachi.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 3rd day of June, 2024.
BY ORDER
ACTING READER
BANKING COURT NO. II, KARACHI

BEFORE: MR. SOHAIL JABBAR MALIK, JUDGE
IN THE BANKING COURT NO. II AT KARACHI
(Room No. 05, Pakistan Secretariat, Near Passport Office, Saddar, Karachi)
SUIT No. 160 OF 2024
STANDARD CHARTERED BANK (PAKISTAN) LIMITED
(HOME FINANCE CONSUMER DIVISION, 1ST FLOOR, BAHRIA CITY, MARINE DRIVE, CLIFTON BLOCK 4, KARACHI) ..... PLAINTIFF
VERSUS
MUHAMMAD DAWOOD RAHMAN
HOUSE NO. 10-20, FRANCE CHOWKI WALI, NEAR NAME CHOWK, AL MOHAN CHOWK, SAFA CHAPPL, KARACHI AND HOUSE NO. 106, NEW PAK COM COMPLEX-CHOWK, MALIR, KARACHI ..... DEFENDANT
To,
The above named Defendant
WHEREAS the Plaintiff above-named has instituted a Suit against you under the Financial Institutions (Recovery of Financial Obligations) Ordinance 2001 (XV of 2001). You are hereby summoned to appear before the Court within Thirty Days from the service hereof to appear and defend the suit, and within such time to answer or represent to the admitted for you, the relief claimed by the Plaintiff will be awarded at any time after the expiration of such thirty days to the BANKING COURT UNDER SECTION 9 OF THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (RECOVERY OF FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS), 2001. Leave to appear may be obtained on an application to the Court on the form of affidavit accompanying this Plaint. There is a defence to the suit on merits, or that it is reasonable that you should be allowed to appear and defend the suit.
The matter is fixed for 22nd day of July 2024 at 09:00 am before the Banking Court II, Karachi.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 3rd day of June, 2024.
BY ORDER
ACTING READER
BANKING COURT NO. II, KARACHI

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KARACHI

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RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

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LOST & FOUND

IT is to inform to all that allotment order of House No. N, Sindh Muslim Cooperative Housing Society, Karachi in the name of Amna Ahmad has been lost / misplaced somewhere and general power of attorney of the said Property Mr. Bilal Ahmad S/o Ahmad a Qhal. No. CNIC No. 42000-3566604-9 has applied for issuance of CTC of Allotment Order. Any Person(s) finds may contact at following number or submit it to the relevant Department or else it shall be cancelled and the proceeding of CTC of allotment order shall be executed. 0300-2111903. (10062720303)

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CRANES / HOISTS - Electric Rope / Chain Hoists, lifting capacity 500, 12000 Kgs, available from Stock. S.M. Jaffar & Co., Karachi. Phone: 32650790-95, Fax: 32651192. (10062719781)

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DIESEL GENERATORS from Stock 01-2500 KVA with installation and maintenance services, spares available. S.M. Jaffar & Co., Karachi. Phone: 32650790-95, Fax: 32651192. (10062719782)

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AUCTION

BY the order of Collector of custom Port Muhammad Bin Qasim Auction of fresh / leftover tins lying at model custom Collectorate Port Muhammad Bin Qasim Karachi (QICT / MTO yard) will be held on 13-06-2024 onwards at 11 am under schedule 04/2024 on "as is where is basis" items: Toyota Hiace commuter, Machinery parts, Used medical equipments, pet mineral bottle waste paper scrap, steel sheets coil, Black tea, personal effects, FCL Containers (ISO), Textile fabric, Textile machinery, Dari polyester, ready-made garments, books, iron steel scrap, used clothing / shoes, LPDE, housewares, Metal scrap, tyre rubber scrap etc. (IPC conditions apply) Successful Bidders will pay 25% amount on the spot & 75% + 10% income tax within seven days. For detailed 021-99275057 Auctioneer Momuddin Chohdi Proprietor Fakhuddin Chohdi 0333-3040014. (10062733002)

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

KARACHI

A notice is hereby given to all that our client namely Abdul Karim S/o M. Abdul Hafeez, holding CNIC No. 42601-2109816-7 entered into sale agreement with Salah Khan S/o Sasan Khan, holding CNIC No. 31201-0381202-3 in respect of Plot No. A-1, measuring 2400 sq.yds., Sector 5-D, Sawerdhee Saddar Town, Karachi free from all encumbrances, liens, mortgages, rights and interest. If any Person / Bank / Institution / Authority has any interest, claim, right, title, lien or any sort of objections whatsoever over and in respect of said sale transaction or over and in respect of land and he / she / they / it should notify the same within 07 days of publication of this public notice with documentary evidence to address mentioned below. Any claim received after the said 07 days shall not be entertained and shall be deemed to have been waived and no negligence / carelessness shall be accepted in this regard and the said sale transaction in respect of the said land in favor of our client shall be completed. Shabir Hussain "Advocate High Court" Office No. 01, Ruby Heights, Mazzanine Floor, Shahrah-e-Faisal, Karachi. (10062720090)

IT is notified to all general public that our client has contracted to purchase Bungalow No. 247-D, Block-6, measuring 670 square yards, situated Pakistan Employees Co-operative Housing Society Ltd., Karachi from (1) Shaiq Ashraf S/o Shaukat Ali Siddiq, CNIC No. 42301-1344306-7, (2) Fahmida Ashraf W/o Ashraf Feghfoor, CNIC No. 42201-3836128-4, (3) Suhail Ashraf S/o Shaukat Ali Siddiq, CNIC No. 42201-0184265-5, (4) Waseem Ashraf S/o Shaukat Ali Siddiq, CNIC No. 42201-0327402-7, free from encumbrance. Any Person / Authority / Bank having any claim / objection should notify to the Sub-Registrar-I, Jamshed Town, Karachi with documentary evidence within seven days of this publication. Otherwise the transaction of sale deed will be completed in favour of our client. Shaikh Abdul Malik Law Associates Office 304, Third Floor, Al-Reef Tower, Block-5, Shahrah Ye Jang C.H.S. Alamgir Road, Karachi. Tel: 34948394, 34948378. (10062720099)

IT is to notified that my Property Plot No. 3134 Street 4 Road 27 (Precinct-13) A, File Registration # 6742P6B9/001 situated in Bahria Town Karachi, its original file including allotment letter, possession order and 30% plan has been lost somewhere and not found yet. FIR lodged in concerned Police Station, I applied for obtaining duplicate documents, if anybody having any objection please notify to Bahria Town Head Office within 7 days of this publication with documentary evidence, failing which any claim or objection shall be treated as null & void & duplicate of documents will be obtained. Advertiser: Muhammad Abubar S/o Noor Bibi CNIC # 35202-0990789-9. Cell: 0321-8100027. (10062819692)

GENERAL public is hereby informed that Mr. Abdul Razzaque Bawani S/o Abdul Majeed Bawani & her wife Mrs. Zaib Un Nisa, both witnesses of Residential Plot No. 35-B/III, (Survey Sheet No. 35/P/1), measuring 420 sq. yards situated in C.P & Berar Cooperative Housing Society Block No. 7&8, Karachi have expired at Karachi on 08-04-2008 & 28-10-2008 subsequently leaving behind the following surviving legal heirs namely: (1) Zahida (Daughter), (2) Tasneem Mahmood (Daughter) & (3) Muhammad Imran Bawani (Son). Now we are going to apply to C.P & Berar Cooperative Housing Society, KCHS Union Ltd and Ministry of Housing & Works Islamabad / Karachi for transfer / mutation aforesaid Plot in our names. Anybody having any interest / claim in this should convey the same in writing within eight days of this publication to Honorary Secretary, C.P & Berar Co-operative Housing Society Ltd, Ghazi Salahuddin Road, Masjid Al-Khair, Block 7&8, Karachi-74800 or KCHS Union Ltd. or Ministry of Works, failing which, no community intuition from Anybody would be entertained and transfer proceedings would be completed after the period as notified. (10062733091)

OUR client Atiya Jamshed Syed D/o Syed Jamshed Ali CNIC 42301-1628319-4 has contracted to purchase Plot No. A-3, First Floor, Project "Damac Square", Sub Plot No. SB-10-03, of Plot No. SB-10, Block-2, KDA Scheme 24, Gulshan Iqbal Karachi Measuring 133.13 from Tahira Begum W/o Muhammad Abu Bakar Siddiqui CNIC 42101-0270346-2 Resident of Karachi free from all encumbrance. Any person, authority having any claim / objection should notify sub Registrar I, Gulshan Iqbal Town Karachi within seven days publication of this notice, after that No claim will be entertained transaction shall be completed in favoring our client. Muhammad Sabir Advocate, 0300-2601746. (10062726636)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Commercial Plot No. 76-E, Beach Avenue, Phase VIII-B5, measuring 500 square yards, DHA Karachi, from Mr. Muzaffar Ali Shah Bukhari S/o Nasir Ali Shah Bukhari, CNIC No. 42301-2944027-9, Resident of Karachi free from all claims, liens, bur dens, disputes, dues, charges, liabilities etc. Any person / Bank / authority having any claim / objection(s) should notify DHA Karachi and us with documentary evidence within seven days of this publication, otherwise the transfer shall be completed in favour of our client. **PROPERTY PRIME TIME** , 40-C, Bukhari Comm Lane-5, Phase-VI, DHA, Karachi 021-111-779-111. **AFZAAL SHABBIR KHAN** 0300-8286841. (10062719794)

OUR client has Contracted to Purchase Plot No. J-4, Located on 3rd floor, Block-J, Project "Today Apartments", Measuring 1854 Square Feet, Plot No. 61-F, Nation Highway Phase-I, DHA Karachi from Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Ghoro S/o Nemo Khan Ghoro CNIC No. 41204-2118509-3 Resident of Karachi free from All Dues, Charges, Liabilities Etc. Any Person, Bank, authority having any claim / objection should notify us / DHA Karachi within 07 Days of this Publication. **BIN ABDULLAH REAL ESTATE CLIFTON BLOCK 2** 0303-2187094, 0334-8444797 (10062780001)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Plot 407 Sector 12-D Phase DOU E- PES-20040 TBR 500 yard DHA City Karachi from Mohammad Hanif Shaikh S/o Mumtaz Ali Shaikh CNIC 42000-8704241 R/o Karachi free from all claim whatsoever any Person having claim objection should notify Administrator DHA City Karachi and us within 7 days. **ALAWAIN ESTATE DEVELOPERS** 03002196367 (10062733384)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Plot no. 124-B, Khe-Khyber, Phase VIII-E, DHA Karachi measuring 665 Sq. yards, from Mr. Hafiz Ullah Dihagro s/o Ashiq Ullah Dihagro R/o Karachi. Any Person(s) Having any claim or objection should notify us and administrator DHA Karachi within seven (7) days of the publication of this notice. Otherwise transaction shall be completed in favour of our client. **ESTATE ADVISOR** office no. 101, 1st floor, Building no 10C, Shahbaz commercial lane 4, Phase VI, DHA, Karachi 03135649172. (10062719797)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Plot No.169-B, 26th Street, Phase VIII, measuring 1000 square yards, DHA Karachi, from Mrs. Tasneem Wahid W/o Wahid Hussain, CNIC No.42201-2032105-8, Resident of Karachi, free from all claims, liens, burdens, disputes, dues, charges, liabilities etc. Any person / bank / authority having any claim / objection(s) should notify DHA Karachi and us with documentary evidence within seven days of this publication, otherwise the transfer shall be completed in favour of our client. **PROPERTY PRIME TIME** , 40-C, Bukhari Comm Lane-5, Phase-VI, DHA, Karachi 021-111-779-111. **RASHID GHANI** 0300-2089175 (10062719795)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Plot No. 334-B, Beach Street 1, Phase VIII-D measuring 666.66 square yards DHA Karachi from Mrs. Rajia Tahir W/o Mirza Tahir Beg (Late) CNIC No. 42201-0663370-0 R/o Karachi. Free from all dues, claims, litigation, loans, charges etc. Any Person's, Bank / Authority having any claim / objection whatsoever nature should notify to Administrator DHA Karachi within Seven days from this publication of this notice. **INVESTORS WORLD** Younus Zubair 0321-8213056 Imran Waqar 0321-8221133. (10062719779)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Shop G-16, Ground Floor, Sub Plot No Com 2-3, at Sahil Promenade Block No 3, Clifton Karachi 472 Square Feet from Rehana Parveen Malik W/o Muhammad Siddiq Malik CNIC No 42000-0466331-2, Resident of Karachi, free from all claims dues. Any person Bank / authority having any objection claim whatsoever should notify to us or Sub Registrar-I Clifton Town Karachi within 07 days of this publication. Otherwise transaction shall be completed in favour of our client. Sultan Shah Jadoon 0333-2496631 (10062719796)

OUR client has contracted to purchase Villa 1034, 200 square yards, Precinct 11-A, Bahria Town, Karachi, from Mrs. Rukaiyah Liaquat W/o Mr. Liaquat Ali Shaikh, R/o Karachi / Bahrain, through Mr. Umar Khan, Khan Associates, Bahria Town, Karachi, free from all claims, dues, liabilities. Any person / Bank / authority having any objection whatsoever should notify to us or concerned office of Bahria Town, Karachi with documentary evidence within 07 days of this publication, otherwise the transaction should be completed favouring our client. Ali Shaikh Estate, DHA, Karachi. Cell: 0331-2623628. (10062729797)

OUR client has contracted to purchased Commercial **PLOT NO. 24C SAHIL COMMERCIAL STREET 2 (CORNER) PHASE 8-E**, measuring 100 square yards from Mr. Sofer Yaqoob Khan S/o Muhammad Yaqoob Khan (L) holding NIC No. 42000-0496191-9 R/o Karachi free from all dues, claims, litigation, loans, etc. Any Person / Bank / Authority having any claim / objection should notify us and Administrator D.H.A. Karachi within seven days of this publication otherwise transaction shall be completed in favour of our client. **INDIGO INVESTMENT** Commercial Area 'B' DHA Karachi 03008220871. (10062729798)

OUR client Muhammad Raza S/o Mazahir Hussain CNIC: 42401-8142855-1 has contracted to purchase Double Storey Bungalow No. 63-1, 10th Street, Khayaban Badban, Phase V, DHA, Karachi measuring 500 square yards from (1) Mrs. Rufi Anum W/o Muhammad Hanif, CNIC: 42201-7570470-2, & (2) Mrs. Roohi Sameen W/o Shakeel Ahmed CNIC: 42201-8322849-2 (as per documents both D/o Abdul Ghafoor) R/o Karachi, free from all dues, taxes, charges, loans, mortgages, loans, encumbrances etc. If Anybody Authority / Bank having any objection / claim should notify us or Sub Registrar-I, Clifton Town, Karachi within 7 days, otherwise transfer will be complete favouring our client. **UNIVERSAL ESTATE** 20-C, 27th Street Taufeek Commercial Phase V, DHA, Karachi. 0321-8215476, 0334-8222243. (10062719843)

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

KARACHI

THE general public is hereby informed that our client Nadim Ahmad S/o Shamim Ahmad has sold the Vehicle Bearing No. CS-3941, Colour Silver, make Nissan, model Clipper Model 2012 (vehicle) to Mr. Usama Khayat S/o Khayat Ullah through an oral agreement in 21.12.2020. Mr. Usama Khayat has not yet transferred the vehicle in his name. Through this public notice, general public is informed that our client has nothing to do with this Vehicle now. Any Person who deals in this vehicle may do so on his own risk. Advertiser Aijaz Rahman & Co., 206, Al-Mizaab Center near Passport Office, Shahrah-e-Iraq, Saddar Karachi Tel: 32120660-66. (10062762070)

NOTICE is given on behalf of our client, who is purchasing from "Abdul Rauf Rathor S/o Abdul Sattar Rathor" Agricultural Land Bearing Survey No. 296/2, 3, 4, 297, 298, 299 and 300, measuring 23 (seventy-three) acres, situated in Deh Khaniwari, Tapo Gharo, Taluka Mirpur Sakro, Thatta (Gharo) Police Station sub registration Mirpur Sakro, District registration Thatta, Sindh". Therefore, any Person(s) having any claim in respect of the above referred property or part thereof by sale, exchange, mortgage, charge, gift, maintenance, inheritance, possession, lease, tenancy, sub-tenancy, lien, license, hypothecation, transfer of title or beneficial interest under any trust right of preemption or pre-emption or under any agreement or other disposition or under any decree, order or award or otherwise claiming, howsoever are hereby requested to make the same known in writing together with supporting documents to the undersigned at their Office at 2nd Floor, ACBF Tower, Khaliq-Uz-Zaman Road, Clifton Block 9, Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan, within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which any and all claims shall be deemed to have been waived and abandoned. Neeraj Hussain Iskander **BARRISTERS & ADVOCATES / CORPORATE LEGAL CONSULTANTS** 021-35394471-2. (10062719770)

COURT NOTICE

KARACHI

IN the Court of Sultana Kausar, Civil Judge XIII Peshawar. Case No. 3471 Next Date: 08-06-2024. Case Title: Mehrozad Khan vs Tariq etc. Notice to 1. Sunaid S/o Atif R/o Outside Rohati Gate Peshawar Presently Residing at Ahmadi (Defendant) in the case filed above, the above defendant is hereby informed by notice that on 5-6-2024, you must appear before the court as a lawyer or attorney and follow the case, otherwise unilateral action will be taken against you. Bailiff Court (10062734676)

COURT NOTICE

CHINA

IN the Court of Zafar Farid Hashmi (Civil Judge 1st Class) (Commercial Court, Lahore, Pakistan) (Suit for Declaration, Damages, Recovery) Case Title: **RICE WORLD V M/S SATAKE CORPORATION** Case No. **1940-45/2023** . Notice to **SATAKE (SUZHOU) CO. LTD** - 309 Jin Peng Road, Suzhou New District, Suzhou City, Jiangsu Province, 215129, China. Whereas service of defendants is not going to be effected through ordinary means, so service of defendants be effected through proclamation in the Newspaper as per court order. You, defendants are directed to appear in the court in person or through counsel on 6th June, 2024 on 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. (25753202647)

INDIA

IN the Court of Zafar Farid Hashmi (Civil Judge 1st Class) (Commercial Court, Lahore, Pakistan) (Suit for Declaration, Damages, Recovery) Case Title: **RICE WORLD V M/S SATAKE CORPORATION** Case No. **1940-45/2023** . Notice to **SATAKE INDIA ENGINEERING PVT. LTD** 4th Floor, Tower-1, HB Twin Towers, A 2, 3, 4, Netaji Subhash Place, Wazirpur District Centre, New Delhi, 110034, India. Whereas service of defendants is not going to be affected through ordinary means, so service of defendants be affected through proclamation in the Newspaper as per court order. You defendants are directed to appear in the court in person or through counsel on 6th June, 2024 on 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. (25753202647)

THAILAND

IN the Court of Zafar Farid Hashmi (Civil Judge 1st Class) (Commercial Court, Lahore, Pakistan) (Suit for Declaration, Damages, Recovery) Case Title: **RICE WORLD V M/S SATAKE CORPORATION** . Case No. **1940-45/2023** . Notice to **SATAKE ASIA CO LTD** . Office No. 101, True Digital Park Griffin Building, 14th Floor, Unit No. 1407, Sukhumvit Rd, Bangchak, Phra Khanong, Bangkok, 10260, Thailand. Whereas service of defendants is not going to be affected through ordinary means, so service of defendants be affected through proclamation in the Newspaper as per court order. You defendants are directed to appear in the court in person or through counsel on 06th June, 2024 on 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. (25753202647)

Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com

AT women pay homage to leader with bike rally

THATTA: Activists of Sindhiani Tehreek and Sindhi Girl Students Tehreek paid homage to their leader and founder of Awami Tehreek, Rasool Bux Palijo, in a unique manner by organising an exclusively women's motorcycle rally, which started from Thatta and culminated in Jangshahi at the leader's last resting place.

The Sindhiani Tehreek leaders told media persons the other day that they Palijo had made a significant contribution to Sindh's society by bringing women into politics.

The bike rally was part of the 6th death anniversary of Palijo being held today (on June 7) at Mangar Khan Palijo village near Jangshahi, his final resting place, organised by the Awami Tehreek (AT).

According to a press release issued by the party, the Sindhiani cultural group would honour their leader through tableaux and the Sindhi Girl Students Tehreek and Sindhiani Tehreek would pay their respects to Palijo with a parade, it said.

Leaders and dignitaries including Mushahid Hussain Syed, Awami Workers Party's federal general secretary Bakhshal Thalho, National Party president Malik Baloch, Sindh United Party president Syed Zain Shah, Hugoog Khalaq Party president Farooq Tariq, Jami Chandio, Khushal Khan Kakar, chairman of Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party, Masood Noorani, Khawaja Ghulam Farid Koraja, chairman of Sindiksitaan Awami Ittehad, Imdad Qazi, general secretary of Communist Party of Pakistan, Dr Nakhiba Taj Langah, Khadim Hussain Talpur, Awami Jamhoori Party president; journalist Wusatullah Khan, Ayesha Dharejo, Nauni Leghari, Noor Chakiarani, Prof Ijaz Qureshi, Khuda Dino Shah, Karamat Ali Khan, Manzoor Gilani, Nimal Khaso, Gestalgir Bhatti, Iqbal Mallah and others would attend the gathering, it said.—Dawn Report

Another LPG cylinder blast leaves seven injured in Matiari

Death toll in Paretabad tragedy rises to 26

By Our Staff Correspondent

HYDERABAD: While to fewer than six score of families along with hundreds of other Hyderabad residents have been in a state of mourning since May 30 when a heavy loss of life was caused by a cylinder blast and resultant fire in the Paretabad area, another incident of same kind on Thursday left at least seven people injured near Bhirdhah, located in the neighbouring district of Matiari.

The death toll in the Paretabad tragedy continued to rise over the last week and with a 13-year-old boy, Ajmal, son of Mohammad Ali, succumbing to his severe burn injuries on Thursday.

Since Tuesday evening, seven of around 60 victims, most of them children, died during treatment in Karachi, taking the death toll to 26. The six others were identified as Altaf Ahmed, 65, son of Jalaluddin, Hassain, 12, son of Mohammad Shahid, Mohammad Raza alias Ahmed Raza, 18, Haram, 2, son of Ashraf, Mahnoor, 8, daughter of Habib, Kinza, 5, daughter of Zeeshan, and Ashraf, 35, son of Hussain.

On Thursday, only a week after the Paretabad tragedy, seven people received burn injuries when a cylinder exploded and caused a big fire in an LPG outlet near Bhirdhah in Matiari district. The fire destroyed the outlet and the adjacent auto-mechanic shop.

The injured were rushed to the Liaqat University Hospital where doctors said Allah Bakhsh, 65, Dilbar, 30, and Mohammad Saleh, 40, had suffered 90pc burns and their condition was critical. Nadir Ali, 25, and Beemal, 30, were under treatment with 35pc burns whereas Wahood Shah, 50, and Abid Hussain, 20, had received 30pc and 20pc burns, respectively, they added. Nadir Ali and Abid Hussain are brothers.

Allah Bakhsh, Dilbar and Beemal were shifted to LUH's intensive care unit (ICU).

The injured included some rickshaw drivers from Hyderabad and Bhirdhah. They had gone to Bhirdhah together in one rickshaw to get their cylinders filled.

Local journalists reported that fire tenders could reach the burning outlets, at Bhirdhah Mori, after a delay of two hours.

Matiari DC Yusuf Sheikh said that some people were now doing the LPG business at unsafe but used spots, including the rear side of their houses, due to the ongoing crackdown on illegal LPG outlets.

Sindh continues to be most unsafe place for journalists: report

Dawn Report

KARACHI: Representatives of journalist unions and press clubs from across Sindh have called upon authorities to take urgent action for the safety of journalists and freedom of expression in the province, which continues to be one of the most worrisome places with regard to journalists' safety in Pakistan.

They were speaking at the launch of a special report titled 'Journalism in the Shadow of Violence' released by the Freedom Network at the Karachi Press Club on Thursday.

The Network's executive director Iqbal Khattak said the report pointed out that Sindh continued to remain one of the most worrisome regions with regard to safety of journalists in the country, even though the province had a special law for combating impunity in crimes against media persons.

There were 184 incidents of violence against journalists in Sindh between 2018 and 2023, including killings of 10 journalists, he said quoting the report.

He shared details of the report, which pointed out growing influence of journalists, their low-income backgrounds, lack of enforcement of labour laws in the news industry and lack of digital safety skills, making them vulnerable to threats and forcing them to take undue risks.

"When you challenge the system, it often triggers reaction," the report quoted a senior police official as saying. The report recommends that the Sindh Bar Council and journalist unions should collaborate to offer legal support to journalists.

The report also calls for making the Sindh Commission for the Protection of Journalists and other Media Practitioners fully functional by setting up its regional offices across the province.

Pakistan Journalists Safety Coalition's Sindh chapter president Amir Lateef said that attacks on journalists in the province had seen an alarming rise. "The issue is that the state is not supporting journalists," he said.

Senior journalist Mazhar Abbas said that media owners should also be held accountable for the safety of their workers.

Khan Muhammad, president of the Khairpur Press Club; Inshad Bualur, president of Sukkur Press Club, and Sajjad Kharoshi, president of Hyderabad Press Club, said that brazen attacks on journalists would continue until the perpetrators were brought to justice. The event was organised by the Sindh chapter of the PJSC.

Three die as windstorm, rain hit four districts

Dawn Report

NAWABSHAH/DADU: High velocity winds, coupled with thunderstorm and rain, swept through Shaheed Benazirabad, Naushahro Feroze, Dadu and Jamshoro districts leaving at least three people dead and a trail of destruction on Thursday evening.

Electricity network in parts of all the four districts was badly affected by the winds.

Roofs of countless thatched houses blew away, hundreds of trees uprooted and a large number of electricity poles fell down as strong winds continued to sweep through the several districts for more than an hour.

Two persons, Zahid and Anil, working at a fuel station located along Sanghar road in Nawabshah, died when a wall collapsed and they were buried under its rubble.

In a similar incident, a man, identified as Raja, lost his life when strong winds pulled down a wall and the debris fell on him along Hussaini road in the Old Nawabshah area.

Many people injured in the weather-related incidents were taken to the Peoples Medical University Hospital for treatment.

PAKISTAN NAVY

ANNUAL CONTRACTS FOR PN UNITS AT KARACHI CREEK & COASTAL AREA

OPEN RE-TENDER NOTICE

1. All GST & Income Tax registered firms/suppliers are invited for supply of following items Pakistan Navy for various PN Units. The offers for Mutton Dressed (HACCP/HALAL) & Beef Dressed (HACCP/HALAL) are to be submitted in terms of Para 36(c) of PPRA rule 2004, i.e. single stage two envelope procedure. Delivery of items will be made by the firms at their own arrangements. **All participating firms are requested to attach earnest money (pay order) in favor of COMDEP welfare and improvement fund A/C No. 0170013298196 (Meezan Bank) with Technical quotations. Offers without pay order will not be entertained.**

S/No	Description	Quantity With Accounting Unit	Tender To Be Issued On	Date & Time of Receipt of Tender	Tender To Be Opened On
1	Mutton Dressed (HACCP/HALAL) (For VSD at Karachi)	400,000 Kg	07-06-24	24-06-24 1030 AM	24-06-24 1100 AM
2	Beef Dressed (HACCP/HALAL) (For VSD at Karachi)	350,000 Kg			
3	Mutton Dressed & Beef Dressed (HACCP/HALAL) (For PN Units at Coastal Area)	150,000 Kg 170,000 Kg			
4	Mutton Dressed & Beef Dressed (HACCP/HALAL) (For PN Units Creek Area)	55,000 Kg 40,000 Kg			

1. Invitation to tender forms may be collected during working hours from Office of the Commander Depot Group (COMDEP), at Naval Stores Sub Depot, West Wharf Road Karachi. Tender may also be downloaded from PPRA website (www.ppra.org.pk). Tenders will be received closed at 1030 hours and will be opened at COMDEP Office at 1100 hours on above mentioned date. Interested firms/suppliers having previous experience for supplies of said items may apply/contact for more details on following address/phone number.

Office of the COMDEP

at Naval Stores Sub Depot, West Wharf Road, Karachi Tel: 021-48506245 PRO(N)-5410/22

PAKISTAN NAVY

TENDER NOTICE

1. All GST/Income tax registered firms/suppliers are invited for supply of following item to Pakistan Navy for Commander Local Purchase at Naval Stores Sub Depot, West Wharf Road, Karachi. Delivery of items will be made by the firms at their own arrangements:

S.No	Description	QTY (Each / No)	Tender To Be Opened On
01	TENDER NO: DNP/11/096 DATED 26-09-2023 NSN: 7025-79-505-7057 DESCRIPTION: UPS 15KVA (DPS-A311 0.8 POWER FACTOR V/P380-415V O/P120-240VA PART No: 9155/5155 UPS 8-15KVA	01 QTY	24-06-2024
02	TENDER NO: DNG/491/P DATED 27-06-2023 NSN: 2610-20-519-8481 DESCRIPTION: GP-123 COMPUTER WITH ACCESSORIES PART NOT: GP-123	50 QTY	24-06-2024

2. Tender detail may also be downloaded from PPRA website www.ppra.org.pk. Tender will be opened at Office of Commander Local Purchase at 1100 hours on above date. Interested parties to submit bids before 0900 hours on tender opening date.

OFFICE OF THE CLP

At Naval Stores Sub Depot, West Wharf Road, Karachi

Tel: 021-48506531 PRO(N)-5416/22

OBITUARY

It is with the greatest sorrow that we inform family and friends of the passing of our dearest

DR. FARRUKH HASAN

loving father, brother and uncle.

Namaz-e-Janaza will be held at Yasrib Masjid & Imambargah, after Namaz-e-Jumma, today at 1:45 pm.

Burial will be at DHA Phase 8 graveyard.

Bereaved:

Sohaira Hasan & Asghar Jafri — Mary & Shehzad Hasan
Kiran Hasan — Reema & Shahrukh Hasan
Naeem & Asad Hasan — Cyrus & Ali Hasan
Salma & Anjum Hasan — Dr. Uma & Mustafar Hasan

BEFORE : MR. SOHAIL JABBAR MALIK, JUDGE IN THE BANKING COURT NO. II AT KARACHI

(Block No. 30, Pakistan Secretariat, New Passport Office, Saddar, Karachi)

SUIT NO. 141 OF 2024

DUBAI ISLAMIC BANK PAKISTAN LTD. ..... PLAINTIFF

VERSUS

JATAN AHMED S/O DOST MUHAMMAD ..... DEFENDANT

To,

The above named Defendant

WHEREAS the Plaintiff above-named has instituted a Suit against you under the Financial Institutions (Recovery of Finances) Ordinance 2001 (XV of 2001). You are hereby summoned to obtain leave from the Court within thirty days from the service hereof to appear and defend the suit, and within such time to deposit or tender to the Plaintiff or his advocate or any person authorized by the Plaintiff all the money due from you as shown in the statement of account filed in the suit and deposit the sum of Rs. 100,000/- (Rupees One Hundred Thousand only) under section 5 of the Financial Institutions (Recovery of Finances) Ordinance, 2001. Leave to appear may be obtained on application to the Court in the form of written statement showing that there is a defence to the suit on merits, or that it is reasonable that you should be allowed to appear and defend the suit.

The matter is fixed for 24th day of JULY, 2024 at 09:00 AM before the Banking Court-II, Karachi.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 3rd day of JUNE, 2024.

BY ORDER
ACTING READER
BANKING COURT NO. II, KARACHI

BEFORE : MR. SOHAIL JABBAR MALIK, JUDGE IN THE BANKING COURT NO. II AT KARACHI

(Block No. 30, Pakistan Secretariat, New Passport Office, Saddar, Karachi)

SUIT NO. 100 OF 2024

DUBAI ISLAMIC BANK PAKISTAN LTD. ..... PLAINTIFF

VERSUS

SHAHID AHMED DAHRI S/O ALI AHMAD DAHRI ..... DEFENDANT

To,

The above named Defendant

WHEREAS the Plaintiff above-named has instituted a Suit against you under the Financial Institutions (Recovery of Finances) Ordinance 2001 (XV of 2001). You are hereby summoned to obtain leave from the Court within thirty days from the service hereof to appear and defend the suit, and within such time to deposit or tender to the Plaintiff or his advocate or any person authorized by the Plaintiff all the money due from you as shown in the statement of account filed in the suit and deposit the sum of Rs. 100,000/- (Rupees One Hundred Thousand only) under section 5 of the Financial Institutions (Recovery of Finances) Ordinance, 2001. Leave to appear may be obtained on application to the Court in the form of written statement showing that there is a defence to the suit on merits, or that it is reasonable that you should be allowed to appear and defend the suit.

The matter is fixed for 24th day of JULY, 2024 at 09:00 AM before the Banking Court-II, Karachi.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 3rd day of JUNE, 2024.

BY ORDER
ACTING READER
BANKING COURT NO. II, KARACHI

BEFORE : MR. SOHAIL JABBAR MALIK, JUDGE IN THE BANKING COURT NO. II AT KARACHI

(Block No. 30, Pakistan Secretariat, New Passport Office, Saddar, Karachi)

SUIT No. 140 OF 2024

BANK ALAFAH PAKISTAN LIMITED ..... PLAINTIFF

VERSUS

MUHAMMAD HASSAN ..... DEFENDANT

To,

The above named Defendant

WHEREAS the Plaintiff above-named has instituted a Suit against you under the Financial Institutions (Recovery of Finances) Ordinance 2001 (XV of 2001). You are hereby summoned to obtain leave from the Court within thirty days from the service hereof to appear and defend the suit, and within such time to deposit or tender to the Plaintiff or his advocate or any person authorized by the Plaintiff all the money due from you as shown in the statement of account filed in the suit and deposit the sum of Rs. 100,000/- (Rupees One Hundred Thousand only) under section 5 of the Financial Institutions (Recovery of Finances) Ordinance, 2001. Leave to appear may be obtained on application to the Court in the form of written statement showing that there is a defence to the suit on merits, or that it is reasonable that you should be allowed to appear and defend the suit.

The matter is fixed for 23rd day of JULY, 2024 at 09:00 AM before the Banking Court-II, Karachi.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 3rd day of JUNE, 2024.

BY ORDER
ACTING READER
BANKING COURT NO. II, KARACHI

BEFORE : MR. SOHAIL JABBAR MALIK, JUDGE IN THE BANKING COURT NO. II AT KARACHI

(Block No. 30, Pakistan Secretariat, New Passport Office, Saddar, Karachi)

SUIT No. 175 OF 2024

STANDARD CHARTERED BANK (PAKISTAN) LIMITED ..... PLAINTIFF

VERSUS

1) [illegible] PRIVATE LIMITED
2) [illegible]
3) [illegible]

PRESENT ADDRESS:
1) [illegible]
2) [illegible]

OFFICE ADDRESS:
1) [illegible]
2) [illegible]

PRESENT ADDRESS:
1) [illegible]
2) [illegible] ..... DEFENDANTS

To,

The above named Defendants

WHEREAS the Plaintiff above-named has instituted a Suit against you under the Financial Institutions (Recovery of Finances) Ordinance 2001 (XV of 2001). You are hereby summoned to obtain leave from the Court within thirty days from the service hereof to appear and defend the suit, and within such time to deposit or tender to the Plaintiff or his advocate or any person authorized by the Plaintiff all the money due from you as shown in the statement of account filed in the suit and deposit the sum of Rs. 5,175,000/- (Rupees Five Million One Hundred Seventy Five Thousand only) under section 5 of the Financial Institutions (Recovery of Finances) Ordinance, 2001. Leave to appear may be obtained on application to the Court in the form of written statement showing that there is a defence to the suit on merits, or that it is reasonable that you should be allowed to appear and defend the suit.

The matter is fixed for 25th day of JULY, 2024 at 09:00 AM before the Banking Court-II, Karachi.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 3rd day of JUNE, 2024.

BY ORDER
ACTING READER
BANKING COURT NO. II, KARACHI

BEFORE : MR. SOHAIL JABBAR MALIK, JUDGE IN THE BANKING COURT NO. II AT KARACHI

(Block No. 30, Pakistan Secretariat, New Passport Office, Saddar, Karachi)

SUIT NO. 150 OF 2024

DUBAI ISLAMIC BANK PAKISTAN LTD. ..... PLAINTIFF

VERSUS

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CONTRACT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Applications are invited from qualified individuals for six (06) months contract positions in a public sector organization based in Karachi. The applicants must be professionally sound and must possess requisite qualification, work experience, skills and expertise as given hereunder:

Sr. #	Proposed Position	Relevant Experience	Qualification	Skill Set
01	**Software Developer** Age: 21 - 30 years Position(s): 01	3-5 years' experience in Software Development	Four-year Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science or equivalent preferably in Software Engineering related major, from reputed foreign or HEC recognized institution	▪ Full stack developer with good knowledge of programming languages C#, .Net, python, JAVA, LISP) ▪ Preferably work experience in Node JS, Angular JS, Common development environment and tools for writing and editing source code. ▪ Familiarity with web Servers (e.g. Apache, Tomcat, IIS etc.) ▪ Familiarity with RESTful APIs ▪ Proficiency with fundamental front-end languages such as HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. ▪ Familiarity with database technology such as MySQL, Oracle and MS SQL Server ▪ Source control management (e.g. Git, SVN, Mercurial, team foundations experience ▪ Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills ▪ Ability to collaborate
02	**Mobile

SUDOKU ALPHA

QUICK A4725

5		3				9	7	2
					2			
	9			3			1	8
							5	
		6			4			
		7		5		4	3	
6				7		5		9
		5	3		1		6	
		4	6	9			8	

TRICKY B4725

4			3	5				
	7		8		6			
9						3		
7						2		
8			7		9			
			1				6	
	8				1		3	
		9	2		8		5	
	1					7		6

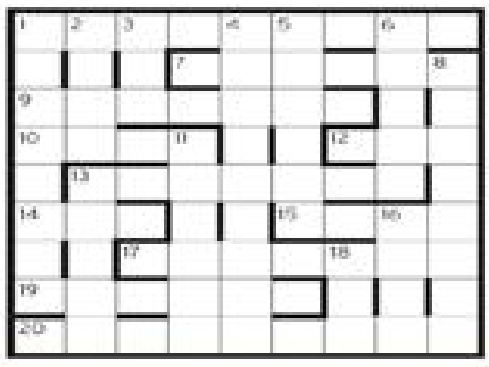
To solve this puzzle each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. While the rules may be simple, there are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. For hints and information visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Created by Peter Winnwater (C) PZZL.com

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

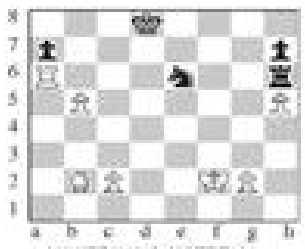
1 Ugly (6)
7 Relative of the stoat (6)
9 Remove dirt from (7)
10 Former gymnast, _ Korbut (4)
12 Select (3)
13 Feels remorse (7)
14 Actor, _ Gibson (3)
15 Close by (4)
17 Caribbean island (7)
19 Make tidy (6)
20 Fellow student (9)



DOWN

1 Rare (8)
2 Not legally valid (4)
3 Female pronoun (3)
4 Eager nest (anag.) (9)
5 Hurry (6)
6 Jumps (5)
8 Able to read (8)
11 Spies (6)
13 Drive back (5)
16 Parent's sister (4)
18 Indian state (3)

CHESS



WHITE WINS MATERIAL
HINT: TARGET A DEFENDER

TARGET

R	E	O
R	W	A
H	M	T

HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?
In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word.
No plurals or verb forms ending in "s".

TODAY'S TARGET
Good 17;
Very good 26;
Excellent 34 (or more).
Solution tomorrow.

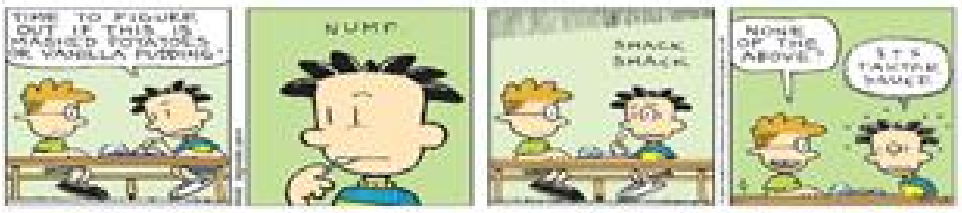
YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

DRIFTWOOD
dirt drift DRIFTWOOD foot fort frit rift rot root tiro toroid trio trod wort writ

Bobbdown
1. Big?! Bag? 2. Bobb, it instead 1. ... Bobb, simply 2. Bobb.

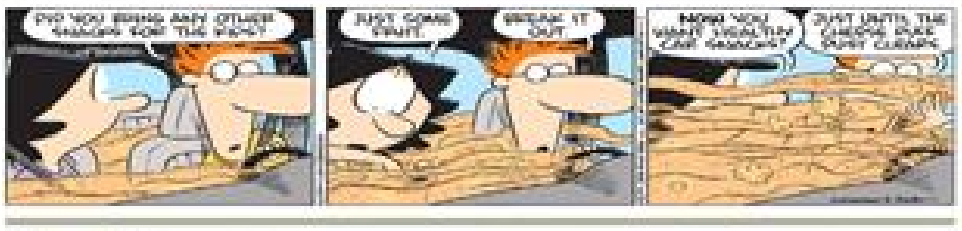
THE METRO FUNNIES

BIG NATE | BY LINCOLN PEIRCE



THE WIZARD OF ID | BY BRANT PARKER AND JOHNNY HART

BABY BLUES



WEATHER

Sunset & Sunrise

	Yesterday	Today	Tomorrow	Day After	Day After	Day After
Sunset	07:16pm	07:16pm	07:20pm	07:07pm	07:26pm	07:26pm
Sunrise	05:34am	04:54am	05:41am	04:55am	04:55am	05:37am

Three Day Forecast

	Today Min	Today Max	Today Outlook	Tomorrow Min	Tomorrow Max	Tomorrow Outlook	Day After Min	Day After Max	Day After Outlook
Faisalabad	27	40	Partly Cloudy	41	28	40	Partly Cloudy	28	40	Partly Cloudy
Hyderabad	29	41	Partly Cloudy	42	28	41	Sunny	29	42	Sunny
Islamabad	25	36	Partly Cloudy	40	23	36	Partly Cloudy	24	38	Mostly Sunny
Lahore	28	41	Partly Cloudy	34	28	40	Partly Cloudy	28	40	Mostly Sunny
Multan	28	38	Mostly Cloudy	38	28	40	Partly Cloudy	29	42	Partly Cloudy
Peshawar	23	36	Mostly Sunny	41	24	37	Partly Cloudy	25	38	Mostly Sunny
Quetta	18	30	Cloudy	19	17	31	Sunny	19	32	Sunny

Temperature estimates are internationally sourced and may differ from local estimates.

HELP

EMERGENCIES

Police Help	15, [illegible]
CPLC	1122, [illegible]
Fire Brigade	16, [illegible]
Bomb Disposal	[illegible]
KE Complaints	118
Telephone complaints	1218
Railway Inquiry	[illegible]
PCAA Flight Inquiry	[illegible]
	[illegible], 114

HOSPITALS

Abbasi Shaheed	[illegible]
Civil Hospital	[illegible]
Jinnah Hospital	[illegible]
NICVD	[illegible]
Aga Khan Hospital	[illegible]
Khaqan Sen Hospital	[illegible]
Indus Hospital	[illegible]
Taiba	[illegible]
Dawatir Hospital	[illegible]
Kiran Cancer Hospital	[illegible]
Liaquat National	[illegible]
Memon Medical	[illegible]
S.G. Clinic	[illegible]
Baqai Hospital	[illegible]
Holy Family Hospital	[illegible]
Patel Hospital	[illegible]
South City Hospital	[illegible]
Kidney Centre Institute	[illegible]
Sarwan-e-Nepal	[illegible]
Usman Memorial	[illegible]

AMBULANCE

Edhi	115, [illegible]
Chhipa	1020
SIUH Rescue	1122
St.John	[illegible]
Red Crescent	[illegible]

BLOOD BANK

Fatmid	[illegible]
Hussaini	[illegible]
PINA (Civil)	[illegible]

WORD GAME

By Kathleen Davis

▼ TODAY'S WORD STAMPED

(STAMPED: STAMP'd. Brought down the final formality.)

Average mark 34 words
Time limit 40 minutes

Can you find 41 or more words in STAMPED?

The list will be published tomorrow.

SOLUTIONS

▼ YESTERDAY'S WORD — BEDSORE

beer, bode, bore, bred, breed, erode, erose, deer, doer, does, dose, seder, seed, seer, sere, sober, sorb, sore, obese, orbed, redo, redoes, reed, robe, rode, rose

RULES OF THE GAME:

1. Words must be of four or more letters.
2. Words that acquire four letters by the addition of "s" such as "bore" or "does" are not allowed.
3. Additional words made by adding a "d" or an "e" may not be used. For example, if "bake" is used, "baked" or "baker" are not allowed, but "bake" and "baking" are admissible.
4. Proper nouns, slang words, or vulgar or sexually explicit words are not allowed.

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

ACROSS

1 Accurate
8 Senior
9 Tour
10 Tea
11 Events
12 Recorders
15 Patrol
17 Arm
18 Sofa
19 Bananas
20 Cassette.

DOWN

1 Afterward
2 Curved
3 Clue
4 Restrains
5 Ants
6 Title
7 Translate
12 Profit
14 Comma
15 Pens
16 Root.

METRO EVENTS

TRIBUTES

'Aao Gulroo Main Rang Bhareen', a tribute to ghazal legends featuring Salman Alvi & other artists at the Arts Council of Pakistan, at 9:30pm.

A ceremony to pay tribute to legendary actor Ayaz Khan at the Arts Council's Joun Elia Lawn at 7pm.

SUMMER FEST

'Summer Fever Festival' at Habib City, Tipu Sultan Road, from 5pm 11pm.

DRAMA

A drama, *Dukhtar-i-Kashmir* –II, at Auditorium 2, Arts Council, at 8pm.

COMPETITION

'Mangoood Vibes', a mango-cooking competition, at Khums Garden, at 5pm.

HOROSCOPE

By Georgia Nicols

ARIES | March 21-April 19

*** Even though it's Friday, you have a strong desire to withdraw from the world and hide at home with good food and drink. Go ahead. Put your feet up and watch TV or read a book. You need to nurture yourself and veg-out. It's as simple as that. Tonight: Cocoon.

TAURUS | April 20-May 20

**** Today you want to communicate to others because you have something you want to say. Therefore, you need someone who is going to listen to you. Really listen. You don't want to waste time in superficial chitchat, not today. Tonight: Conversations.

GEMINI | May 21-June 20

*** With four planets in your sign, this continues to be a powerful time for you. Nevertheless, today the Moon is in your Money House making you think about your values and what really matters in life. One moment you're thinking about cash flow, the next moment you're pondering your entire future. Tonight: Check your belongings.

CANCER | June 21-July 22

**** Because the Moon is in your sign today, you'll be more emotional than usual. In fact, you'll feel warmhearted to others and eager to share your affection with people who matter to you. Your luck will also be slightly improved today. Tonight: You win!

LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

*** Although this is a popular week for you, today you might want to catch your breath and hide a little. You need some time off for good behavior. You're not being antisocial. You just need some time by yourself so you can pull your act together before you take it on the road. Tonight: Enjoy privacy.

VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

**** A conversation with a friend or a member of a group (probably a female) will be meaningful to you today. This person might give you ideas or suggestions that cause you to change your future goals. Or you might rethink what you thought was possible, or not. A new start on things! Tonight: See friends.

LIBRA | Sept. 23-Oct. 22

***You're high-viz today, which means people will notice you more than usual. In fact, some people will know personal details about your private life. Because this influence is active today, you should be aware of it in case you have to do some damage control. Tonight: You're admired.

SCORPIO | Oct. 23-Nov. 21

**** Shake things up a little today! Do something different. Break free of your routine so you have a sense of adventure and stimulation. If you can travel, perfect. At least, learn something new or explore your own neighborhood. Tonight: Explore!

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

**** Make friends with your bank account today and stay on top of issues regarding shared property, inheritances, taxes and debt so you know what's happening. This is the kind of day where you emotate, you lose. Stay in the know. Tonight: Check your finances.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

*** Today you will have to go more than halfway when dealing with others because the Moon is opposite your sign. This rule will apply tomorrow as well. It's not a big thing. You will simply have to be accommodating and willing to cooperate. A smile always helps. Tonight: Listen.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

*** Possibly, you'll perform a service for someone today or work for someone else's benefit, which means you need to put their needs before your own. (It's what's happening.) You're not being a martyr, you're meeting the necessary needs of someone else. Tonight: Work.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

**** Make time to play and enjoy yourself today, you deserve this. Relax with friends. Meet the gang for happy hour. Accept invitations to socialize. Enjoy sports events, fun activities with children and the arts. Slip away on a mini vacation, if you can. Tonight: Play!

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Bidding Quiz

By Steve Becker

Test your play

You are declarer with the West hand at Seven Notrump. North leads the jack of hearts, which you win with the queen as South follows low. How would you play the hand?

West	East
♠ A K Q 2	♠ 6 5 4 3
♥ 3 2	♥ A K Q
♦ A K Q 3	♦ 2
♣ A K Q	♣ 6 5 4 3 2

If either the spades or clubs are divided 3-3, you have 13 tricks, so you should start by assuming that both suits are divided unfavorably — that is, 4-1 or 5-0.

The contract cannot be defeated — no matter how the cards are divided — if you play correctly. You might have to execute a squeeze, but to accomplish it you must be careful to cash your tricks in the right order.

You start by playing the A-K of spades and A-K of clubs. When you do, you might discover (1) that one opponent has both of these suits guarded, or (2) that each opponent has one suit guarded.

In case No. 1, the squeeze is accomplished by simply cashing the A-K-Q of diamonds, queen of clubs and A-K of hearts, ending in dummy. As these cards are cashed, you discard a spade and a club from dummy and a diamond from your hand, leaving this position:

West	East
♠ Q 2	♠ 6
	♦ 6
	♣ 6

The opponent with both black suits guarded is down to two cards also and was forced to unguard one of those suits when the last heart was cashed. Whether he relinquished a club or a spade, that discard was fatal.

In case No. 2, you continue by cashing both black queens, followed by the A-K-Q of hearts, to bring about this position:

West	East
♠ A K Q 3	♠ 6
	♦ 2
	♣ 6 5

By now the squeeze (called a double squeeze because both opponents feel the pinch) has already worked. The opponent with the spade guard could not keep more than three diamonds, and the opponent with the club guard likewise could not keep more than three diamonds. The A-K-Q-3 of diamonds therefore win the last four tricks.

Of course, if either opponent relinquishes his guard in either black suit, you would discard the three of diamonds on the established club or spade before cashing the A-K-Q of diamonds.

Tomorrow: Smooth attack.

YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

Quick — A4724

5	4	6	2	8	3	7	1	9
1	8	3	7	4	5	2	6	4
7	2	9	3	1	4	8	5	3
3	5	2	8	9	7	1	4	6
8	7	4	6	5	1	9	3	2
6	1	9	4	2	3	5	7	8
9	3	5	1	7	8	4	6	2
2	6	1	5	4	6	3	9	7
4	8	7	9	3	2	6	1	5

Tricky — B4724

3	5	8	6	9	1	2	7	4
4	6	1	5	2	7	9	8	3
2	7	9	3	8	4	6	5	1
1	2	6	8	7	3	4	9	5
9	3	7	4	5	6	1	2	8
8	4	5	9	1	2	7	3	6
6	8	3	7	4	9	5	6	2
5	9	2	1	3	8	6	4	7
7	6	4	2	6	5	3	1	9

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DAWN

METRO North

ISLAMABAD Friday, June 7, 2024

ISLAMABAD

Sunset	07:18pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	04:54am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	23°C
Maximum	38°C
Outlook	Partly Cloudy

Saudis break through Pakistan to advance in World Cup qualifying

Pg.17 SPORT

WORKERS prepare decorative items for sacrificial animals at their setup in Bagh Sardaran in Rawalpindi on Thursday. The Central Ruet-Hilal Committee is scheduled to meet today to sight the Zil Hajj moon. — Photo by Mohammad Asim

Police practice to 'seal' FIRs comes under scrutiny

IGP to seek opinion from legal department; court order barring this practice goes missing from legal branch

By Muruwwer Azeem

ISLAMABAD: Police chief Ali Nasir Rizvi will seek an opinion from the prosecution department of the Islamabad police over the practice of "sealing" FIRs which had been termed against fundamental rights by a local court a few years ago.

The court order issued in 2019, however, has gone missing from the legal branch of the capital police and despite efforts over the past three days following the order of the IGP, the officials failed to find the judgement.

The police chief issued these directives on June 3 in a meeting on the issue that was attended by the police officers and officials from the legal branch.

Since the order could not be found, a decision on whether or not to continue this practice would be made after consultations with the legal branch in light of the contents of the judgement.

PRO Taqi Jawad confirmed that during the meeting the IGP asked about the court order from the legal branch, but it was not available. "It will be found as staff is looking for it," he assured. He further said the meeting decided to restrict access to those FIRs which may cause a law and order situation.

'No law to seal FIRs'

During the meeting, the IGP asked officials which law empowered the police to seal FIRs. The participants of the meeting said there was no law to this effect. IGP Rizvi, who served in Lahore as DIG Operations before coming to the capital, also asked the Punjab prosecution department and received the same response.

"If there is no law then why are the FIRs sealed," asked the IGP. He was informed that the FIRs were sealed on the orders of the Operations Division. The officials at the meeting justified that only those FIRs were sealed which could cause a "law and order situation".

The officials further said the FIRs were sealed only for the public, including the accused, but were sent to the investigating officers, legal branch, and magistrate per the legal procedure.

"However, investigation and other legal procedures, including arrests, are suspended till the directives of the senior officers," they said, adding that in response the IGP showed reservations asking if the FIR was being shared with the IO, the legal branch and the magistrate then that defeated the purpose of keeping it under wraps.

Sources, however, told *Dawn* that the police chief was allegedly misled as the sealed FIRs were not sent to anyone. Not only is the FIR sealed but the relevant initial report registered in 'Roznamcha' (daily diary) is also sealed, they claimed.

However, it seems the practice of sealing FIRs is a misinterpretation of Section 157-2 of the Criminal Procedure Code. This section empowers the SHO to suspend investigations in case of suspicion but only after informing the magistrate in writing. According to officials, at present the FIRs are sealed only on the verbal orders of senior officers, a deliberate attempt to keep their contents secret to blindside those nominated to them.

Court order

Last month, the police sealed six FIRs. Out of the six cases, three were registered at the Karachi Company police station, two at the Secretariat police station and one at the Industrial Area police station. Except for one robbery case in which 138 citizens were robbed, all FIRs were registered against the PTI leaders. The foreigners were robbed in I-8 Markaz on May 25.

The practice of sealing FIR, though in vogue, brings it in stark contrast to an order of the judicial magistrate, Rana Mujahid Rahim, in June 2019 when he directed the capital police not to seal any FIR as it was against the fundamental rights of the suspects as well as the complainants.

The court also ruled that withholding the copy of an FIR was against the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution. The order was issued in response to a plea by then-PPP Senator Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar who approached the court seeking direction to the police to provide him with a copy of the FIR registered against him at the Margalla police station.

IHC removes objections on pleas against amendments to election law

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday removed administrative objections on petitions filed against the recent amendments to the Elections Act 2017 and the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP)'s jurisdiction to entertain applications seeking the transfer of petitions related to three constituencies of the federal capital.

IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq took up the petitions and heard the arguments of the counsel against the objections raised by the registrar office.

The petitions were filed by PTI-backed independent candidates from NA-46, NA-47 and NA-48.

The registrar office had raised the objections that the petitioners could not challenge the provisions of Elections Act and the presidential ordinance.

Mohammad Shoaib Shaheen, Mohammad Ali Bukhari and Amir Mughal have challenged the vires of Section 151 of the Elections Act 2017 and the Election (Amendment) Ordinance 2024 promulgated on May 27, 2024.

Section 151 of the Elections Act empowered the ECP to "transfer a petition from one tribunal to another."

Whereas, the presidential ordinance promulgated on May 27 amended Section 140 of the Act and allowed for retired judges to be appointed as election tribunal and that too without the consultation of the chief justice.

The counsel for the petitioners pointed out that the vires of Elections Act, the ordinance and the proceeding before the ECP could have been challenged in a single petition.

Justice Farooq removed the objections and remarked that the court would hear detailed arguments on the petitions after the registrar office would number them accordingly. The court would hear the petitions on Friday (today).

The identical petitions contended that as per Forms 45, the PTI's runner-up could have won the elections with heavy margin but, due to manipulation in the results they had been defeated.

The petitions stated that following the notification of the election tribunal for Islamabad, the runner-up filed an election petition in the tribunal appointed under Section 140 of the Elections Act 2017.

On the first date of the hearing on May 2, the tribunal issued notices to the ECP, returned candidates and the returning officers and directed them to file original Form 45 and Form-46. On the next date of hearing i.e. May 20, the ECP and some of the respondents appeared and the tribunal directed them to file their replies and the original Form-45/Form-46.

According to the petitions, PML-N candidates filed applications under section 145(1) of the Elections Act 2017 for summary dismissal of the petition on the ground that the same was time-barred. The tribunal after hearing preliminary arguments issued notice to the petitioner with a direction to file reply by giving an advance copy to the other side, and adjourned the case to May 5 for arguments.

The returned candidates of the PML-N filed applications against the presiding judge of the tribunal, Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, in the ECP.

78 electric buses to ply on six routes in Rawalpindi by Jan

By Aamir Yasin

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Minister for Transport Bilal Akbar Khan on Thursday said that 78 electric buses will ply on six routes in Rawalpindi by January next, with three additional routes will be proposed by National and Provincial Assembly members.

He said that the garrison city would see a significant increase in public transportation, with 200 buses expected to be operational in the next two years. He stated this during his visit Rawalpindi on the directives of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz to address traffic issues in the city.

At a meeting at the Commissioner Office Rawalpindi, Transport Secretary Rawalpindi Rashid Ali and metro bus project officials briefed the minister on the current state of transportation in Rawalpindi.

The minister highlighted the success of the metro bus project, which was built eight to nine years ago, saying it was neglected by the previous government. Despite propaganda, the metro bus has turned out to be popular, as over 150,000 passengers daily travel in Rawalpindi and one million across Punjab, he added.

He said that if there had been no metro buses today, the condition of the roads would have been worsened due to huge traffic.

He further said that Punjab chief minister added 32 new field hospitals in the health care system in 100 days where over 30,000 people get free treatment daily.

He said the government was bringing packages for farmers and they will be able to get fertilizer without interest.

He said actions are being taken against complaints of harassment of women. He said 20,000 students will be given motorbikes without interest and e-bikes will be given in two years installments, he added.

The minister said 7,500 girls have applied for e-bikes and we are planning that all of them get bikes. He said a project named Maryam ke Dastak has been launched under which marriage certificates, e-registration, B forms and vehicle files will reach the doorsteps of people.

Minister wants revised Naan, Roti prices implemented

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Food Minister Bilal Yasin on Thursday directed the Pindi administration to ensure 100 percent implementation of the newly fixed prices of Roti and Naan.

He said that all arrangements regarding security and law and order should be finalised before the start of Muharram. He got all the stakeholders into confidence to maintain the peace and order situation in the city.

He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting regarding implementation of Roti and Naan prices and arrangements in connection with Muharram in the Commissioner's Office Rawalpindi.

Deputy Commissioner Dr Hassan Waqar Cheema, Senior Superintendent of Police Operations Kamran Asghar were present in the meeting while Deputy Commissioners of Jhelum, Chakwal and Attock participated in the meeting through video link.

During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Dr Hassan Waqar Cheema said that in May, Rs10 million fines were imposed on violators of price list fixed by district administration while taking action against the wholesalers also.

Provincial Food Minister Punjab Bilal Yasin directed the Deputy Commissioners to focus on Roti and Naan prices.

He asked the price magistrates to review the prices of bread and essential items on a daily basis and indiscriminate action should be taken against the violation.

He said that the government would not allow anyone to rob people's pockets.

— Staff Reporter

India returns 82-year-old villager who strayed across LoC

By Tariq Naqash

MUZAFFARABAD: An 82-year-old villager from Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), who had inadvertent by strayed into the Indian-occupied territory of the disputed Himalayan region on Tuesday, was repatriated by the Indian authorities via the Tetrinote-Chakan da Bagh crossing point along the Line of Control (LoC) on Thursday.

Munir Hussain had left his home in the Battal sector of Poonch district to join his wife who was grazing cattle there. However, the octogenarian villager, suffering from some mental ailments for about four years, went astray and set foot on India occupied territory, where he was apprehended by an army patrol.

The family and government officials in AJK came to know about his ordeal on Wednesday after the Indian media ran stories about an "intruder."

Waleed Anwar, assistant commissioner of Hajira, of which Battal sector is a part, told *Dawn* that Indian authorities were reached by their Pakistani counterparts the same day for his repatriation in accordance with an understanding between the two sides about inadvertent crossers.

Mr Anwar said the repatriation took place at about 4pm through the Tetrinote-Chakan da Bagh, which was one of three active crossing points at the LoC before India unilaterally suspended the intra Kashmir travel and trade, shortly before scrapping the special status of occupied Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019.

Wearing a new black kurta and white shalwar gifted by the Indian authorities along with a box of sweets, Mr Hussain was greeted first by his son, Mohammad Rasheed, upon entering the liberated territory through an iron gate that marks the divide between two sides.

His nephew, Liaqat Hussain, cousin Mohammad Akbar and numerous jubilant fellow villagers were also present on the occasion in addition to the concerned civil and military officials.

"There is an atmosphere of jubilation not only in our home but also in the entire village on his safe return because in some similar cases in the past, people have met tragedies at the LoC," Liaqat Hussain told *Dawn* by telephone from Gulshan Colony in Battal sector.

Presumably, the 42-year-old countryman was referring to the shooting of AJK residents by the Indian army while they were either collecting herbs, cutting fodder or grazing cattle close to the unmarked dividing line.

"We are grateful to our armed forces and our civil administration for their role in his early return," he said.

"At the same time, I also express my gratitude to the Indian authorities for sending him back alive." He said Mr Hussain, who also suffered from hypertension, felt exhausted by the unplanned trekking through the forests, he was taking rest, after being given his medication.

"But people are constantly visiting us to extend felicitations."

CLAD in black kurta and white shalwar, 82-year-old Munir Hussain walks into AJK territory along with his son Mohammad Rasheed after his repatriation by Indian authorities via disused Tetrinote-Chakan da Bagh crossing point. — Dawn

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PRAYER

Fajr	03:17
Zuhar	12:11
Asr	05:09
Magheib	07:19
Isha	09:02

Starting time in Islamabad

REFLECTIONS

"WHOEVER FORSAKES TRUTH FINDS THAT HIS PATH OF LIFE HAS BECOME NARROW AND TROUBLESOME."

— HAZRAT ALI (A.S.)

TIAN-1427

AJK prime minister invites citizens' input for development, promises swift action

By Tariq Naqash

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq on Thursday invited the state's aggrieved citizens to share their views for the development of the liberated territory and the well-being of its inhabitants, assuring that his government would promptly act on any noble proposals received.

Expressing his views in former premier Raja Farooq Haider's adjournment motion on the floor of the Legislative Assembly, PM Haq asserted that all decisions in his government were made in consultation with the coalition partners.

"I have full faith in the consultation process," he said. "All decisions in my government are taken collaboratively because I believe no one is perfect. We must embrace democratic attitudes and reject bigotry, regionalism, and politics of hatred."

Earlier, Mr Haider highlighted the need to reflect on the events during the long march of the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), warning that the repercussions of the recent rights movement could emerge in the next two or three years and might prove harmful.

"This is not a victory for anyone but a path to destruction," said Mr Haider, who is a senior PML-N leader. "As a political worker, it's my duty to point out these issues. They may hurt abuses at me on social media, but I will continue to call a spade a spade."

The prime minister noted that [cabinet] members from the PML-N and PPP had been involved in negotiations with JAAC from the beginning, demonstrating his commitment to involving coalition partners in decision-making.

He emphasized his belief in action over hollow announcements and pledged to ensure the implementation of his commitments. He asserted that those challenging the state would be dealt with strictly and political issues would be addressed through political means.

Expressing his commitment to maintaining financial discipline, Mr Haq assured that taxpayers' money would be spent solely on the welfare of the masses, with development funds allocated on the basis of the needs of the areas concerned.

"It is the government's primary responsibility to bring significant improvements in sectors like infrastructure, health, education, and tourism, while also addressing the deprivations of the people," he said. "As regards strengthening of the system, it is a collective responsibility of all segments of society."

Without mincing words, the AJK premier stated that while the government must meet legitimate public demands, no one would be allowed to challenge the government's authority or paralyze the system. "Mischief cannot be tolerated under the cover of [demands for cheap] electricity and flour. Such actions will be handled with an iron hand."

He also reiterated that the Kashmiris' eternal relationship with Pakistan and their ideology of accession to Pakistan would be further strengthened with strong conviction.

Mr Haq made it clear that nobody was indispensable and that his tenure in office depended on the confidence of the majority in the Legislative Assembly. "As long as I enjoy the confidence of the majority, I will remain in this office. Otherwise, someone else will replace me."

Other speakers on the motion included PML-N regional president Shah Ghulam Qadir, former president and PPP leader Sardar Yaqoob Khan, and cabinet members Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, Mian Abdul Waheed, Abdul Majid Khan, and Nabila Ayub.

Later, Speaker Chaudhry Latif Akbar adjourned the session until June 13.

Narcotics smuggling bid foiled

TAXILA: The Attock Khurd Police on Thursday foiled a bid to smuggle huge quantity of narcotics from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to Punjab and arrested a smuggler.

The police spokesman said that acting on a tip-off, a police party led by SHO Khurrada Sharif inter cepted a car on G.T. Road at Attock Khurd check post and during a search 33 kg hashish was recovered from the hidden parts of the vehicle. During preliminary interrogation, the suspect revealed that he was a member of an inter-provincial racket of narcotics smuggler and was smuggling the consignment from tribal areas to various cities of Punjab.

A case was registered against the suspect under section 9-C of control of narcotics substance act 1997 and launched further investigation. The spokesman said that the value of the seized narcotics is millions of rupees in—Correspondent

IHRA told to disclose inquiry report about hospital

By Ikram Junaidi

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Information Commission (PIC) has ordered the health regulatory body to make public an inquiry report about the alleged negligence and mistreatment of doctors at a private hospital, which purportedly led to the death of a 26-year-old man.

The directive was issued after the Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority (IHRA) withheld information, citing confidentiality under the Right of Access to Information Act 2017.

Zaheer Ahmed, a resident of Gujar Khan, filed a complaint with IHRA in July 2021, accusing the hospital's doctors of negligence resulting in his son's death.

A citizen Nadeem Umar filed a request to the IHRA on February 14, 2024, seeking the status of the inquiry and a copy of the report.

Umar's request was denied by the public body, leading him to appeal to the PIC. After receiving the appeal, the commission issued notice to the IHRA.

The IHRA, represented by a law officer, maintained that the information was confidential and exempted from disclosure under section 7(h) of the Right of Access to Information Act 2017, which pertained to personal treatment records.

However, the commission disagreed with the exemption claim. Citing section 5 of the Right of Access to Information Act 2017, the commission said inquiry and investigative reports, once finalised, must be proactively published by public bodies.

The commission asserted that the inquiry into the death of Mr Ahmed's son should be made accessible to ensure transparency and accountability.

The commission's ruling, available with Dawn, emphasized the importance of handling matters related to public health and safety with utmost care and diligence.

Recognising the case's significance, the commission ordered the chief executive officer of the IHRA to provide certified copies of the inquiry report to both the appellant and the commission within 10 days.

The next hearing is scheduled for June 16 to review the compliance and implementation of the order.

It is pertinent to mention that the "Right of Access to Information Act" was enacted in October 2017. Though under the law PIC had to be established in six months, the PML-N government did not take any step in that regard. However, the PTI government notified the PIC on November 7, 2018. Currently, Shoaib Ahmed Siddiqui is the chief information commissioner.

Government of Pakistan
Ministry of Interior
NATIONAL DATABASE & REGISTRATION AUTHORITY
(REGIONAL HEAD OFFICE ISLAMABAD)

Procurement of Thermal Paper Rolls

BID NOTICE
NADRA/RHO/ISB/Proc/026/2024

1. Regional Head Office NADRA Islamabad requires sealed bids from firms/companies registered with income/sales Tax Departments and is on Active Taxpayers List of the Federal Board of Revenue for procurement of Thermal Paper Rolls.
2. The Bid Document having complete details may be obtained during office hours less gazette holidays from Procurement Branch (NADRA RHO ISB) from **06-20 June 2024, on cash Rs. 2000/- (non-refundable).** Sealed technical along with financial proposals must be submitted by **1100 hours on 21st June 2024.** Bids will be opened **at 1130 hours** on the same day in the presence of firm's representative at NADRA RHO Islamabad Building (30-31, Mauve Area, G-10/4, Islamabad).
3. Bid Security is Rs. 100,000/-, which must be attached with bid in the form of Demand Draft/Pay Order in the name of **NADRA NRC Disbursement Account Islamabad.**
4. The process of "single stage single envelope" would be adopted.
5. Competent Authority reserves right to reject bids/offers as per the clause 33 of PPRA rules.

(In case of public holiday(s), tender will be opened on next working day)

For Any query contact on below address:
Procurement Branch
Regional Head Office NADRA, Plot No. 30/31, Mauve Area, G-10/4 Islamabad Ph. 051-9108179
(018-KI)

TENDER NOTICE
PAKISTAN RANGERS (PUNJAB)

1. Sealed tenders for supply of stationary items are invited from the Government registered firms on free delivery basis at Headquarters Pakistan Rangers (Punjab), Ghazi Road Lahore-33 **for the period upto 30 Jun 2025.** Tender form alongwith detailed specifications can be obtained from Ordnance Branch Headquarters Pakistan Rangers (Punjab) Lahore upto 27 Jun 2024 at the cost of Rs.3,000/- (in cash) which is nonrefundable.
2. Tenders / Offers will be opened on 28 Jun 2024 at 1100 hours and can be deposited before **1000 hours** on same day. Firm registered with this Headquarters will deposit 2% and un-registered firms will deposit 5% earnest money in favour of **"Director General Pakistan Rangers (Punjab) Lahore"** by pay order or bank draft, which is refundable. All firms will mention their sales tax registration and **NTN** number in their quotation. Director General Pakistan Rangers (Punjab) reserves the right to reject any or all proposal / bids at any time prior to the acceptance of bid or proposal. This tender is also available at PPRA Website www.ppra.org.pk as well as on Headquarters Pakistan Rangers (Punjab) website www.pakistanrangerspunjab.com.

Station: LAHORE 3 Jun 2024

Colonel For Director General Pakistan Rangers (Punjab)
(Sheraz Lateef Khan)
PD(L)3871 Phone No. 04299220037
(018-KI)

ٹینڈر برائے نیلامی ناکارہ سکریپ

1. ڈپٹی ڈائریکٹر جنرل فرنٹیئر کور پنجاب (نارتھ) لاہور ہیڈ کوارٹرز ناکارہ سکریپ کی نیلامی کے لئے سربمہر ٹینڈر مطلوب ہیں۔ جو کہ ٹی سی ایس کے ذریعے ڈی جی ایف سی پنجاب (نارتھ) کی مختلف لوکیشنز میں موجود ہے۔ مورخہ **26** جون **2024**، بروز **10:00** بجے سے **12:00** بجے تک "جہاں ہے جیسا ہے" کی بنیاد پر نیلامی کی جائے گی۔ جس میں اہل رکھنے والے کمپنی کے نمائندے شرکت کر کے ٹینڈر فارم حاصل کر سکتے ہیں۔

(ا) لاہور (مختلف سائز کے فارم)
(ب) ٹائر ٹیوب (مختلف سائز کے فارم)
(ج) مختلف گاڑیوں کے کباڑ پارٹس اور سکریپ لوہا

2. ٹینڈر فارم کی قیمت ناقابل واپسی ہے جو کہ **4000/-** روپے فی سیٹ (ٹیکس سمیت) کے حساب سے ہیڈ کوارٹرز فرنٹیئر کور پنجاب (نارتھ) لاہور سے **25** جون **2024** تک ادائیگی کر کے مختلف لوکیشنز سے حاصل کیے جا سکتے ہیں۔ ٹینڈر کی تمام شرائط ٹینڈر فارم میں درج ہیں۔
3. ٹینڈر کے ہر ورق کے ساتھ ٹینڈر کی رقم کے **10** فیصد کے حساب سے ضمانتی رقم ہونا چاہئے۔ ایک ادھورا ٹینڈر دینے کی صورت میں ٹینڈر نامکمل تصور ہوگا۔
4. تمام اہل ٹینڈر دہندگان ٹینڈر بھی مختلف تاریخ یعنی مورخہ **9** جون **2024** سے **25** جون **2024** تک ہیڈ کوارٹرز فرنٹیئر کور پنجاب (نارتھ) لاہور سے حاصل کر سکتے ہیں۔
5. ٹینڈر کو سربمہر لفافے میں جمع کروانا لازمی ہے۔
6. تمام نامکمل ٹینڈر دہندگان ٹینڈر بغیر کسی وجہ بتائے رد کرنے کا حق محفوظ ہے۔
7. ٹینڈر جنرل ڈائریکٹر فرنٹیئر کور پنجاب (نارتھ) لاہور کو واپس کرنے کا حق محفوظ ہے۔ کسی بھی قسم کا ٹینڈر **PPRA Rules** کے مطابق منسوخ کیا جا سکتا ہے۔
8. اہل ٹینڈر دہندگان کو اپنے ساتھ اصل شناختی کارڈ لانا ضروری ہے۔
9. مکمل ٹینڈر نوٹس ویب سائٹ **www.ppra.org.pk** سے بھی دیکھا جا سکتا ہے۔

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(018-KI)

This advertisement is made in compliance with the directions of the "Honorable Peshawar High Court" in WP. No. 819-A/2021 where recruitment process is ordered within 90 days.

MEDICAL TEACHING INSTITUTION
AYUB TEACHING HOSPITAL ABBOTTABAD

POSITION AVAILABLE

The Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has designated Ayub Teaching Hospital (ATH) Abbottabad as a Medical Teaching Institution under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Medical Teaching Institutions Act, 2015 and has granted autonomous status to the institution. ATH requires the services of the following:

S. No	Nomenclature of Post	No. of Position	Qualification and Experience
01	Senior Manager Material Management CPS-07	01	• Master degree in Business Administration / Business Management / relevant Social Sciences or equivalent qualification in Supply Chain Management from recognized University. • Candidates having qualification in material management / supply chain management will be preferred. • A minimum of 07 years' post qualification experience of material management is required. • Relevant experience in Health related organization will be preferred.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. The services will be governed under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Medical and Teaching Institution Reforms Act, 2015 including its amendments and Regulations of the Institution.
2. 07% quota is reserved for disable & 10% quota is reserved for female candidate & 05% quota for minority person shall be applicable on the above mentioned posts (Disability Certificate issued by the Competent Medical Board should be required).
3. Interview calls letter will be issued to short listed candidates only.
4. Incomplete applications and applications received after due dates will not be entertained.
5. The candidates working in Government/Semi-Government bodies should apply through proper channel.
6. Competent Authority reserves the right to increase/decrease the number of vacancies or cancel/reject any application without assigning any reason.
7. No TA/DA will be admissible for test/interview.
8. In case of foreign degree, equivalent certificates From HEC must be provided.
9. The undersigned reserves the right to cancel the selection process at any stage.

HOW TO APPLY

1. Candidates applying for the position may send the relevant documents i.e Curriculum vitae along with a covering letter, attested copies of degrees, DMCs, experience certificates and any other relevant documents to Senior Manager Human Resource Department, Ayub Teaching Hospital Abbottabad before the close of business on 28-06-2024

HOSPITAL DIRECTOR
MEDICAL TEACHING INSTITUTION
AYUB TEACHING HOSPITAL ABBOTTABAD
(018-KI)

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NOTICE TO PUBLIC

ISLAMABAD

GENERAL public is hereby notified that Mr. Faisal Hamad son of Ghulam Yasen, ID No. 12101-2663121-1 has nominated myself as Research/Officer Light Foundation Welfare Society (NGO) District Haripur for the purposes and every special and general provincial Federal institutions are informed that Mr. Faisal Hamad is our Employee from today courtesy of Rifat Akram Chairman Light Foundation Welfare Society (NGO) Haripur (27462768616)

COURT NOTICE

ISLAMABAD

BEFORE the Honorable Judge Banking Court Islamabad. Askari Bank Limited versus Ali Raza. To, Ali Raza son of Muhammad Arbab. Office Address: Touch Stone Communication Vesuvee Trust Complex, suit 212, second floor Islamabad. Whereas Askari Bank has instituted a suite for Recovery of Rs. 83,472,531/- due against Under Section 9(3) of financial institution Recovery of Finances Ordinance 2001. You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suite under ordinance within 30 days after the publication of this notice. In default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled to obtain the decree of the said sum till realization of amount. Next date of hearing is fixed 06-06-2024. (27702734779)

BEFORE the Honorable Judge Banking Court Islamabad. Askari Bank Limited versus Mian Haseeb Khalid. To, Mian Haseeb Khalid son of Mian Khalid Hafeez, resident of House No. 400, St No. 4, G-9/1 Islamabad. Whereas Askari Bank has instituted a suite for Recovery of Rs.133,820,461/- due against Under Section 9(3) of financial institution Recovery of Finances Ordinance 2001. You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suite under ordinance within 30 days after the publication of this notice. In default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled to obtain the decree of the said sum till realization of amount. Next date of hearing is fixed 06-06-2024. (27702734778)

IN the Court of Waqid Ali Judge Banking Court II Islamabad. Askari Bank Limited versus Salman Zafar. To, Salman Zafar son of Muhammad Zafar resident of House No. 40, Street No. 3, Block C, Phase 1, DHA Town Islamabad. Whereas Askari Bank has instituted a suite for Recovery of Rs. 62,820,401/- due against Under Section 9(3) of financial institution Recovery of Finances Ordinance 2001. You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suite under ordinance within 30 days after the publication of this notice. In default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled to obtain the decree of the said sum till realization of amount. Next date of hearing is fixed 09-07-2024. (27702734777)

IN the Court of Waqid Ali Judge Banking Court II Islamabad. MCB Bank Limited versus Sheikh Kamal Ghani. To, Sheikh Kamal Ghani son of Yasoob Mansoom Sheikh residents of House # 297, Street No. 7-B, Sadiqabad Near Asha Lasani Model School Rawalpindi. Business Address: Shop No. G-8, Ground Floor, Ashiana Shopping center Pehlmanabad, Rawalpindi. Whereas MCB Bank has instituted a suite for Recovery of Rs. 338,729,161/- due against Under Section 9(3) of financial institution Recovery of Finances Ordinance 2001. You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suite under ordinance within 30 days after the publication of this notice. In default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled to obtain the decree of the said sum till realization of amount. Next date of hearing is fixed 09-07-2024. (27702734781)

RAWALPINDI

IN the Court of Hakam Khan Bakhar Additional District Judge Rawalpindi Appeal. Mst. Rifat Usman versus Raja Mehtab etc. To Khalida Bibi widow, Kamran, Waqid, Tanvir, Sabahat, Sheedullah sons, Aaisa daughter of Muhammad Rubin (Deceased), Kauser Parveen, Zeneda Saeed, Nisara Bibi daughters of Nizam Din, Naseem Akhtar widow, Waleed, Ramsay, Zamaan sons, Abbas, Agmar, Kanwal daughters of Muzzam Din (deceased), Aaziza (deceased) d/o Muzzam Din (Deceased) through Lifa Zeeshan son, Anita, Saba daughters, Residents of House (Old) No. 168-688 (New) CM 16 Dhoka Munshi Khan Rahman Abad Rawalpindi. You are informed to attend the court on 12-06-2024 at 8 am to avoid ex-parte proceedings. (27702734780)

HARIPUR

IN The Court Of Civil Judge III, Haripur District Haripur. Next Date of Hearing 10-06-2024. Case Title. Chanwez Khan Vs Taujeer Ahmed Notice To, Taujeer Ahmed Son Of Muhammad Nawaz Resident Of Khoka Baba Haripur District Haripur Present Address Out Of Country. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendant can not be served in the ordinary way. It is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will / shall not appear personally or through duelly authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8 am dated 10-06-2024 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court. (29042734475)

TALAGANG

IN the Court of Mr. Masood-ul-Hassan, Civil Judge Talagang. Suit for Permanent Injunction, Mst. Ghulam Sakina vs. Center Faiz Muhammad Pinoop etc., Muhammad Saleem S/o Nazeer Ahmed, caste Awan R/o Tala (Dhok), Tehsil & District Talagang presently residing Saudia Arab, you / said defendant is summoned. If the said defendant will / shall not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in Court at 08 am on 8-8-2024, the proceedings will be taken ex-parte. (27612766617)

BUNAIR

IN the Court of Madeha Rahman Khan Senior Civil Judge (Family) Buner at Daggar. Suit No. 203 /FC Institution 07-09-2023. Next date of hearing. 10-06-2024. Case title. Mal Marwah vs Akbar Said. Notice to No. (1) Akbar Said S/o Bakhi Zaman resident of Chanar Tehsil Daggar District Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendant cannot be served in the ordinary way. It is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendant will / shall not appear personally or through duelly authorized agent or pleader in the Court at 8 am dated 10-06-2024 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court. (29042734475)

KARAK

IN the Court of Syed Adnan Shah Additional District & Session Judge II Karak. Case No. 01/10. 2023. Shuhdeed Akhter vs Sabullah, to, Adil Nawaz S/o Meer Badshah / Sabir Badshah, R/o Tarkhah Kohat, Tehsil & District Karak. You are inform to attend the Court personal through counsel or attorney on 7-6-2024 at 8:30 am to avoid ex-parte proceedings. (27612766616)

CHINA

IN the Court of Zafar Farid Hashmi (Civil Judge 1st Class) (Commercial Court, Lahore, Pakistan) (Suit for Declaration, Damages, Recovery) Case Title: **RICE WORLD V M/S SATAKE CORPORATION** Case No. **1944045329** . Notice to **SATAKE MANUFACTURING (SUZHOU) CO. LTD** - 229 Jin Feng Road, Suzhou New District, Suzhou City, Jiangsu Province, 215129, China. Whereas service of defendants is not going to be effected through ordinary means, so service of defendants be effected through proclamation in the Newspaper as per court order. You, defendants are directed to appear in the court in person or through counsel on 6th June, 2024 on 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. (25753353647)

INDIA

IN the Court of Zafar Farid Hashmi (Civil Judge 1st Class) (Commercial Court, Lahore, Pakistan) (Suit for Declaration, Damages, Recovery) Case Title: **RICE WORLD V M/S SATAKE CORPORATION** Case No. **1944045329** . Notice to **SATAKE INDIA ENGINEERING PVT. LTD** 4th Floor, Tower-1, HB Tech Towers, 4-2-3, Netaji Subhash Place, Wazirpur District Centre, New Delhi, 110034, India. Whereas service of defendants is not going to be effected through ordinary means, so service of defendants be effected through proclamation in the Newspaper as per court order. You defendants are directed to appear in the court in person or through counsel on 6th June, 2024 on 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. (25753353646)

THAILAND

IN the Court of Zafar Farid Hashmi (Civil Judge 1st Class) (Commercial Court, Lahore, Pakistan) (Suit for Declaration, Damages, Recovery) Case Title: **RICE WORLD V M/S SATAKE CORPORATION** . Case No. **1944045329** . Notice to **SATAKE ASIA CO LTD** . Office No. 101, True Digital Park Griffin Building, 14th Floor, Unit No. 1407, Sukhumvit Rd, Bangchak, Phra Khanong, Bangkok, 10260, Thailand. Whereas service of defendants is not going to be effected through ordinary means, so service of defendants be effected through proclamation in the Newspaper as per court order. You defendants are directed to appear in the court in person or through counsel on 6th June, 2024 on 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. (25753353645)

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Federal Minister for Science and Technology Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui views gemstones displayed at the galleries at the Pakistan Museum of Natural History after laying the foundation stone of a new block in Islamabad on Thursday. — Photo by Tanveer Shahzad

Mechanisms urged to counter opponents of CPEC

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China need to work closely to deter opponents' plan to sabotage China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) – a prime target of international actors who are against the development of both countries.

Under such a situation, Islamabad and Beijing should develop cooperation mechanisms at four levels – military, intelligence, police and narrative building.

This was stated by political economist and Asian Institute of Extremitization Research and Development (AIERD) chief executive officer Shakeel Ahmad Ramay.

According to a statement, Mr Ramay said security had become a main issue in recent times, therefore, the military, security and intelligence agencies of both countries should devise joint operational mechanisms and implementation plans. "The military, security and intelligence coalition should focus on the international dimensions of threats and risks. It should jointly map the opponents, potential threats, actors of threats and fake friends and then based on this mapping launch joint operations to counter them," he said.

Mr Ramay said the opponents of CPEC had unleashed fifth-generation warfare on the mega project and started targeting it in a very systematic and sophisticated way.

"First they resorted to a narrative warfare by dubbing CPEC a debt trap, another East India Company and an attempt to capture Pakistani resources," he added.

"When this propaganda failed, the CPEC opponents launched hot warfare tactics by targeting Chinese nationals in Pakistan and attempted to create a wedge between both nations. It is part of a grand strategy to check China's peaceful rise by creating a web of chaos in its surroundings, but Pakistan has proved to be a stumbling block in achieving the goal," he said, adding that every effort was therefore being made to destabilise Pakistan. Suggesting ways to counter the narrative propaganda, he said Pakistan and China should set up solid platforms and rely on facts and data to counter the fifth-generation warfare.

"This is extremely important because opponents and enemies are actively building fake narratives to damage CPEC and bilateral relations between both countries," he said. On the economic front, he said Pakistan's tax system was complex and companies found it difficult to run their businesses smoothly. Besides, registering a company and getting an electricity connection or construction permit was a tedious process, he added.

Against this backdrop, he said the decision of Pakistan's civil and military leadership to change the business environment positively and set up the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) was welcoming. However, in order to improve its efficiency, the council should be made a powerful body that decided on its own and served as a one-stop for all services.

Mr Ramay said to strengthen cooperation and exploit the full potential of CPEC, Pakistan should learn from the Chinese system of economy, people-centric governance and the balanced role of state-owned enterprises as well as the private sector.

Ex-senator denied bail in Ch Adnan murder case

Judge approves pre-arrest bail of other suspects

By Mohammad Asghar

RAWALPINDI: Additional Sessions Judge Sohail Nasir on Thursday ordered the immediate arrest of former PML-N lawmaker Chaudhry Tanveer in a murder case while extending the pre-arrest bail of other suspects.

Chaudhry Tanveer along with MNA Danyal Chaudhry, Changez Khan, and Osama Chaudhry had been nominated in an FIR regarding the murder of independent candidate Chaudhry Adnan earlier this year.

During the hearing in which the judge ordered the arrest of the PML-N leader after the cancellation of his bail plea, a heavy contingent of police was deployed on the premises of the district courts. However, the judge extended the pre-arrest bail of Danyal Ch, Changez Khan, and Osama Chaudhry against surety bonds worth Rs 200,000 each. The decision had been reserved earlier this week and postponed twice by the judge before it was announced on Thursday.

Ch Adnan gunned down

Chaudhry Muhammad Adnan, 48, an independent candidate in the Feb 8 elections, was killed by unidentified motorcycle riders outside the Police Lines Headquarters in early February this year. The murder occurred in the Civil Lines area, which has already been declared as the 'red zone' in the garrison city. After the registration of the FIR by Chaudhry Nadeem Iqbal, brother-in-law of the deceased, the police launched an investigation to arrest the culprits.

According to the complainant, his brother-in-law Chaudhry Adnan was on his way to his residence in Jhanda Chichi in a black SUV with his aides, after negotiating a land issue at a housing society office. His vehicle was also accompanied by another car.

When the vehicles stopped at the traffic light near Jinnah Park, two unidentified persons wearing "shalwar kameez" came close to the driving seat of Ch Adnan's vehicle and started firing at him.

The FIR said that Adnan was hit in the neck, face, and other body parts while the assailants sped off on their motorcycle which was parked across the road. Chaudhry Adnan lost his life while being shifted to the Benazir Bhutto Hospital by the emergency service staff of Rescue 1122.

A day after the murder of ex-MPA, the Civil Lines police booked Chaudhry Tanveer, Danyal Chaudhry, and Changez Khan for their alleged involvement in the killing of the ex-lawmaker.

According to the FIR, "Chaudhry Adnan had a political rivalry with... Chaudhry Tanveer Khan, Chaudhry Changez Khan, Danyal Chaudhry, and Osama Tanveer" and that Ch Adnan often used say that "if any harm was done to him, these people would be responsible".

RDA issues notice to Bahria Town over 'violation' of LOP

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) has issued notice to Bahria Town for encroachments, plotting/cutting and circulating/re-charge in violation of approved layout plan (LOP) in Phase VIII of mouza Gali.

It also issued notices to the owners of two illegal housing schemes namely Zak City located in mouza Harnol, Gujar Khan and Hoon Farm House located in mouza Adiwal Tehsil Rawalpindi for starting development work and marketing without the approval from RDA.

According to a press release, RDA Director General Kinza Murtaza said RDA has issued notice to the owner of Bahria Town Phase VIII and two illegal housing schemes. She said that the illegal housing schemes are encouraging general public to buy plots fraudulently and stealing their life earned deposits.

She said that it had been directed Director Metropolitan Planning and Traffic Engineering branch to take action against illegal advertisements and marketing and register FIRs against owners of illegal housing schemes.

Moreover, she said that the sponsors of illegal housing schemes have been warned to stop the marketing of their unapproved/illegal housing scheme immediately and should contact RDA for getting NOC / approval of the scheme as per law, otherwise, strict legal action will be taken against them.

She said that the general public is requested in their interest to avoid making any kind of investment in illegal and unauthorized housing schemes.

She said that the public was also advised to check from RDA website www.rda.gop.pk before investing in housing schemes.

She said that the owners and sponsors of illegal housing schemes are misleading the public through advertisements. In this regard, the Planning Wing RDA has also requested the Cyber Crime Wing, FIA to take legal action against the illegal and misleading advertisements of illegal housing schemes to prevent the public from falling in their scams.

She said the above-mentioned offences committed by the owners of illegal housing schemes and also cognizable under rule 37 of Punjab Development Authorities Private Housing Schemes Rules, 2021. Legal action will be taken against them.

'Say no to plastic' drive launched

By Our Correspondent

TAXILA: The district administration of Attock observed Thursday as World Environment Day to mark the beginning of the 'Say no to plastic' campaign across the district.

The Punjab government has announced a ban on plastic bags across the province from June 5.

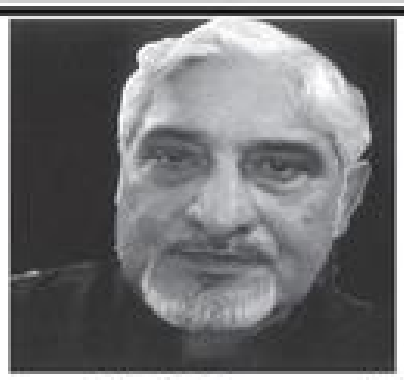
A walk was organised in Attock to create awareness of the effects of plastic shopping bags. Additional deputy commissioner general Ameer Saeed led the walk which was attended by additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Waqar Aslam Marth, Assistant Commissioner city Shagufta Jabin, Chief Officer Attock Municipality Sardar Afzal Ahmed Khan and others.

The walk started at Committee Chowk and concluded at Tawara Chowk. The participants were carrying placards inscribed with environment-friendly slogans, including "No to plastic bags", "Cleanliness is half faith, "Plastic bags are enemies of the environment and 'Put the trash in dustbins'. Pamphlets regarding government ban on sale and use of plastic bags were also distributed among traders, shopkeepers and the general public.

Later, additional deputy commissioner general Ameer Saeed briefed the media about the campaign regarding the ban on the use of plastic bags. He said Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz had approved the ban on the use of plastic bags from June 5. He called for the need to involve the youth to support the campaign, saying plastic bags, emission and pollution were a matter of concern for all members of society.

Mr Saeed added that the district administration had implemented a zero-tolerance policy to ensure the ban on plastic shoppers and other items.

Responding to a question, he said that the alternative products for plastic-like cloth bags and other degradable plastic would be introduced in the city before penalising the citizens and the district administration was holding meetings with traders and other stakeholders in that regard.



ZAHEER Ahmed (Bhappi)

Its been 3 years since you left us

تو جو نہیں ہے تو کچھ بھی نہیں ہے
یہ مانا کہ محفل جوان ہے حسیں ہے

Mrs. Anjum Zaheer & Kids

(BSB-P)

GOVERNMENT OF GILGIT-BALTISTAN
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
C&W DEPARTMENT GB KHARMANG

NO. EE-Cash-Khmg-1(02)/2023-24/315 Dated: 4th June 2024

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
(CONSULTANCY SERVICES)

1. Gilgit-Baltistan Communication and Works Department intends to hire/engage consultant (Engineering organization/firm) for consultancy services for "Feasibility study for Construction of RCC Bridges Bacho over Indus River, RCC Bridge Harbot Roundu, Asad Zaidi Shaheed Delta (RCC) Bridge over Indus River at Pari Kharmang, RCC Bridge at Bilango (Mussa) in District Kharmang and RCC Bridge at Dumsum District Ghanche" with approaches for estimated cost @ Rs 41.550 Million.
2. Proposals are invited from reputable consultants (Engineering organizations/firms).
   (i) Having PEC registration in relevant field with relevant experience as mentioned in the RFP.
   (ii) Registered with Income Tax and Sales Tax Departments and on Active Taxpayers List of the Federal Board of Revenue for National and International consultants.
3. Tender documents can be purchased from the office of the Executive Engineer C&W Kharmang during office working hours on a written request on firms letterhead accompanied pay order/demand draft on cash payment amounting to Rs. 5000/- non-refundable in favor of Executive Engineer C&W Department Kharmang.
4. Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on 24-06-2024 in the office of the Superintending Engineer Chairman Procurement Committee at Circle Office near Baltoro Rest House at Skardu.
5. Bidding will be carried out by adopting **"Single Stage Two Envelopes"** Procedure. The proposal completed in all respects in accordance with the instructions provided in RFP documents in sealed envelopes should reach on or before 27-05-2024 in C&W Office B&R Kharmang Mehdiabad and be clearly marked "Feasibility Study for Construction of RCC Bridges Basho over Indus River, RCC Bridge Harbot Roundu, Asad Zaidi Shaheed Delta (RCC) Bridge over Indus River at Pari Kharmang RCC Bridge at Bilango (Mussa) in District Kharmang and RCC Bridge at Dumsum District Ghanche with approaches".
6. The technical bids must be accompanied by a bid security amounting to Rs. 0.891 milion (Rupees Eight Lac Ninety-One Thousand only) in shape of call deposit by a scheduled bank of Pakistan in favor of Employer.
7. Bidders are required to submit their bids strictly in accordance with the instructions given in RFP. Proposal must be prepared in hard book binding form to deny the possibility of addition are removal of page(s).
8. The technical proposal shall be opened on the same day at 1200 hours, where the financial proposals of the technically qualified firms shall be opened after finalization and announcement of technical evaluation report.
9. All the applicable Federal, provincial and local taxes must be considered while preparing the financial proposals. All the taxes except GST are required to be built in the quoted rates and not be mentioned separately.
10. The firms/consultants providing unsubstantiated and/or incorrect information are liable to legal action and/or disqualification.
11. In case of Gazetted holiday/local holiday, the bids shall be opened on the next working day without further intimation.
12. This advertisement is also available on PPRA website www.ppra.org.pk
13. The authority reserves the right to reject all proposals as per GB PPRA Rules 2022.

(ENGR. ZIA-UR-REHMAN)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
SECRETARY PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE
C&W DEPARTMENT B&R DIVISION KHARMANG
Tele No. 05815-926016 Fax No. 05815-926027

IOGB-340/24 (058-G)

ٹینڈر نوٹس

Rs. 1,27,000/- Rs. 83,42,000/- #2024-25

سیریل نمبر	ٹینڈر کا نام	ٹینڈر کی رقم	ٹینڈر فیس	کل رقم	ٹینڈر فیس	ٹینڈر کی رقم (بشمول ٹیکس)
1	[illegible]	9000 روپے	7750 روپے	9000 روپے	22750 روپے	2-10000 روپے
2	[illegible]	-	150 روپے	-	150 روپے	1000 روپے

Rs. 42,400/- Rs. 21,20,000/- #2024-25

سیریل نمبر	ٹینڈر کا نام	ٹینڈر کی رقم	ٹینڈر فیس	کل رقم	ٹینڈر فیس	ٹینڈر کی رقم (بشمول ٹیکس)
1	[illegible]	-	-	210 روپے	210 روپے	2000 روپے

Rs. 37,000/- Rs. 18,70,000/- #2024-25

سیریل نمبر	ٹینڈر کا نام	ٹینڈر کی رقم	ٹینڈر فیس	کل رقم	ٹینڈر فیس	ٹینڈر کی رقم (بشمول ٹیکس)
1	[illegible]	60 روپے	500 روپے	60 روپے	460 روپے	5500 روپے
2	[illegible]	-	80 روپے	300 روپے	380 روپے	4000 روپے
3	[illegible]	55 روپے	130 روپے	60 روپے	185 روپے	2200 روپے

شرائط: [illegible]

محمد عبدالصمد

INF (P) 1193/24 058-G

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DAWN

METRO Central

LAHORE Friday, June 7, 2024

LAHORE

Sunset	07:07 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	04:55 am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	28.0°C
Maximum	40.0°C
Outlook	Partly Cloudy

AQI

Maximum (Yesterday)	134

Saudis break through Pakistan to advance in World Cup qualifying

Pg.17 SPORT

FAISALABAD: Youngsters sort raw mangoes in an orchard along Millat Road. — APP

Punjab Assembly standing committees to have suo motu powers

Punjabi, Seraiki among indigenous languages to be allowed in PA

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: In a landslide move, a special committee of the Punjab Assembly has passed amendments to the assembly's rules of business, empowering the standing committees to take suo motu actions in their respective areas.

The MPAs have been demanding the powers since the 14th house (2002-08) of the provincial assembly and successive governments have been dragging their feet after making only promises to the effect.

The Special Committee-II, headed by Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan, held its maiden meeting on Thursday and considered proposed amendments aimed at reforming the assembly's operational procedures and strengthening governance, specifically with regards to the Rules of Procedure of the Provincial Assembly of Punjab, 1997.

Taking inspiration from the National Assembly, the Senate as well as other legislatures around the world, the panel passed the amendments aimed at "enhancing the legislative process, making it efficient, transparent, and accountable".

A significant amendment is granting suo motu powers to the standing committees, allowing them to independently examine matters without needing prior approval from the speaker. This change is intended to enhance the committees' effectiveness and responsiveness, making the legislature more democratic.

The committee also suggested including indigenous languages, like Punjabi, Seraiki, Pothohari and Mewati, as the languages of the house proceedings alongside Urdu and English. Earlier, a member had to seek special permission from the chair to speak in a language other than Urdu or English. The participants in the panel saw this move as a step towards decolonisation and to reflect and respect linguistic diversity of Punjab's population, promoting inclusivity within legislative discussions.

The body also proposed a code of conduct for the legislators designed to uphold ethical standards, integrity, and accountability among members, thereby enhancing the assembly's credibility.

It decided to designate the existing Business Advisory Committee as the "Committee on Ethics" responsible for reviewing and ensuring implementation of the code, establishing its procedural rules, and undertaking additional functions as assigned by the speaker.

The committee also considered measures to ensure and encourage public access to the assembly by accepting public petitions, either in hard or soft copy, on any issue and report to the house after collecting evidence as well as suggest remedial measures.The committees have also been allowed to make their proceedings public if them deemed fit.

Another major proposal under review was mandating that resolutions unanimously adopted by the house be binding on the cabinet. This ensures that such resolutions are implemented as part of the cabinet's collective responsibility, reinforcing the assembly's legislative authority.

Speaker Khan said that standing committees played a crucial role in the functioning of the parliamentary system of government, ensuring a system of checks and balances, and their establishment is a shared responsibility of all political parties.

The meeting commended Advocate

Continued on Page 14

Education CEO removed for sending incomplete data

TOBA TEK SINGH: The Punjab School Education secretary has directed Toba District Education Authority CEO Tahir Mansoor to immediately report to the provincial secretariat.

In his order, the secretary accused the CEO of furnishing incomplete information to the Punjab Assembly regarding a question about the data of department in Toba district.

He has been placed at the disposal of the provincial office.

Sources said local PML-N MPA Amjad Ali Javed had sent a question to the education minister about the missing facilities in the educational institutions of the district. The MPA later complained that incomplete and wrong data had been sent by the CEO.

SALES TAX: Imposition of sales tax on poultry feed will deprive public of the cheap source of protein, says FCCI acting president Dr Sajjad Arshad in a statement on Thursday.

He urged the government to avoid sales tax on food and food related items in the federal budget. He said apparently the government was trying to collect maximum revenue by taxing even essential food items. — **Correspondent**

Man attempts suicide after killing his wife

LAHORE: A man allegedly jumped from the rooftop of his house to commit suicide after killing his wife over a petty domestic issue in Ghaziabad area here on Thursday.

A police official said the suspect, Zohaib, and his wife Komal were not enjoying good relations due to petty family issues, and financial crunch they were facing.

He said Zohaib was said to be an addict and used to sell household items to buy drugs.

On Thursday, the couple exchanged hot words leading to a brawl. In a fit of anger, Zohaib attacked his wife with a knife and allegedly killed her on the spot and later jumped from the rooftop of his house.

He was rushed to hospital with multiple injuries, including bone fractures.

The police shifted the body of the woman to the city morgue and lodged a case against the suspected killer. — **Staff Reporter**

Plea against amends to NAB law admitted for hearing

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Thursday admitted for regular hearing a petition challenging fresh amendments made to the National Accountability (Amendment) Act, 2022 through an ordinance and issued notices to the federal government.

The petitioner's counsel, Azhar Siddique, argued that certain provisions of the NAB law had been amended through an ordinance without fulfilling the requisite criteria as there was no emergent situation for issuance of such an ordinance.

He said since the parliament was operational, the amendment to the law was just a way to pressurise PTI founder Imran Khan. The lawyer said that issuance of the ordinance by the acting president spoke volumes about the fact that it was politically motivated. He asked the court to set aside the impugned ordinance.

Deputy Attorney General Tahir Mahmood Khokhar argued that although the new amendments were not under challenge before the Supreme Court but the question relating to the period of remand of an accused arrested under the 1999 ordinance was directly sub-judice before the apex court. He said any decision by the apex court would have a direct bearing upon the amendment to Section 24 of the amendment Act, 2022; therefore, the high court could not conduct parallel proceedings.

The law officer further argued that the powers of the acting president to issue an ordinance could not be questioned, especially when the president was out of the country.

Justice Shujaat Ali Khan observed that the contentions made by both sides needed consideration. The judge directed the respondents to submit replies after summer vacations on Sept 17.

Lesco starts hours-long loadshedding

By Khalid Hasnain

LAHORE: In recent days, the Lahore Electric Supply Company (Lesco) has started observing hours-long power outages in various parts of Lahore and adjoining districts on the pretext of removing system constraints.

On the other hand, many localities have also been facing power disruptions due to sudden faults developing in the 11kV electricity feeders, *Dawn* has learnt.

"In the ongoing heatwave, we have been facing hours-long power shutdowns from morning to noon, off and on. This is being done at least for the last two years. Upon contact, we are always told by Lesco that all is being done to remove system constraints or upgrade the system," says Ahmad, a resident of Johar Town while talking to *Dawn*. "Besides, sometimes, we are also witnessing power disruption due to tripping or overloading of the system," he adds, requesting the authorities concerned to take notice of the situation.

Speaking to *Dawn*, Ikram, a resident of Satapur, says the services related to power supply in their area are, perhaps, the worst in the entire Lahore, as the residents have been facing loadshedding for almost five to eight hours daily.

"When we lodge complaints, the officials tell them as the loadshedding is being observed due to power theft in Satapur and other areas falling within service jurisdiction of high-loss feeders."

Ikram criticises the governance for treating power thieves and bill payers equally and urged the Lesco officers to ensure uninterrupted electricity to all such citizens as are paying their bills regularly. "Is it sin for bill

Continued on Page 14

Three killed, six injured by rivals in an ambush

MIANWALI: Unidentified armed suspects on Thursday morning ambushed a van near Kalooc Sharif on Mianwali-Bannu Road, killing three people on the spot and injuring six others, including two women.

Reports said the Mianwali-bound van was nearing Kalooc Sharif village when the assailants opened indiscriminate fire, killing three men and injuring six passengers. Rescue 1122 shifted the deceased and the injured to the Isakhel THQ Hospital.

The Isakhel police reached the spot and a team, led by Mianwali DPO Mobullah Khan, started an investigation.

According to a police press release, the incident resulted from an old enmity between the Nazir Khel and Kalo tribes of Mandakhel.

Police sources said personnel raided the houses of the alleged culprits, arresting six armed men and conducting further raids on the hideouts of the remaining suspects.

IGP Dr Usman Anwar has directed the Sargodha Range RPO and the Mianwali DPO to submit a report and ensure the arrest of all suspects. — **Correspondent**

'Land grabbing' by housing society

Police arrest media person for covering protest

By Asif Chaudhry

LAHORE: Police allegedly tortured and "arrested" a news channel anchorperson for covering the protest of residents against the owner of a private housing society in Sundar area here on Thursday.

Sources say that scores of residents of the Theme Park View housing scheme had gathered with the complaints, including land grabbing and suspension of electricity supply to them by the society management despite charging the fees.

The protesters alleged that three persons have been killed over land grabbing by the housing society management. The owner of the housing society is a retired policeman.

The sources say that a news channel anchorperson, Mian Imran Arshad, reached the site along with his team, including cameraman, to cover the protest.

Eyewitnesses say that the police deployed on the spot suddenly used force against the protesters, the arbed many of them and took some of them into custody.

They say as the anchorperson started covering the protest for his TV programme, the police personnel attacked him and his team, subjecting them to torture.

Some journalists alleged that the police misused their authority on the orders of the circle ASPs Amir Khan and Kamil Mushtaq to teach a lesson to the media persons for exposing the 'police brutality' against peaceful protesters.

Some video clips of the police torture also surfaced on social media, showing armed policeman thrashing a boy on the rooftop of a building for recording the torture scenes with his mobile phone. The footage also showed the policemen snatching the boy's mobile phone and taking him into custody. Similarly, some other video clips showed the police beating the protesters with clubs.

The eyewitnesses say the police bundled the anchorperson into a van and took him to police station for further action.

The arrest of the working journalist sparked resentment among the media community which declared it a case of harassment of media persons.

Some journalists later reached the police station to extend support to Mian Imran and strongly condemned the police action.

They regretted that incidents of violence against journalists continued to rise during the tenure of the PML-N government in Punjab.

Following the incident, Lahore Operations SSP Tanwar Iqbal and other senior police officers reached the police station, where they held negotiations with senior journalists present there.

The SSP told *Dawn* the matter has been resolved and the police have returned the cameras and other belongings of the journalists seized during the action.

To a question, he said the incident was caused because of a 'misunderstanding' between the police and the journalists, admitting that the way police 'arrested' the anchorperson was 'not reasonable'.

PTI's Aliya Hamza arrested again

SARGODHA: Gujranwala police arrested PTI ex-MNA Aliya Hamza when she came out of the Sargodha jail after getting bail in three cases registered by Mianwali police.

She had been confined to Sargodha jail since April 2, 2024, as she was framed in four cases registered with Kamar Mushani Police Station in connection with May 9 violence by PTI workers.

Aliya was not nominated at the time of registration of the FIR.

Meanwhile, PTI activist Sanam Javed was produced before an ATC in Gujranwala on Thursday in a May 9 case. The court granted her four-day physical remand to police which had sought 30-day remand.

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PRAYER

Fajr	3.18
Zuhr	1.00
Asr	4.58
Maghrib	7.07
Isha	8.44

Starting time in Lahore

REFLECTIONS

"WHOEVER FORSAKES TRUTH FINDS THAT HIS PATH OF LIFE HAS BECOME NARROW AND TROUBLESOME."

— HAZRAT ALI (A.S.)

(78AH-42)

Punjab...

Continued from Page 13

Usama Khawar for his efforts regarding drafting the amendments to the rules of procedure of the assembly.

Senior parliamentarians, both from the treasury and opposition, attended the meeting. Samiullah Khan, Ahmed Iqbal Chaudhry, Saeed Akbar Nawani, and Amina Hassan represented the treasury while Raza Aftab Ahmad Khan, Ahmer Rashid Bhatti, whose father has advocated for Punjabi language in the Assembly for decades, and Junaid Afzal Sahi represented the opposition benches.

Shehbaz lacks genuine authority: JI

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman has said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif lacks genuine authority, which is evident from his recent (mini) handling of petrol prices issue, says here on Thursday.

Speaking at a press conference here on Thursday, Mr Rehman pointed out that despite the prime minister's announcement of a Rs15 reduction in the petrol prices, he was unable to implement it. "When you secure seats with the support of the establishment and based on manipulated Form 47 results, you lack credibility."

He emphasised that the only solution to the country's problems lies in restoring the "true mandate" of the people.

Rehman alleged that former premier Nawaz Sharif accepted the National Assembly seat based on fraudulent votes, adding that the PML-N, the MQM, and the PPP have all stolen the people's mandate.

He stressed the need for a judicial commission to investigate election rigging.

Rehman contrasted the democracies of India and Pakistan, saying noting the democracy could never flourish in the country. He said Indian voters rejected the politics of hatred in the recent elections. He remarked that Modi's anti-Muslim and anti-minority rhetoric failed in the polls.

In emerging scenario, Rehman called for a firm stance on Kashmir, demanding the foreign office and retired former army chief retired Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa should address the reports of compromising Pakistan's official position on Kashmir.

Rehman expressed concern over the significant increase in street crime and the targeted killing of the youth in Karachi, holding the PPP, MQM, and PML-N directly responsible for the crime wave in the port city. He accused the government of neglecting the sufferings of Karachi's residents, leaving them at the mercy of criminals. He vowed that Jamaat-e-Islami would advocate for the people of Karachi nationwide.

He also announced plans for launching a mass mobilization movement, after Eid.

UHS revises criteria for admission to Master, MPhil programmes

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The University of Health Sciences (UHS) Advanced Studies and Research Board (ASRB) has approved the MPhil/PhD committee's recommendation to revise the eligibility criteria for admission to MPhil and Master degree programmes.

Chaired by UHS Vice Chancellor Prof Ahsan Waheed Rathore, the 202nd meeting of the ASRB held here on Thursday.

Under the new criteria, candidates must achieve a minimum score of 75 per cent in the University's Postgraduate Entrance Test to be eligible for admission. Previously, the requirement was 50 per cent.

Additionally, the board waived the requirement of a minimum of two years of relevant experience for admission. Now, fresh graduates are eligible to apply for MPhil and Master's degree programmes at UHS.

The board considered 45 reports on thesis submitted by the students and also approved panel of examiners for thesis submitted by Sana Iqbal (Ph.D in Human Genetics & Molecular Biology), Osheen Sajjad (Ph.D in Human Genetics & Molecular Biology), Madiha Shakoor (Ph.D in Human Genetics & Molecular Biology), Shamaila Habib (Ph.D in Human Genetics & Molecular Biology) and Dr. Huma Saeed Khan (Ph.D in Physiology).

BREAST CANCER: The Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC) and the Pink Ribbon Pakistan on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for participating in breast cancer awareness activities.

PHEC Chairperson Dr Shahid Munir, Pink Ribbon Pakistan Chief Executive Officer Umar Aftab and six women's universities of Punjab signed the MoU at Arfa Karim Tower.

The main purpose of the ceremony was to highlight lack of awareness about breast cancer among women, resulting in their failure to get diagnosed at an early stage.

On the occasion, Dr Munir said the two entities would jointly work to promote breast cancer awareness through various activities in women's universities in Punjab.

Mr Aftab thanked Dr Munir for support for the cause by the PHEC.

Lahore College for Women University Vice Chancellor Dr Shagufta Naz, Home Economics University VC Dr Faiecha Zahra Kazmi, Rawalpindi Women University VC Dr Anila Kamal, Government College Women University Sialkot VC Dr Zareen Fatima Kirvi and Registrar of Women Sadiq University, Bahawalpur, Dr Fatima Madhar and Dr Salma from Government College Women University, Madina Town, Faisalabad, participated in the event.

According to the MoU, women's universities will support Pink Ribbon for academic studies, research and development projects, case studies and hospital business modelling. Seminars and workshops will also be conducted to highlight important aspects of breast cancer.

For this purpose, the universities will invite students, faculty members and alumni to contribute and raise funds for the awareness campaign.

Three human smugglers arrested

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Thursday arrested three human smugglers, including a woman, from different parts of the province.

According to the FIA, suspect Ayesha was arrested in Lahore for fleecing complainants on the promise of sending them to Thailand and the UAE on a work visa.

Similarly, suspects Ashraf and Yousaf had received handsome amount from complainants to send them to the UAE and Malaysia for arranging their work visas.

Ashraf has been arrested in Lahore while Yousaf in Rawalpindi. The three suspects have been booked by the FIA under relevant sections of anti-human smuggling law.

Juice companies write to Nawaz for FED abolition

LAHORE: The Fruit Juice Council has sought intervention by the PML-N leadership to save the packaged fruit juice industry from collapse under the burden of 20pc federal excise duty (FED) imposed in the last budget.

In a letter to PML-N president and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, it requested him to advise the federal government to abolish the FED in the forthcoming budget as it is directly impacting the economy of fruit farmers, especially Punjab, the value chain comprising pulping units and fruit juice makers, and also threatening $500 million export potential till 2028.

"We are appealing to PML-N leadership, Nawaz Sharif and Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, to recommend the abolishment of 20pc FED to protect the Punjab's agricultural sector," said FJC representative Astekah Mir Khan.

"Fruit farmers in Punjab are struggling due to low demand causing fruit wastage, and pulping units are doomed to shut, as the industry has crashed," she warned. "With the imposition of the FED in addition to 18 per cent GST in the budget 2023-24, industry volumes plunged by 41pc," she added.

The FJC members are fully compliant to federal and provincial food authorities and had an annual turnover of about Rs60 billion in 2022, employing more than 50,000 employees, she said.

"The government might have increased its revenue for this year because of the high taxation regime on juices in the financial year 2023-24, but this revenue will keep on falling year on year based on the drastic decline in volumes of the fruit juice industry," she said.

On the other hand, abolishing the FED would result in the government revenue generation increasing from second year, she added.

She said that by procuring mangoes, kinnow and guava in Multan, Sargodha, Rahim Yar Khan for conversion into pulp the industry is protecting the farmers' livelihood. — **Staff Reporter**

Lesco starts...

Continued from Page 13

payers to live in the areas of high-loss feeders," he raises the question.

Talking to *Dawn*, an official source in Lesco says the jobs related to removal of system constraints or upgrade of the system are always supposed to be completed in winters so that the consumers could be given uninterrupted power supply in summers.

"It is strange why the Lesco department concerned avoids following this policy," he wonders, urging the Lesco chief executive officer to look into such matters personally.

According to Lesco shutdown schedule, the company's field formations are observing power shutdowns time to time. On June 6, the company teams observed shutdowns for four hours (7am to 11am) in several localities, falling within the service jurisdictions of 48 feeders. The localities where shutdowns were observed included Johar Town, Kot Abdul Malik, Mangla Mandi, Raiwind, Industrial Area, Phoolnagar, Baghbanpura, Mughalpura, McLeod Road, Shahkot and Deepalpur.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for Lesco says 66 of the total 2,369 feeders developed technical faults that were removed in the time duration — 22 minute to four hours and 35 minutes. He claims the feeders falling in category-I have been facing three hours outages daily, followed by category four and five which are witnessing four and five hours loadshedding, respectively.

The Lesco CEO was not available for comments.

GAS: Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited teams on Thursday severed 90 connections and imposed fines amounting to Rs1.2bn on consumers on account of gas theft and other illegalities.

In Lahore, the teams disconnected 12 connections on illegal use of gas. A team also lodged an FIR against a gas pilferer.

In Multan, the team disconnected 15 connections on illegal use of gas. The regional team of Sheikhupura disconnected four connections. In Faisalabad, the company severed two connections and also imposed a fine on gas theft cases.

In Bahawalpur, the team disconnected three connections. The regional team of Sahiwal severed two connections.

AITCHISON COLLEGE, LAHORE

TENDER NOTICE - SUPPLY OF GENERATORS

Aitchison College, Lahore invites sealed tenders for Single Stage Two Envelopes Bidding from the original ***manufacturers, authorized distributors, and sole agents only*** for Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Diesel Generating Sets with prime ratings of 350 KVA & 200 KVA and their essential accessories.

The tender documents containing detailed information, terms and conditions etc. can be obtained from the office of the undersigned on payment of Rs. 15000/- (non-refundable).

Bid Security of 3% of the total quoted amount is required to be submitted along with the Technical Proposal in the form of Pay Order/Demand Draft issued by a scheduled Bank in favor of Aitchison College Lahore.

Sealed bids are required to be delivered to the office of the ***Bursar, Aitchison College, Lahore*** latest by 11.00 am on 24th June, 2024. The proposals will be opened on the same day at 11.30 AM in the Accounts Office, Aitchison College Lahore. Bids should be clearly marked ***"Tender for Generator — Technical Proposal" & "Tender for Generator — Financial Proposal"***.

Aitchison College, Lahore reserves the rights to accept or reject any or all applications without assigning any reason thereof.

For further inquiry, please feel free to contact the Sub-Divisional Officer via email shahbaz@aitchison.edu.pk

Bursar
Aitchison College, Lahore
36317201-04; 36363063-66 111-363-063 Ext. 333
bursar@aitchison.edu.pk

(LHR-P)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Class Designation & Number Reserve Against Seats Available in the Punjab

Minister Main Secretary, Cabinet Division, Lahore

UPDATED

Provisional seats remaining vide number of applicants for the reserve available in Minister Seats Advertised on 31-05-2024 (Monday) vide advertisement No. 36-1/90, 31 Ministers qualified seats reserve be transferred on the same date of reserve i.e. 07th June 2024.

Therefore, following schedule is published for awareness of all the shortlisted candidates.

Name of Post	Concerned Minister
Public Prosecutor Generals Punjab	
Public Prosecutors	
Law Officer Punjab Law	07th June, 2024 (Friday) 11:00 am
Law Officers	
Physical	
Labour Law	
Security Board	
Tax Partners	07th June, 2024 (Friday) 12:00 pm
Senior Advocates	07th June, 2024 (Friday) 12:30 pm

Note: Expression and letters and line in Social consultation

Chief Minister & Governor Punjab

(Syed Mansoor Ali Shah)

PS-3013

AITCHISON COLLEGE LAHORE

Pre-qualification/Registration of Contractors/Firms/Services

Aitchison College, Lahore is interested to pre-qualification/registration of contractors/firms for construction/renovations/maintenance of College Buildings/provision of services as mentioned below:-

1) **NEW PROJECTS**
a. Construction/renovations of buildings, roads and other facilities.
b. Telecommunication, Electrical & Air Conditioning Installation.
c. Consultancy of Civil, Electrical, Mechanical Work and Computer Software, Hardware and Maintenance.
d. Gas/Tubewell/Water Supply
e. Solar Power Installation.

2) **SERVICES/REPAIRS/RENOVATION WORKS**
a. Mechanical/Electrical/Civil
b. Painting and Varnish
c. Catering and Decoration
d. Telecommunication
e. Computer LAN, WAN, Hardware and Software etc.
f. Termite Proofing and Chemicals
g. Fiber and Steel Fabrication

Interested parties when applying for pre-qualification/registration must provide the following requirements.

- Name, address, phone number, e-mail and profile of the firm/vendor.
- Copy of CNIC
- Copy of registration certificate of NTN & GST/PRA.
- Detail of reputable clients served during the last two years.
- Bank certificate along with last six months bank statement as proof of financial soundness of the firm/vendor.

PLEASE CLEARLY MENTION THE CATEGORY APPLYING FOR.

The applications / documents should reach the office of the Bursar, Aitchison College, Lahore on or before 24/06/2024. Aitchison College, Lahore reserves the rights to accept or reject any or all applications without assigning any reason thereof.

For further inquiry, please feel free to contact the Purchase Manager on the College Phone Nos. 36363063-66/ 111-363-063 Ext. 212 during office hours i.e. 9:00AM to 1:00 PM.
Email — shahbaz@aitchison.edu.pk

Bursar
Aitchison College
Lahore

(LHR-P)

AITCHISON COLLEGE LAHORE

Pre-qualification / Registration of Suppliers

Aitchison College, Lahore is interested for pre-qualification/registration of Parties willing to supply the following materials for the year 2024 - 2025:

a. Stationery-Schools and Offices
b. Laboratory Equipment and Chemicals
c. Furniture and Fixtures
d. Audio Video Equipment
e. Paint, Varnish & Chemicals
f. Computer Hardware & Peripherals
g. Building Material/Electrical/Sanitary/Plumbing/Hardware Items
h. Sports Equipment
i. Staff and Students Uniform
j. Crockery & Cutlery
k. Food Items
l. Medicine and Medical Equipment
m. Garden & Ground Items Plants, Seeds and Pesticides
n. Stables-Horse-Riding Equipment
o. Home Appliances
p. General Order Supplier

Interested parties when applying for pre-qualification/registration must provide the following requirements.

- Name, address, phone number, e-mail and profile of the firm/vendor
- Copy of CNIC
- Copy of registration certificate of NTN & GST/PRA.
- Detail of reputable clients served during the last two years.
- Bank certificate along with last six months bank statement as proof of financial soundness of the firm/vendor.

The applications/documents should reach the office of the

Bursar, Aitchison College, Lahore on or before 24-06-2024.

The registration requests should be clearly marked

"REGISTRATION / PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR SUPPLY OF MATERIAL"

Aitchison College, Lahore reserves the rights to accept or reject any or all applications without assigning any reason thereof.

For further inquiry, please feel free to contact the Purchase Manager

Phone Nos. 36363063-66 111-363-063 Ext. 212 during office hours i.e. 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Email : shahbaz@aitchison.edu.pk

Bursar
Aitchison College
Lahore

(LHR-P)

ADVERTISER

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+92-42-35758120-5 Ext. 3003
E-mail: classified.hr@dawn.com

COURT NOTICE

KHARIAN

IN the court of Ch Abdul Khan Civil Judge Khanewal. Suit for Possession. Title: Mubarak Ali Vs Taj Begum etc. To: Fazal Hussain son of Ghulam Haider, Naseem son of Shah Muhammad, Naseem Manzoor son of Manzoor Hussain R/o Channa Bhoja Tehsil Khanewal Distt Gujrat. Whereas service of defendants / respondents is not going to be effected through ordinary means. So, service of defendants / respondents is effected through proclamation in the newspaper. You, defendants / respondents are directed to appear in the court in person or through counsel on 13-06-24 at 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. (25TS3252653)

IN the court of Mr. Ehsan Nawaz Sahi Civil Judge/Family Judge Khanewal. Suit for Dowry Articles. Title: Shahnaz Akhtar Vs Ayesha Bibi etc. To: Ayesha Bibi W/o Bilal Anwar D/o Muhammad Arshad Caste Hojan Mu Hammad Arshad son of Allah Ditta, Manzoor Begum W/o Muhammad Arshad R/o Amin Kalan Tehsil Khanewal Distt Gujrat. Whereas service of defendants / respondents is not going to be effected through ordinary means. So, service of defendants / respondents is effected through proclamation in the newspaper. You, defendants / respondents are directed to appear in the court in person or through counsel on 12-06-24 at 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. (25TS3252652)

IN the court of Mr. Ehsan Nawaz Sahi Civil Judge/Family Judge Khanewal. Suit for Dissolution of Marriage. Title: Romaila Akram Vs Shah Nawaz son of Abid Hussain Caste Jutt R/o Hanj Tehsil Khanewal Distt Gujrat. Whereas service of defendants / respondents is not going to be effected through ordinary means. So, service of defendants / respondents is effected through proclamation in the newspaper. You, defendants / respondents are directed to appear in the court in person or through counsel on 13-06-24 at 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. (25TS3252651)

IN the court of Mr. Ehsan Nawaz Sahi Civil Judge/Family Judge Khanewal. Suit for Maintenance of Recovery. Title: Bushra Alam Vs Sajad Ahmad son of Rehmat Khan Caste Mughal R/o Jhamdayach Tehsil Khanewal Distt Gujrat. Whereas service of defendants / respondents is not going to be effected through ordinary means. So, service of defendants / respondents is effected through proclamation in the newspaper. You, defendants / respondents are directed to appear in the court in person or through counsel on 13-06-24 at 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. (25TS3252650)

NOWSHERA VIRKAN

IN the Court of Mr. Malik Khawar Hayat Tahsildar Nowshera Virkan Distt Gujranwala. Application Tasleem Avaj (Execution Petition) Title: Khalid Magsood etc Vs Muhammad Mushtaq etc. To: Muhammad Mushtaq son of Kangan Caste Gujar R/o Dera Gujran Radio Bazaar Near Jinnah Road P.O Wahadat Colony Gujranwala. Zeeab Bibi D/o Muhammad Alam, Muhammad Rashid Son, Rabia Bibi D/o Shakar Muhammad, Bilqees Hanif W/o Muhammad Hanif, Rahmat Bibi (Daughter), Khalid Hussain, Muhammad Arif, Muhammad Ramzan, Khadim Hussain sons of Allah Ditta, Naseem Latif, Nadeem Rizwan, Irfan Latif, Imran Naveed Latif, Muddassar Latif Sons, Rabia Anam Latif D/o Muhammad Latif, Liaqat Ali (Husband) Farhat Bibi, Jamil Ashfaq Bhi, Shahid Iqbal, Imran Muhammad Iqbal sons, Yasmeen Iqbal, Fouzia Nureen Majid, Nafeesa Iqbal, Sher Bano Fatima Iqbal, Zahra Khatoon Iqbal D/o Muhammad Iqbal, Muhammad Arif (Husband), Shahzad Arif, Muhammad Farooq Arif, Muhammad Arshad Arif, Muhammad Arif sons, Zahra Khatoon Arif D/o Irshad Bibi Caste Jutt Arfad R/o Mouza Chabba Sindhwan Tehsil Nowshera Virkan Distt. Gujranwala. Qaiser Mehmood son of Noor Muhammad caste Gujar R/o out of country Canada. You are directed to appear in above filed suit on 11-06-24 at 09:00 am otherwise ex-parte proceeding will be initiated against you. (25TS3252654)

CHINA

IN the Court of Zafar Farid Hashmi (Civil Judge 1st Class) (Commercial Court, Lahore, Pakistan) (Suit for Declaration, Damages, Recovery) Case Title: **RICE WORLD V M/S SATAKE CORPORATION** . Notice to **SATAKE MANUFACTURING (SUZHOU) CO. LTD** - 209 Jin Feng Road, Suzhou New District, Suzhou City, Jiangsu Province, 215129, China Whereas service of defendants is not going to be effected through ordinary means, so service of defendants be affected through proclamation in the Newspaper as per court order. You defendants are directed to appear in the court in person or through counsel on 9th June, 2024 on 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you (25TS3252647)

INDIA

IN the Court of Zafar Farid Hashmi (Civil Judge 1st Class) (Commercial Court, Lahore, Pakistan) (Suit for Declaration, Damages, Recovery) Case Title: **RICE WORLD V M/S SATAKE CORPORATION** . Notice to **SATAKE INDIA ENGINEERING PVT. LTD** 6th Floor, Tower1, HB Tech Towers, A (I, II, 3, 4, Relay Subhash Place, Wazirpur District Centre, New Delhi, 110034, India. Whereas service of defendants is not going to be effected through ordinary means, so service of defendants be affected through proclamation in the Newspaper as per court order. You defendants are directed to appear in the court in person or through counsel on 6th June, 2024 on 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you (25TS3252648)

THAILAND

IN the Court of Zafar Farid Hashmi (Civil Judge 1st Class) (Commercial Court, Lahore, Pakistan) (Suit for Declaration, Damages, Recovery) Case Title: **RICE WORLD V M/S SATAKE CORPORATION** . Case No. **198465333** . Notice to **SATAKE ASIA CO LTD** . Office No. 101, True Digital Park Griffin Building, 14th Floor, Unit No. 1407, Sukhumvit Rd Bangchak, Phra Khanong Bangkok, 10260, Thailand. Whereas service of defendants is not going to be affected through ordinary means, so service of defendants be affected through proclamation in the Newspaper as per court order. You defendants are directed to appear in the court in person or through counsel on 04th June, 2024 on 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you (25TS3252646)

RESIDENTIAL RENTAL AVAILABLE

LAHORE

DHA

DHA Lahore prime location, Kanal Bungalow fully furnished/unfurnished 4 bedrooms, Drawing, Dining, Lounge, Kitchen, Maid Room, Garden, very reasonable rent. Contact please 0321-5013365. (25TS3252350)

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Woman killed, 'set ablaze by in-laws'

MUZAFFARGARH: A woman was allegedly killed and set ablaze by her in-laws in Jatoi Tehsil's Mouza Jungleewala.

Complainant Wajid Iqbal, brother of Samina Bibi, stated that his sister had married Muhammad Asif alias Kalu three years ago.

On Wednesday night, while sitting with his cousin and uncle, Wajid heard his sister's cries for help. He and his relatives rushed to the scene to find Samina being tortured by Asif and his brothers Arif, Adeel, and Anwar.

They attempted to rescue her but Asif opened fire and threatened them. The assailants sprinkled petrol on her and set her on fire.

The Jatoi police reached the spot and initiated action against the suspects.

Jatoi SHPO Khalid Bilal said a case was registered against four suspects under sections 302 and 34 of Pakistan Penal Code.

DPO Syed Hassain Haider said the Punjab Forensic Science Agency and others were collecting evidence at the scene.

IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar took notice of the incident and ordered DPO Syed Hassain Haider to personally investigate the matter and submit a report. — **Correspondent**

'Refusal to register a case'

26 lawyers booked for storming police station, threatening SHO

By Our Correspondent

SARGODHA: A case has been registered against 26 lawyers, six of them nominated, allegedly for shouting slogans inside the city police station and threatening the police officers with dire consequences on Thursday.

As per police report, lawyers Umar Joya, Safir Abbas, Zain Mushtaq Gujjar, Atif Mirza, Akbar Bhatti, Rana Shah, along with their 15-20 unidentified colleagues arrived at the police station and started pressurizing Station House Officer (SHO) Rana Asad Owais for registration of a case.

They said when the SHO told them that as the matter was in the court, he could not register the case, the lawyers chanted slogans, shouted at the police officers present there and threatened them with serious consequences.

On the other hand, the lawyers alleged that the SHO was biased and refused to register a case as per law.

Later, the police registered a case against 26 lawyers under sections 353, 186 and 506 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) for interfering in the official work and started investigation.

PROTEST: The office-bearers of the local goods transport association have warned of a wheel jam strike if the traffic police did not stop imposing "unjustified" fines and impounding their vehicles.

Staging a protest demo here on Thursday, the association members shouted slogans against the local traffic police, also accusing the officials of misbehaving with the drivers and helpers.

They alleged that even on minor issues, the traffic police officials impound their vehicles, terming it their "economic murder".

They said that on Wednesday, a trailer carrying goods fell into a canal as its driver got panicked because traffic police were chasing the vehicle. They said the incident not only resulted in a heavy damage to the trailer, but also to the goods it was carrying.

They said because of impounding of the trailers, the goods, including life-saving drugs, got damaged.

They warned if the traffic police did not improve their conduct, the transport owners would go on a wheel jam strike in all districts, expanding the scope of their protest to the entire Punjab.

ACQUITTED: Additional Sessions Judge Iftikhar Ahmed acquitted two accused persons who were arrested by police for allegedly fracturing the fingers of a complainant's son, on the basis of a bogus medical certificate, and authorised them to take legal action against the hospital staff for issuing the fake document.

According to the court sources, Tahir Iqbal and Hamat, both residents of Mian Amir Colony, Dhariwa, were charged with severely torturing Tajmal Abbas, the young son of their opponent, Khurram Abbas, allegedly resulting in multiple fractures to his fingers.

The complainant had submitted a medical certificate in the court issued by Sargodha District Headquarters Hospital to prove the fractures.

The two accused had been arrested by Jhal Chakian police in a case registered under sections 337-f5, 337-f1, 337-f2, 148 and 149 of the PPC and sent to jail.

However, when they were presented in the court, the judge ordered their examination by a medical board, which in its report declared the injuries self-inflicted.

In the light of the report, the court acquitted the accused ordering their release, and allowed them to take legal action against the DHQ hospital doctor who issued the bogus medical certificate.

'By-laws to regulate hair transplant surgeries in the offing'

By Waseem Ashraf Butt

GUJRAT: Amidst the growing concern at the illegal and unlicensed clinics being operated by non-qualified technicians for hair transplant procedures, the Hair Restoration Society of Pakistan (HRSP) and Punjab Healthcare Commission (PHC) are reportedly working to chalk out the by-laws.

This was stated by Dr Jawad Chaudhry, the secretary general of the HRSP, while speaking to *Dawn* here on Thursday.

Stressing steps to regulate hair transplant procedures in the country, he said introducing such by-laws might help the PHC and the HRSP have safer practices in Punjab.

"These regulations are aimed at safeguarding the patients and elevating the standards of hair transplant surgeries across the region."

The rise in demand for hair transplant surgeries has unfortunately led to the surge in unlicensed clinics run by untrained individuals, often resulting in botched procedures and severe complications for patients, said Dr Chaudhry.

Recognizing this alarming trend, the HRSP has been in continuous contact with the PHC since 2019, providing significant material and insights on how to control quackery and establish minimal standards for hair transplant surgery, he said and added that the key provisions of the proposed by-laws were that all clinics offering hair transplant services must obtain proper licenses from the PHC.

Only licensed medical professionals with specialized training in hair restoration should be permitted to perform these surgeries whereas the clinics must adhere to stringent hygiene and safety standards which included maintaining a sterile environment, use of approved surgical instruments, ensuring the availability of emergency medical equipment.

Dr Jawad Chaudhry suggested that the clinics must provide comprehensive information to patients about the procedure, potential risks and expected outcomes while obtaining informed consent must be mandatory before any surgery whereas guidelines for post-operative care must be clearly communicated to patients. He said the clinics should be made responsible for providing follow-up consultations and addressing any complications that might arise.

Revealing other salient features of the proposed by-laws, the HRSP office-bearer said any adverse events or complications must be promptly reported to the PHC and clinics found violating these regulations should face severe penalties, including revocation of their licenses and legal action.

The HRSP has already shared various case studies, expert opinions and data on best practices in hair transplant surgery with the PHC for the proposed by-laws to improve the standards of medical practice, Dr Jawad said and expressed hope that the introduction of these by-laws could mark a significant step towards eradicating quackery in the hair transplant sector of Punjab.

TENDER NOTICE

PAKISTAN RANGERS (PUNJAB)

1. Sealed tenders for supply of stationary items are invited from the Government registered firms on free delivery basis at Headquarters Pakistan Rangers (Punjab), Ghazi Road Lahore-33 **for the period upto 30 Jun 2025**. Tender form alongwith detailed specifications can be obtained from Ordnance Branch Headquarters Pakistan Rangers (Punjab) Lahore upto 27 Jun 2024 at the cost of Rs.3,000/- (in cash) which is nonrefundable.

2. Tenders / Offers will be opened on 28 Jun 2024 at 1100 hours and can be deposited before **1000 hours** on same day. Firm registered with this Headquarters will deposit 2% and un-registered firms will deposit 5% earnest money in favour of **"Director General Pakistan Rangers (Punjab) Lahore"** by pay order or bank draft, which is refundable. All firms will mention their sales tax registration and **NTN** number in their quotation. Director General Pakistan Rangers (Punjab) reserves the right to reject any or all proposal / bids at any time prior to the acceptance of bid or proposal. This tender is also available at PPRA Website www.ppra.org.pk as well as on Headquarters Pakistan Rangers (Punjab) website www.pakistanrangerspunjab.com.

Station: LAHORE 3 Jun 2024

Colonel For Director General Pakistan Rangers (Punjab)

(Sheraz Lateef Khan)

PID(L)3471 Phone No. 04299220037

Conserve Electricity to Reduce Load Shedding

JOB OPPORTUNITIES ON CONTRACT BASIS

Lahore Electric Supply Company Limited (LESCO), incorporated under the Companies Ordinance 1984, is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP). LESCO is licensed to distribute and supply electricity to its more than 6.47 million valued consumers with 19202 employees, within defined geographical areas of Lahore, Kasur, Sheikhupura, Okara and Nankana Districts.

LESCO invites applications through **M/s Open Testing Service (OTS)** to fill the following posts on an open contract on lump sum pay package.

Sr. No.	Position	Required Qualification and Experience	Age Limit as on Closing Date	No. of Posts	Allocation of Posts (Quota Position)
1	**Assistant Manager/ Junior Engineer (Electrical)**	▪ B.Sc. / B.E degree in Electrical / Electronic Engineering with 1st Division from Universities recognized by HEC ▪ PEC valid registration as Electrical/ Electronic Engineer	Up to 33 year	21	Open Merit = 02 Punjab (Open) = 09 Punjab (Women) = 01 Punjab (Minorities) =01 Sindh Rural (Open)=02 Sindh Urban (Open)=02 KPK (Open) = 02 Baluchistan (Open) = 01 FATA = 01
2	**Assistant Manager (Customer Services)**	▪ M.Sc (Phy) / MA(Stat) / MA (Math) / MA (Eco)/ M.Com/MBA/M.Sc (Computer Sciences/ B.Sc. engineering (with valid PEC registration) from HEC recognized University/Institute	Up to 33 year	07	Open Merit = 01 Punjab (Open) = 04 Sindh Rural (Open)=01 KPK (Open) = 01
3	**Assistant Manager (Accounts)**	▪ CA inter/ICMA inter **OR** ▪ MBA (Finance) / M.Com. / BBA (Hons), sixteen years education in accounting or finance from HEC recognized University / Institute with 2 years' experience	Up to 33 year	03	Open Merit = 01 Punjab (Open) = 02
4	**Assistant Manager (HR)**	▪ MBA / MPA / MA in HR / M.Sc. Computer Science/Statistics/Master Degree in English or equivalent from HEC recognized University/ Institute. ▪ Minimum two 1st divisions from Matric to Master level. ▪ Capable of operating computer with special emphasis on windows and MS office application	Up to 33 year	03	Open Merit = 01 Punjab (Open) = 02

NOTE

- **Detailed Job Description / Skill Set and other specification of each posts are available on OTS and LESCO website.**
- **Applicants are advised to read the following instructions carefully before filling online application available on Open Testing Service (OTS) website with this advertisement.**
- **The applicants are advised to fill correct information (personal, academic and experience) in the online application. Any change after submission of application will not be accepted.**

INSTRUCTIONS & GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. **All appointments shall be purely on contract basis at market based lump sum package, non-pensionable, with no long term benefits and shall not be converted into permanent positions at later stage.**
2. Applicants will be on six months' probation period.
3. M/s Open Testing Service (OTS) will charge 50% of fee openly from applicant & rest of 50% shall be paid by LESCO, therefore, each applicant will pay **Rs 80/-** to the testing agency.
4. Candidate's degrees having Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) will be evaluated with HEC standard chart available on HEC website.
5. Only those candidates who have completed their degree are eligible to apply. Candidates to whom final result card has not been issued or result awaited shall not be considered.
6. Candidates already serving in Government / Semi-Government Organization / Autonomous Bodies / SOEs should apply through proper channel. Advance copy of the application, however, may be forwarded without obtaining NOC. The candidate will not be allowed to appear in the interview, if he fails to produce NOC from concerned department.
7. General age relaxation has already been included in the age mentioned above. No further age relaxation is allowed in the prescribed age limit except for candidates belonging to scheduled castes and Buddhists are allowed 3 years age relaxation and the government servants who have completed two years continuous government service on the closing date shall be allowed 10 years relaxation in upper age limit.
8. All relevant Quotas will be observed as mentioned against each posts.
9. Candidates applying for more than one post must apply separately for each post.
10. **Minimum passing marks in written test will be 50%.**
11. **Computer knowledge (including MS Office, Windows, Internet & E-mail etc.) is compulsory for the posts mentioned above.**
12. **Only qualified candidates meeting with eligibility criteria mentioned against each post will be allowed to appear in Written Test. Mere passing of written test does not qualify any candidate for employment.**
13. Selected candidates can be posted anywhere under the jurisdiction of LESCO as per requirement of the company.
14. LESCO reserves the right to decrease/increase the number of posts and cancel the whole recruitment process at any stage without assigning any reason.
15. Dismissed / screened out employees of any organization or having criminal record are not eligible for employment in LESCO. The clearance of character and antecedents of the candidates from the agencies / police shall be mandatory without which no candidate shall be selected.
16. **Concealment or misrepresentation of facts at any stage will lead to disqualification of a candidate from the current recruitment and from all types of tests/exams to be conducted by the LESCO for recruitment in future. All academic certificates / degree, domicile and police verification shall be verified from respective issuing authority. In case of bogus / fake submission of documents, the employment so offered shall be withdrawn ab-initio and salaries paid will be recovered.**
17. Any query raised by the applicant at any stage may be resolved at the level of M/s OTS within stipulated time relating to shortlisting, written test and any other associate matters.
18. Any litigation pertaining to recruitment tests will be dealt by the testing agency at its own without any liability whatsoever on LESCO.
19. No TA / DA will be paid for Written Test / Interview.
20. Incomplete applications and the applications received after due date will not be considered. Late submission of applications by Courier Service will have no binding upon LESCO and Testing Agency.
21. **Last date for receipt of applications is 25.06.2024.**

HOW TO APPLY

i. Please visit OTS Website: www.ots.org.pk for online / offline registration and submission of application.
ii. Test fee will be charged to candidates @ **Rs.80/-** per applicant. Test fee shall be paid in any branch of BANK ALFALAH, HBL or ABL on prescribed Bank Challan downloadable from website : www.ots.org.pk
iii Candidates are required to send complete prescribed application form along with attested copies of all educational documents, domicile certificate, CNIC and other relevant documents/experience certificates, two recent passport size photographs as well as original fee challan through courier service/Pakistan post etc. to:
Manager Operation (LESCO) Open Testing Service Office No.1, Central Avenue, Bahria Town Phase-VII, ISLAMABAD
iv. Applications submitted by hand or received after due date will not be entertained.
v. After applying for post(s), applicants are advised to regularly check Testing Agency website: www.ots.org.pk for important announcement (procedure for roll numbers slip/ written test schedule/Result etc.) related recruitment against stated posts.

For further information, please contact: UAN: +92 051 111 687 222, info@ots.org.pk

WARNING:
Candidates are advised that nobody can help you in the selection process, so do not make any contact to any such person who claims that he / she can make your selection possible. LESCO's selection process is transparent according to Government of Pakistan / Ministry of Energy / BOD LESCO approved rules and regulations, so nobody can help any candidate.

HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR
Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) (LHR-G)
22-A Queens Road, Lahore. Email: www.lesco.gov.pk DMPM/2023/2023-26

PID(L) 3468 LAHORE ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY

Join Rescue 1122 to Save Lives

STAFF REQUIRED FOR DISTRICTS

No.	Name of Posts	BPS	Requisite Qualifications
1	Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)	11	Nursing or Paramedical Degree or Diploma (2nd Division) from a recognized Board, Council or University. Age 20 - 30 Years.
2	Maintenance Technician (MT)	11	Diploma of Associate Engineering (Mechanical) or Technical Diploma (Mechanical) (2nd Division) from a recognized institution. Age 20-30 Years.
3	Rescue Driver (LTV)	5	Secondary School Certificate (2nd division) from a recognized board and having valid LTV license. Age 20 - 30 Years.

No.	Districts	MT	EMT	LTV	No.	Districts	MT	EMT	LTV	No.	Districts	MT	EMT	LTV
1	Attock	-	4	4	9	Jhang	1	8	11	17	Sadiqa Yar Khan	-	13	13
2	Bahawalpur	-	8	8	10	Jhelum	-	4	4	18	Rawalpindi	-	13	13
3	Chakwal	-	4	4	11	Khanewal	-	4	4	19	Rajanpur	1	11	1
4	Dera Ghazi Khan	1	19	7	12	Lahore	-	8	8	20	Sargodha	-	4	4
5	Faisalabad	1	11	4	13	Mianwali	-	8	8	21	Sheikhupura	-	8	8
6	Gujrat	-	42	24	14	Multan	-	8	8	22	Sialkot	-	4	4
7	Gujranwala	-	13	13	15	Nankana Sahib	-	4	4	23	Toba Tek Singh	-	13	13
8	Hafizabad	-	4	4	16	Narowal	1	13	1					

How to Apply

Candidates are directed to apply online on Online Testing Service (OTS) website www.ots.org.pk or link available in CTS website www.rescue.gov.pk latest by 24-06-2024.
Candidates are directed to send their hard copy by Postal mail to Central Testing Service. (CTS will not accept the forms by hand).

Only complete filled online applications fulfilling the requisite criteria shall be accepted. All the documents are accepted provisionally and offer of appointment is subject to verification of documents. False applications, incomplete/missing documents by the medical board constituted by Government of the Punjab.

Written and psychological aptitude tests of qualifying shall be sent of disqualified persons are mentioned at final on video which can be downloaded from CTS & CSD websites after one week of last date of submission of application. Some Original CNIC and Mail Number CNIC is mandatory for test entry. Candidates are not allowed to bring cell phones in the examination centers. Change of test center, category is not allowed. The examination will be conducted through CTS & CSD website.

All candidates qualifying both written and psychological / aptitude tests shall be eligible for Physical and Skill Tests. The list of qualifying candidates for Physical & Skill Tests shall be displayed on CTS & CSD websites along with the Physical and Skill tests Dates and venues. The date, time and venue conducted as displayed given by the CTS.

The final list of candidates qualifying for interviews along with the interview schedule shall be displayed on CTS & CSD websites. The interviews shall be conducted at the Emergency Services Department Headquarters & Academy located in Thokar Niaz Baig, Lahore. At the time of interview candidates shall present original documents along with three sets of attested copies of all the relevant documents and six passport size pictures and any subject a medical report issued by the Government Teaching Hospital or DHQ Hospital regarding their physical examination height, weight, chest, expansion and physical deformities and tattooed mark on respective body, left and right of the front of physical test. Candidates have to satisfy their eligibility as per advertised criteria. The candidates' selection/appointment shall be cancelled at any stage of recruitment or training and even after appointment, in case any information is found to be missing, false or forged. No relaxation in age or qualification (Entry-Level) shall be given.

Any person with weak eyesight, already with 6/6 (6 in above and inevitable 6 & 9), 6/9 and 9/9 positive shall be disqualified at any stage. Preference will be given to the candidates with height more than 5.8" whereas minimum chest size will be 35". Candidates are directed to apply only for one suitable post. However appropriate candidate may be adjusted against other suitable post on recommendation of the Recruitment Committee. Service may increase or decrease posts depending on availability.

Local residents as per DMC will be given preference. 5% quota shall be reserved for minorities and 15% quota shall be reserved for females. Shortcuts can also apply. In case of the large number of applicants, only applications with prescribed qualifications criteria shall be considered.

If any candidate has any complaint at any stage of recruitment, he/she may contact CTS Recruitment Complaints Redressal Cell by emailing to CTS at query@ctspak.com or by calling or messaging helpline numbers given below.

Central Testing Service
Suite No. 4-5, 1st Floor, Jail Heights, Main Boulevard, Gulberg III, Lahore.
042-35755548, 0300-8532200 WhatsApp www.ctspak.com

24-06-2024

Emergency Services Department Government of the Punjab
www.rescue.gov.pk

(LHR-G) PPL-5357

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DAWN

METRO North

PESHAWAR Friday, June 7, 2024

PESHAWAR

Sunset	07:26pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	04:56am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	23°C
Maximum	37°C
Outlook	Partly Cloudy

Saudis break through Pakistan to advance in World Cup qualifying

Pg.17 SPORT

OFFICIALS of agriculture department inspect the "Onion Seeds Production Project" in Arang area of Bajaur. The initiative meant to enhance local agricultural capacity and produce quality onion seeds has been launched in the district a few months ago by Directorate of Agricultural Research Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with the financial assistance of USAID's Economic Recovery and Development Activity in collaboration with Akora Seeds Company. According to local agriculture department, this pilot project is the first such initiative in the district where the land is most suitable for onion crop. — Photo and text by Anwarullah Khan

Court reserves judgement on plea against postponement of Senate polls in KP

Petitioner Azam Swati wants decision of ECP declared illegal

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court on Thursday reserved its judgment over a petition challenging the decision of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to link Senate polls in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to oath of opposition members elected on reserved seats for women and non-Muslims.

A bench comprising of Justice Syed Mohammad Attiqur Shah and Justice Shakeel Ahmad heard arguments advanced by lawyers appearing for petitioner Azam Khan Swati and ECP.

Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf leader and former senator Azam Swati had challenged the ECP's March 28 orders about the possible postponement of Senate polls in the province. He had requested the court to order ECP to hold Senate polls in the province on April 2 as scheduled.

The petition was filed on March 30 before the ECP's April 2 order for postponement of Senate polls to the extent of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa until the administration of oaths to MPAs elected on reserved seats.

On March 28, ECP, in response to the application of opposition's five women MPAs-elect, declared that if the speaker of the provincial assembly failed to comply with the high court's orders to administer oath to the lawmakers elected on reserved seats, it would postpone Senate elections in the province until the swearing-in of the applicants. ECP put up the polls afterwards.

Petitioner's counsel Ali Zaman argued that Senate polls were conducted across the country, but ECP postponed the same in KP in light of the high court's orders for the provincial assembly speaker to administer oath to the members elected on reserved seats. He said that the order of ECP was illegal and unconstitutional.

He said that ECP didn't have the power to postpone Senate elections in the province when they were held in other parts of the country. He stated that the petitioner was a contesting candidate, but he was neither heard by ECP nor was he issued any notice for it.

The counsel said that during previous hearing the court had asked ECP to submit schedule of the polls to the court.

Lawyer for ECP Mohsin Kamran Siddique said that the court had not asked for the schedule rather it had sought a report from the commission. He stated that he had submitted a report on behalf of ECP to the court.

When the bench inquired from him about latest situation in the matter, he said that Supreme Court of Pakistan had adjourned to June 24 hearing of the cases related to non-allocation of reserved seats to Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) and allotting the same to other political parties.

He stated that the apex court had ordered that it would conduct day-to-day hearing in those cases. He said that one of the cases pending before SC was about the PHC's decision to dismiss the plea of SIC against the ECP's March 1 order to deny that party seats reserved for women and non-Muslims. He said that the court had issued a stay order in that case.

The other case, he said, pertained to PHC's orders for KP Assembly speaker to administer oath to those opposition members and to allow and facilitate their voting in Senate elections. He stated that in case the apex court decided to allot those seats to SIC, it would benefit the party in the polls.

Justice Shakeel inquired from petitioner's counsel as to why oath was not administered to those members on the order of high court. The counsel replied that the assembly was not in session, therefore, oath couldn't be administered to them.

When the bench against inquired as to why its order was not implemented, the counsel said that the petitioner was a contesting candidate in Senate polls and provincial government could give a reply to it.

The bench wondered that if Senate polls were conducted and the apex court upheld the judgement of the high court about administering oath to the members, then what would happen.

The petitioner's counsel stated that on the same analogy what would be the status of polls conducted if the apex court decided the matter in favour of SIC. He wondered whether results of polls in other provinces would be reversed then.

Advocate Syed Hussain Shah appeared for Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and opposed the petition.

SCCI chief wants 'Tajir Dost scheme' enforced for 20 years

PESHAWAR: Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Fuad Ishaq on Thursday called for the approval of the Federal Board of Revenue's Tajir Dost tax scheme by parliament for the next 20 years.

He also said the government should promise not to impose new taxes on businesspersons after the implementation of the scheme.

"There is a need for promoting close liaison and coordination between chambers, the business community, and tax authorities to take joint measures for amicable resolution of the traders' issues," Mr Ishaq told businesspersons during the visit of Peshawar Regional Tax Office chief commissioner Zafar Iqbal to the SCCI premises here.

Mr Iqbal was accompanied by chief coordinator for Tajir Dost Scheme Naeem Mir, RTO Peshawar commissioner Dr Syed Farooq Jamil, and additional commissioner Aisha Dilshad.

The meeting was also attended by SCCI vice president Ejaz Khan Afridi, former presidents Haji Mohammad Afzal, Zahiullah Shinwari and Sharfraz Bilour, former senior vice-presidents Ziaul Haq Sarhadi and Imran Khan Mohmand, executive members Javed Akbar, Hamza Ibrahim Butt, Mohammad Ismail Safi, Kashif Amin, Nadeem Rauf, Sadiqar Gul, Ishtiaq Mohammad, Bakht Zaman, Arif Shahzad, Malik Khalid Farooq, Ihsanullah, and Afzab Ahmad, traders, importers, and exporters.

The RTO chief commissioner and other officials briefed participants about the salient features, importance, and benefits of the Tajir Dost Scheme and said the initiative was meant to broaden the tax net.

The SCCI president said reforms were required to simplify the taxation system and bring the tax rate to a single digit.

He also said traders should be facilitated under a one-window operation.

Mr Ishaq said Pakistan annually paid Rs8 trillion on head of debt servicing for internal and external loans, while the same amount was generated through various taxes, which was insufficient for the country's progress.

He called for the broadening of the tax base without imposing new taxes on taxpayers.

The SCCI chief said the business community wanted to see Pakistan join the ranks of developed nations, but for that purpose, authorities should adopt policies that were favourable and friendly to business, trade, and industry. — Bureau Report

Displaced Kukikhels start returning to Tirah valley

By Our Correspondent

KHYBER: The displaced families of Kukikhel tribe started returning to their homes in Tirah valley after repeated protests and demonstrations.

Some 50 families left Jamrud late on Wednesday while another batch of similar number of families belonging to Maniyakhel sub-tribe of Kukikhel started their return journey to Pak Dara on Thursday.

A Kukikhel elder, Malak Naseer Ahmad, told Dawn that though the returning families were not provided with sufficient assistance except for a tent, a mattress and some kitchen items, the returning families arranged transport for their return journey from their own limited resources.

He accused the government departments concerned of ignoring their repeated requests and appeals for a comprehensive package on the pattern of the rest of IDPs from other tribal districts in recent past.

He said most of the homes in the Kukikhel areas of Tirah valley were unsuitable for living as these houses were either damaged in military operations or had collapsed during snowy and rainy season during a decade of displacement of the local tribesman.

Members of some of the returning families said that it was very difficult for them to accommodate one whole family in just one tent while none of them were provided food, which was essential for their survival for at least three months.

The remaining Kukikhel families' exact number could not be ascertained as they had not registered themselves with the erstwhile Fata Disaster Management Authority back in 2012 when they left their homes.

Two friends shot dead by rivals in Swabi

SWABI: Two friends were shot dead in Kala village while separately an senior citizen drowned in Gohati canal here on Thursday.

Mohammad Ibrahim, brother of one of the deceased Mohammad Asim, told police that he was at home when he got the information that his brother and a relative, Ishtiaq Ali, were killed by unknown persons in Kala mountainous area.

He claimed that both were shot dead by Muzamil Khan and his two other unidentified accomplices. He said before the incident, they were invited to the spot on mobile phone where they were killed under a well-planned strategy.

The cause of the incident was stated to be a one-and-a-half-month old feud in which Mohammad Asim was injured in firing by Muzamil Khan. Mohammad Ibrahim claimed that Muzamil took the extreme step as he was expecting a revenge attack from Asim.

Police have registered an FIR and started investigation.

Meanwhile, Gul Mohammad, 80, drowned in Gohati canal on Thursday when he was bathing on its bank but slipped into deep water, Rescue 1122 officials said. Saqib Shah, a rescue official, told Dawn that soon after receiving information they reached the canal, recovered the body and handed it over to the family.

Also in the day, dead bodies of two youngsters, who had drowned in the Indus River four days back, were recovered in Hund area by local divers on Thursday.

The bodies of two youngsters, Zawser Ahmad, 17, and Mohammad Tayyab, 18, were handed over to their families for burial. They were hailing from Garmunara village. — Correspondents

MTRA starts registration of people for organ donation

Speakers say lack of awareness hampers treatment of patients requiring human organs

By Ashfaq Yusufzai

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Medical Transplantation Regulatory Authority on Thursday launched registration of people wanting to donate their organs to save lives of others amid calls by experts that lack of awareness has been hampering treatment of patients requiring human organs.

"In Pakistan, the number of renal transplants is about 1,800 against the need of 10,000. There is huge deficit of demand and supply, which can be bridged through scaling up awareness regarding organs donation," Prof Asif Malik, the chairman of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Medical Transplantation Regulatory Authority (MTRA), said.

Speaking at a ceremony held here to mark World Transplant Day at Khyber Girls Medical College, he said that they launched a portal where the people could donate their organs that could be used for saving the lives of needy patients.

"Lack of donation culture has led to buying of organs from people. It is illegal and entails complications. Donation of organs as per law is a source of healthiness for both donors and recipients," he said.

Prof Malik, a former transplant surgeon at Institute of Kidney Diseases (IKD), said that they had authorised 13 hospitals for organs transplant including renal and eye where people could undergo procedures in the safest manner by professional surgeons.

"Recently, we organised 'transplant games' wherein about 100 patients, who had recovered after transplants, took part and enjoyed," he added.

Dr Attaur Rehman, also a former transplant surgeon at IKD, said they were starting 'deceased donors scheme' to retrieve kidneys of the people with dead brain and transplant the same to patients with damaged urinary organs. "Similarly, we are also considering launching pair donation in which families can exchange kidneys to match recipients to resolve the issue of matchability of both," he added.

Prof Samaullah Jan, the director of Pakistan Institute of Community Ophthalmology (PICO) at Hayatabad Medical Complex, painted a grim picture of organ donations in the country and said that they had to wait for donations from the USA and other countries to carry out corneal transplants.

"There are 1,200 patients awaiting their transplants at PICO only and we urge people to start donating corneas so as to help restore the eyesight of the people blinded by cylinder blasts and other incidents. We are way behind from Nepal, Iran, Sri Lank and India where people are in the habit of organ donation," he said.

Prof Qibla Ayaz, the former chairman of Council of Islamic Ideology, said that they had forwarded recommendations to government after in-depth research that organ donation was allowed in Islam. "We need to establish an endowment fund to strengthen transplantation in the province," he added.

Khyber Medical University Vice-chancellor Prof Ziaul Haq, KGMC Dean Prof Zahid Aman, HMC Prof medical director Shahzad Akbar Khan, deputy director of FIA Saeedullah Khan and others also spoke on the occasion.

Skits were also displayed by students to send a message that donation was legal and people must donate organs.

Health Minister Syed Qasim Ali Shah said that doctors in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were capable to carry out transplants and other latest procedures in the field of medical sciences. He stressed the need for preventive measures to put brakes on diabetes and other ailments.

He said that government was providing free health services to people on Sehat Card Plus as per vision of PTI founder Imran Khan. He claimed it was not possible even in developed countries where people paid premium to get health insurance. "In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, all people get cashless treatment services," he added.

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Asr	05:14
Maghreb	07:24
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Starting time in Peshawar

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— HAZRAT ALI (A.S.)

TIME-1427

No headway in talks over Malakand student's death

UoM students boycott annual exam, lock depts

By Our Correspondent

LOWER DIR: The Adenzai Qaumi Jirga elders and the Students' Jirga members representing students of the University of Malakand, on Thursday made no headway in talks over student Musa Khan's death in a road accident after his expulsion.

The students boycotted their annual exam, locked all departments, and staged a sit-in on campus, where they offered Fateha for Musa.

The Students Jirga, led by Maaz Khan, reiterated the demands for the dismissal of Vice Chancellor Prof Rashid Ahmad, Pro-VC Dr Anwar Rehman, Provost Dr Janis Khan, chief proctor Dr Aziz and hostel warden Habib Khan over the incident.

They met the Adenzai Qaumi Jirga elders in Chakdara and informed them of their demands before meeting the university's administration.

The students announced that the protest would continue until their demands were accepted.

Musa Khan, a student of the UoM's journalism and mass communication department, was killed in a road accident on May 30 after his alleged expulsion from the hostel at night for playing rabab.

Adenzai Qaumi Jirga elders, including Khurshid Ali and Aman Khan of the PPP, Syed Sultanat Yar Bukhari of the Jamaat-i-Islami, Haji Javed Iqbal of the JUI-F, Fakhruz Zaman of the PTI, and others, first met the UoM administration at the Chakdara Fishing Hut and informed it about the students' demands.

The talks lasted three hours. The university's administration agreed to accept all student demands related to it.

Jirga leaders Syed Sultanat Yar and Khurshid Ali later confirmed the development during a media talk in the presence of Vice Chancellor Prof Rashid Ahmad, the Adenzai AAC, and representatives of teachers.

They said the university's administration had agreed to accept the students' demands, while those related to the provincial government and the governor would be taken with the relevant quarters.

The elders later met members of the Students Jirga, who demanded the sacking of the pro-VC, provost, chief proctor, and hostel warden and said they wouldn't call off protests until the demand was met.

The Adenzai elders asked them in vain to end the protest and sit the annual exam.

Meanwhile, a delegation of the university teachers' association led by Dr Samiur Rehman met members of the Students Jirga and agreed to their demands.

DEMOLISHED: The district administration on Thursday demolished several illegal buildings, shops, and kiosks on the roadside during its anti-encroachment crackdown.

The action was taken on the orders of the Supreme Court, according to officials.

They said the TMA-owned shops near the Timergara bus stand, a food godown in the main city, and the boundary wall of the district headquarters hospital in Timergara would also be pulled down.

Deputy commissioner Wasil Khan told reporters that ahead of the crackdown, the administration issued notices to the encroachers for the removal of illegal structures.

He said dozens of illegally built plazas and shops were pulled down with the help of heavy machinery, while other roadside encroachments, including pushcarts, were removed.

Meanwhile, the DC met trader leaders Haji Anwaruddin, Lalpasdi and Sajjad Khan and urged them to support the anti-encroachment action.

Torrential rain triggers flash flood in Chitral

CHITRAL: Torrential rain lashed the Kalash valley and villages of Ayun, Brone and Chitral town on Thursday triggering flash flood inundating the fields and orchards.

The roads to Kalash valleys of Bumburate and Rumbur as well as Peshawar Road at Brone remained closed to vehicular traffic for many hours. The families living near the passageway of the flood left their homes for safer places and returned after the torrential rain stopped.

The passengers on Bumburate road reopened the road on self-help basis to restore the traffic, which included a large number of tourists' vehicles.

Meanwhile, an alleged attempt of suicide by a young woman in Jughoor village of Chitral town was foiled by her family members, who rushed her to the hospital soon after the consumed some poisonous substance.

An official of city police station told Dawn that the woman had been admitted to the emergency ward of DHQ hospital, where doctors were striving hard to save her life. — Correspondent

Peshawar mayor seeks restoration of local govt law in original form

Panel discussion on 'localising democracy' held

By Sher Alam Shinwari

PESHAWAR: Speakers at a panel discussion held stressed the need for strengthening democratic values at grassroots level to raise political awareness among youth.

The discussion on 'localising democracy' was held at a private hotel here under the auspices of Pakistan-US Alumni Network (PUAN) and Culture, Literature, Arts and Development Organisation (CLADO).

The session was attended by public policy expert and development consultant Prof Aamir Taj, research coordinator Naema Hayat, chairperson of gender studies department at University of Peshawar Dr Arooob, Advocate Tariq Afghan, Peshawar Mayor Haji Zubair Ali, tehsil chairmen, village and neighbourhood council representatives and young university graduates.

They stressed the need for strengthening democracy and democratic system at local level. They highlighted the importance of raising political awareness among youth and familiarising them with democratic values.

They said that elected representatives at grassroots level had easy access to people and were aware of the basic issues and their solutions. "It can bring positive change to the lives of marginalised communities," they added.

Haji Zubair Ali said that local government system was the mercury of democracy. He said that Local Government Act, 2013, should be restored in its original form and municipal representatives should be given administrative, financial and political powers. He added that bureaucracy and members of national and provincial assemblies did not want to transfer powers to lower levels.

"If municipal representatives are given powers, trust of people in democratic system will be restored," he said.

Haris Khan Shinwari, the head of the project, said that localising democracy and strengthening local government system were the only solution to the problems faced by people. "Our objective is to educate, equip and engage people for civil rights, inclusive governance and promotion of democratic values," he added.

Meanwhile, another debate was arranged at Jinnah Law College Peshawar on 'transgender rights in society.'

Mahi Gul, a transgender rights activist, offered valuable insights on the violations faced by the transgender persons in Pakistan.

The discussion, moderated by Advocate Amin Khan Kundi, sparked meaningful dialogue and a commitment to creating a more inclusive society. The debate was marked by engaging discussions with participants like Mohammad Zikriya, sharing insightful questions regarding Mahi Gul's struggle and tireless efforts in advocating for transgender rights.

Amna Sharif, one of the participants, said that discussion was fruitful. She said that it could play a significant role in transforming mindsets and promoting inclusivity.

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Ministry of Interior
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NOTICE TO PUBLIC

ISLAMABAD

GENE Pvt. public is hereby notified that Mr. Faisal Hamad son of Ghulam Yasen, ID No. 12101-2663121-1 has now initiated himself as Research/Officer Light Foundation Welfare Society (NGO) District Haripur for the purposes and every special and general provincial Federal Institutions are informed that Mr. Faisal Hamad is our Employee from today courtesy of Rifat Akram Chairman Light Foundation Welfare Society (NGO) Haripur (27062768616)

COURT NOTICE

ISLAMABAD

BEFORE the Honorable Judge Banking Court Islamabad. Askari Bank Limited versus Ali Raza. To, Ali Raza son of Muhammad Arbab. Office Address: Touch Stone Communication Venues Trust Complex, suit 212, second floor Islamabad. Whereas Askari Bank has instituted a suite for Recovery of Rs. 83,472,531/- due against Under Section 9(3) of financial institution Recovery of Finances Ordinance 2001. You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suite under ordinance within 30 days after the publication of this notice. In default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled to obtain the decree of the said sum till realization of amount. Next date of hearing is fixed 06-06-2024. (27702734779)

BEFORE the Honorable Judge Banking Court Islamabad. Askari Bank Limited versus Mian Haseeb Khalid. To, Mian Haseeb Khalid son of Mian Khalid Mahmud, resident of House No. 400, St No. 4, G-9/1 Islamabad. Whereas Askari Bank has instituted a suite for Recovery of Rs.133,820,461/- due against Under Section 9(3) of financial institution Recovery of Finances Ordinance 2001. You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suite under ordinance within 30 days after the publication of this notice. In default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled to obtain the decree of the said sum till realization of amount. Next date of hearing is fixed 06-06-2024. (27702734778)

IN the Court of Waqid Ali Judge Banking Court II Islamabad. Askari Bank Limited versus Salman Zafar. To, Salman Zafar son of Muhammad Zafar resident of House No. 43, Street No. 3, Block C, Phase 1, DHA Town Islamabad. Whereas Askari Bank has instituted a suite for Recovery of Rs. 62,820,931/- due against Under Section 9(3) of financial institution Recovery of Finances Ordinance 2001. You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suite under ordinance within 30 days after the publication of this notice. In default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled to obtain the decree of the said sum till realization of amount. Next date of hearing is fixed 09-07-2024. (27702734777)

IN the Court of Waqid Ali Judge Banking Court II Islamabad. MCB Bank Limited versus Sheikh Kamal Ghani. To, Sheikh Kamal Ghani son of Yasoob Mansoom Sheikh resident of House # 267, Street No. 7-B, Sadiqabad Near Asha Lasani Model School Rawalpindi. Business Address: Shop No. G-8, Ground Floor, Ashiana Shopping center Rehmanabad, Rawalpindi. Whereas MCB Bank has instituted a suite for Recovery of Rs. 336,729,161/- due against Under Section 9(3) of financial institution Recovery of Finances Ordinance 2001. You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suite under ordinance within 30 days after the publication of this notice. In default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled to obtain the decree of the said sum till realization of amount. Next date of hearing is fixed 09-07-2024. (27702734781)

RAWALPINDI

IN the Court of Hakam Khan Bakhar Additional District Judge Rawalpindi Appeal. Mst. Rifat Usman versus Raja Mehtab etc. To Khalida Bibi widow, Kamran, Waqar, Tanveer, Sabahat, Sheedullah sons, Aasia daughter of Muhammad Rubin (Deceased), Kauser Parveen, Zeneda Saeed, Nusrat Bibi daughters of Nizam Din, Naseem Akhtar widow, Waleed, Rameez, Zamaan sons, Abbas, Azmat, Kanwal daughters of Muzzam Din (deceased), Aasiya (deceased) d/o Muzzam Din (Deceased) through Uffu Zeeshan son, Anila, Saba daughters, Residents of House (Old) No. 168-646 (New) CM 16 Dhoke Munshi Khan Rehman Abad Rawalpindi. You are informed to attend the court on 12-06-2024 at 8 am to avoid ex-parte proceedings. (27702734780)

HARIPUR

IN The Court Of Civil Judge III, Haripur District Haripur, Next Date of Hearing 10-06-2024. Case Title. Charawez Khan Vs Tauqeer Ahmed Notice To, Tauqeer Ahmed Son Of Muhammad Nawaz Resident Of Khoda Bala Haripur District Haripur Present Address Out Of Country. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendant can not be served in the ordinary way. It is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will / shall not appear personally or through duelly authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8 am dated 10-06-2024 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court. (29042734475)

KARAK

IN the Court of Syed Ashan Shah Additional District & Session Judge-II Karak. Case No. 01/10. 2023. Khurshed Akhter vs Sadullah, to, Adil Nawaz S/o Meer Badshah / Sabir Badshah, R/o Tehkah Kahoor, Tehsil & District Karak. You are inform to attend the Court personal through counsel or attorney on 7-6-2024 at 8:30 am to avoid ex-parte proceedings. (27612766016)

TALAGANG

IN the Court of Mr. Masood-ul-Hassan, Civil Judge Talagang. Suit for Permanent Injunction, Mst. Ghulam Sakina vs. Doctor Faiz Muhammad Pervaiz etc., Muhammad Saleem S/o Nazeer Ahmed, caste Awan R/o Tala Gibab, Tehsil & District Talagang presently residing Saudia Arab, you / said defendant is summoned. If the said defendant will / shall not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in Court at 08 am on 8-6-2024, the proceedings will be taken ex-parte. (27612766017)

BUNAIR

IN the Court of Medeeta Rahman Khan Senior Civil Judge (Family) Buner at Daggar. Suit No. 203/FC Institution 03-05-2023. Next date of hearing. 10-06-2024. Case title. Mal Marwah vs Akbar Said. Notice to No. (1) Akbar Said S/o Bakht Zaman resident of Chanar Tehsil Daggar District Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendant cannot be served in the ordinary way. It is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendant will / shall not appear personally or through duelly authorized agent or pleader in the Court at 8 am dated 10-06-2024 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court. (29042734475)

CHINA

IN the Court of Zafar Farid Hashmi (Civil Judge 1st Class) (Commercial) Court, Lahore, Pakistan) (Suit for Declaration, Damages, Recovery) Case Title: **RICE WORLD V M/S SATAKE CORPORATION** . Case No. **1944/2023** . Notice to **SATAKE MANUFACTURING (SUZHOU) CO. LTD** - 229 Jin Feng Road, Suzhou New District, Suzhou City, Jiangsu Province, 215129, China. Whereas service of defendants is not going to be effected through ordinary means, so service of defendants be effected through proclamation in the Newspaper as per court order. You, defendants are directed to appear in the court in person or through counsel on 6th June, 2024 on 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. (25753352647)

INDIA

IN the Court of Zafar Farid Hashmi (Civil Judge 1st Class) (Commercial Court, Lahore, Pakistan) (Suit for Declaration, Damages, Recovery) Case Title: **RICE WORLD V M/S SATAKE CORPORATION** Case No. **1944/2023** . Notice to **SATAKE INDIA ENGINEERING PVT. LTD** 4th Floor, Tower-1, HB Tech Towers, 4-2-3, 4, Nalap Subhash Place, Wazirpur District Centre, New Delhi, 110034, India. Whereas service of defendants is not going to be effected through ordinary means, so service of defendants be effected through proclamation in the Newspaper as per court order. You defendants are directed to appear in the court in person or through counsel on 6th June, 2024 on 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. (25753352646)

THAILAND

IN the Court of Zafar Farid Hashmi (Civil Judge 1st Class) (Commercial Court, Lahore, Pakistan) (Suit for Declaration, Damages, Recovery) Case Title: **RICE WORLD V M/S SATAKE CORPORATION** . Case No. **1944/2023** . Notice to **SATAKE ASIA CO LTD** . Office No. 101, True Digital Park Griffin Building, 14th Floor, Unit No. 1407, Sukhumvit Rd, Bangchak, Phra Khanong, Bangkok, 10260, Thailand. Whereas service of defendants is not going to be effected through ordinary means, so service of defendants be effected through proclamation in the Newspaper as per court order. You defendants are directed to appear in the court in person or through counsel on 6th June, 2024 on 09:00 am, failing which, ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. (25753352646)

DAWN
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Mahmood accuses govt of scrapping Malakand's Rs18bn uplift projects

PTI-P leader says both federal, KP govts not taking province's issues seriously

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf-Parliamentarians (PTI-P) chairman and former provincial chief minister Mahmood Khan on Thursday alleged that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government had dropped Rs18 billion development projects for Malakand division, including Swat district, from the budget.

"The provincial government has meted out a 'stepmotherly' treatment towards Malakand division by scrapping Rs18 billion development projects in 2024-25," Mr Mahmood, a native of Swat district, told a party meeting here.

The meeting was attended by PTI-P leaders and office-bearers from across the province.

Mr Mahmood also criticised the federal government's decision to abandon the Public Sector Development Programme projects approved by the last Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf government for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and said the move amounted to discriminating against the province.

"The centre has dropped our province's 91 PSDP projects, including Phase II of the Swat Motorway. This is an anti-people decision that has come due to the ruling party's prejudices," he said.

The PTI-P leader urged Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to restore the province's development funds.

"I also ask KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur to restore Malakand Division's development projects," he said.

Mr Mahmood said the party asked the federal government to give Khyber Pakhtunkhwa its share in development funds.

He said the province was suffering due to the sparring between the federal and provincial governments.

"Neither the federal government nor the provincial government is taking the province's issues seriously," he said.

The PTI-P leader said that after getting the people's mandate in the February 8 general elections, both the federal and provincial governments were trampling on the people's mandate.

He said KP, which had badly suffered due to terrorism, floods, and other natural disasters, was being neglected by the centre.

"This situation is affecting the development of our province," he said.

Mr Mahmood asked the members of the National Assembly from the province to raise their voices to protect the interests of the residents.

He said that the PTI-P had street power and had delivered during its rule in the province.

"We have the experience and can play our due role in addressing people's issues," he said.

The PTI-P leader complained that both election winners and losers alleged poll rigging.

"In these circumstances, neither the current system nor the federal and provincial governments can deliver the goods," he said.

Mr Mahmood said the province's development was tied to peace, and as long as there was lawlessness, there couldn't be any development.

He said that before complaining against the federal government, the provincial government should pay attention to the delicate law-and-order situation in the province.

On the occasion, PTI-P general secretary Malik Iqbal Noor Orakzai said that the results of the February 8 general elections were contrary to the party's expectations.

He, however, said that the PTI-P was confident about its future and would play an active role in the future politics of the province.

"We will focus on the party's reorganisation and begin holding public meetings," he said.

Inquiry sought into wheat procurement from Punjab

KOHAT: The members of Ali Tajir Ittehad have demanded of the government to initiate an inquiry into wheat procurement from Punjab instead of buying the commodity from local farmers.

The demand was made in a meeting that was largely attended by the office-bearers of Bannu bazaar, Terrah bazaar, Zargran bazaar, Mian Khel bazaar and Jail Road bazaar. Goods transporters, poultry and dry fruit sellers, hotel owners, LPG traders and representatives of chemists associations also attended the meeting.

Tajir Ittehad chief Anwer Khan Afridi presided over the meeting and demanded a probe into the wheat purchase from Punjab. The meeting criticised imposition of heavy fine by Halal food authority on shopkeepers.

Through a unanimously passed resolution, the participants of the meeting demanded end to power and gas outages. They decided to move a court against loadshedding and hold protests if the issue was not resolved.

They demanded completion of Liaqat Memorial Women and Children Hospital and upgradation of KDA divisional hospital to Category A. They sought inquiry into sinking of a tubewell in Garden Colony at a cost Rs 6.5 million that went dry after three days of inauguration.

COLLEGE: An academic block of government girls postgraduate college completed at a cost of Rs14.19 million was inaugurated by students on Thursday.

MNA Shehryar Afridi was chief guest at the ceremony, which was also attended by MPA Shafiullah Jan, principal Ms Munirat, controller of Kohat board, faculty members and students.

A student cut the ribbon of the plaque in the presence of lawmakers to open the new block.

Speaking on the occasion, MNA Shehryar Afridi said that education and health were the basic rights of people due to which the two sectors were placed on priority by the government of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf.

He said that no society could make progress without education. — Correspondent

Campaign launched to promote maternal nutrition

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Health department on Thursday launched a campaign to promote maternal nutrition by improving the knowledge and skills of healthcare providers and frontline health workers.

The campaign titled 'NourishMaa' has been launched in collaboration with Nutrition International. "Health and nutrition of mothers and children are foundational pillars for overall development of society," Health Minister Syed Qasim Ali Shah told a ceremony.

He underscored the urgency of addressing maternal malnutrition and highlighted the pivotal role of healthcare providers in creating a healthier future. He called for concerted efforts by all stakeholders to implement effective interventions and ensure sustained improvement in maternal nutrition across the province.

The health minister, referencing to National Nutrition Survey 2018, said that women of reproductive age faced the triple burden of malnutrition. He said that 18.4 per cent of them were underweight, 38 per cent were overweight and obese and 42.7 per cent suffered from anaemia with a high prevalence of other micronutrient deficiencies.

"Rates of anaemia and micronutrient deficiencies in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are lower than the national figures. Concerted efforts are required to further improve these indicators. "To address these concerning statistics, the government prioritises women-centric and equity-based strategies and programmes," he added.

The core objectives of the campaign include raising awareness about maternal nutrition and strengthening the capabilities of healthcare providers in both public and private sectors, alongside FHWs to incorporate nutrition counselling in their routine practice. The initiative is meant to reach more than 6,000 HCPs and FHWs in the targeted districts, enhancing their knowledge and capacities in maternal nutrition and integrating nutrition counselling into their daily practices.

"Nutrition International is dedicated to advancing maternal nutrition in the country through research, programme implementation, technical assistance, policy advocacy and capacity building of key stakeholders," said Dr Irfanullah, the deputy country director of Nutrition International.

He said that improving knowledge, attitudes and practices of healthcare providers were the key components for creating an enabling environment for maternal nutrition.

The event was attended by the director general health services, Dr Saleem Khan, the additional director general health, Dr Shahid Yunis, and the deputy director of nutrition, Dr Faiza Majeed.

Oghi residents want check on illegal mining of minerals

MANSEHRA: Residents of Jodha Khatta and neighbouring villages on Thursday urged authorities to check the widespread illegal mining of local mineral resources in the Oghi area.

Tanawal Agree Action Committee chairman Umar Khattab Jabral told reporters that the use of harmful chemicals for blasting granite posed health risks.

Accompanied by a group of residents, he said his committee was working to stop the illegal mineral excavation in Oghi and Darband tehsils.

Mr Jabral alleged mineral theft and criticised authorities for failing to crack down on it.

He said the mineral department's teams recently intercepted many trucks loaded with granite on the Karakoram Highway and arrested smugglers, but still more coordinated efforts were needed to check mineral smuggling.

The committee chief said a joint committee should be formed to protect granite and other natural resources in the area.

He said Jodha Khatta and neighbouring villages had recorded a high incidence of skin and other health problems due to the use of harmful chemicals for mine blasting.

"Though the large-scale illegal mining is polluting water resources, neither the district administration nor the mineral department have intervened to protect our health," he said.

Mr Jabral said illegal mining was also damaging forests and roads, so if authorities didn't take action, residents would stage street protests.

KILLED: Gunmen killed a resident on a court's premises here on Thursday.

Police said it was an incident of "honour killing."

They said they had arrested the main accused, Mohammad Sabir, and were carrying out raids to arrest his accomplices.

District police officer Shafiullah Khan Gandapur told reporters that Aqib Rasheed, 22, was shot by a girl's cousin, Mohammad Sabir, leaving him seriously injured.

He said the injured was shifted to the King Abdullah Teaching Hospital, but the doctors declared him dead.

The DPO said the policemen present in the court's premises held the gunman as he tried to flee.

He said CCTV camera video showed that Rasheed was shot when he appeared before a court in a case registered against him for kidnapping a girl in the Lesan Nawab area last month.

Mr Gandapur said Rasheed and that girl — a cousin of the assailant — got married of their own free will last month, angering the assailant, who lodged a kidnapping case against Rasheed.

He said separate police teams were searching for suspects after the registration of a murder case. — Correspondent

PTI workers in Bajaur seek party ticket for former lawmaker

By Our Correspondent

BAJAUR: The workers of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf here on Thursday demanded of the party parliamentary committee to award ticket to former lawmaker Gohlad Khan for by-election on provincial assembly seat, PK-22.

By-election for the seat will be held on July 11. PTI workers said that Gohlad Khan would participate in the by-election as independent candidate if he didn't get party ticket.

Addressing news conference at Bajaur Press Club, PTI activists Malik Ziari Khan, Janaab, Matiullah Khan, Fazal Hadi, Riaz Khan and Ibrahim Khan said that several candidates applied for party ticket but ticket should be awarded to Gohlad Khan.

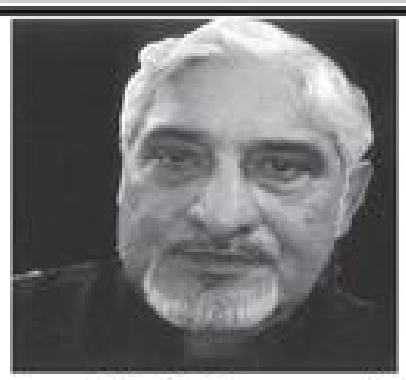
They said that Gohlad Khan was the most deserving candidate for the ticket as he was not only a committed worker but too stood by the party founding chairman's narrative despite facing hardships. They claimed that most of voters in PK-22 constituency were in favour of Gohlad Khan as he worked for their welfare when he was MNA.

They expressed the fear that PTI would lose the seat if ticket was not given to Gohlad Khan. They said that the former lawmaker would contest by-election as independent candidate if the party refused to award him ticket.

ARREST: Police claimed to have arrested three persons involved in the killing of a man in Salarzai tehsil a week ago.

Nasser Khan was killed by unidentified persons in his native Atakai locality on May 30. Police said that they arrested the killers with the help of modern technology and human informers. They said that a Kalashnikov rifle used in the murder and a motorcycle and a pistol of the deceased were also recovered from the arrested persons.

The statement said that the arrested persons were shifted to Khar police station. It added that they would be presented before a local court today (Friday).



ZAHEER Ahmed (Bhappi)

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یہ مانا کہ محفل جوان ہے حسیں ہے

Mrs. Anjum Zaheer & Kids

(ISB-P)

GOVERNMENT OF GILGIT-BALTISTAN
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
C&W DEPARTMENT GB KHARMANG

NO. EE-Cash-Kharg-1(02)/2023-24/215 Dated: 4th June 2024

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
(CONSULTANCY SERVICES)

1. Gilgit-Baltistan Communication and Works Department intends to hire/engage consultant (Engineering organization/firm) for consultancy services for "Feasibility study for Construction of RCC Bridges Bacho over Indus River, RCC Bridge Harbot Roundu, Asad Zaidi Shaheed Delta (RCC) Bridge over Indus River at Pari Kharmang, RCC Bridge at Bilango (Mussa) in District Kharmang and RCC Bridge at Dumsum District Ghanche" with approaches for estimated cost @ Rs 41.550 Million.
2. Proposals are invited from reputable consultants (Engineering organizations/firms).
   (i) Having PEC registration in relevant field with relevant experience as mentioned in the RFP.
   (ii) Registered with Income Tax and Sales Tax Departments and on Active Taxpayers List of the Federal Board of Revenue for National and International consultants.
3. Tender documents can be purchased from the office of the Executive Engineer C&W Kharmang during office working hours on a written request on firms letterhead accompanied pay order/demand draft on cash payment amounting to Rs. 5000/- non-refundable in favor of Executive Engineer C&W Department Kharmang.
4. Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on 24-06-2024 in the office of the Superintending Engineer Chairman Procurement Committee at Circle Office near Baltoro Rest House at Skardu.
5. Bidding will be carried out by adopting **"Single Stage Two Envelopes"** Procedure. The proposal completed in all respects in accordance with the instructions provided in RFP documents in sealed envelopes should reach on or before 27-05-2024 in C&W Office B&R Kharmang Mehdiabad and be clearly marked "Feasibility Study for Construction of RCC Bridges Basho over Indus River, RCC Bridge Harbot Roundu, Asad Zaidi Shaheed Delta (RCC) Bridge over Indus River at Pari Kharmang RCC Bridge at Bilango (Mussa) in District Kharmang and RCC Bridge at Dumsum District Ghanche with approaches".
6. The technical bids must be accompanied by a bid security amounting to Rs. 0.891 milion (Rupees Eight Lac Ninety-One Thousand only) in shape of call deposit by a scheduled bank of Pakistan in favor of Employer.
7. Bidders are required to submit their bids strictly in accordance with the instructions given in RFP. Proposal must be prepared in hard book binding form to deny the possibility of addition are removal of page(s).
8. The technical proposal shall be opened on the same day at 1200 hours, where the financial proposals of the technically qualified firms shall be opened after finalization and announcement of technical evaluation report.
9. All the applicable Federal, provincial and local taxes must be considered while preparing the financial proposals. All the taxes except GST are required to be built in the quoted rates and not be mentioned separately.
10. The firms/consultants providing unsubstantiated and/or incorrect information are liable to legal action and/or disqualification.
11. In case of Gazetted holiday/local holiday, the bids shall be opened on the next working day without further intimation.
12. This advertisement is also available on PPRA website www.ppra.org.pk
13. The authority reserves the right to reject all proposals as per GB PPRA Rules 2022.

(ENGR. ZIA-UR-REHMAN)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
SECRETARY PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE
C&W DEPARTMENT B&R DIVISION KHARMANG
Tele No. 05815-926016 Fax No. 05815-926027

IOGB-360/24 (DB-G)

ٹینڈر نوٹس

Rs. 1,27,000/- Rs.83,42,000/- (2024-25)

سیریل نمبر	کام کا نام	ٹینڈر کی رقم	ٹینڈر فیس	ٹیکس	ٹوکن
1	[illegible]	2-10000 روپے	22750 روپے	9000 روپے	7750 روپے
2	[illegible]	1000 روپے	250 روپے	-	150 روپے

Rs. 42,400/- Rs. 21,20,000/- (2024-25)

سیریل نمبر	کام کا نام	ٹینڈر کی رقم	ٹینڈر فیس	ٹیکس	ٹوکن
1	[illegible]	2000 روپے	210 روپے	210 روپے	-

Rs. 37,000/- Rs. 18,73,000/- (2024-25)

سیریل نمبر	کام کا نام	ٹینڈر کی رقم	ٹینڈر فیس	ٹیکس	ٹوکن
1	[illegible]	6500 روپے	400 روپے	400 روپے	500 روپے
2	[illegible]	4000 روپے	300 روپے	200 روپے	200 روپے
3	[illegible]	2200 روپے	100 روپے	100 روپے	50 روپے

شرائط: [illegible]

محمد عبدالصمد

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