

- In meeting with PM, Xi acknowledges 'broad development prospects' for the two countries
- Both sides agree to upgrade CPEC; Li, Shehbaz commit to protect corridor from 'detractors, adversaries'



Plus...
Young World



DAWN

Small victories

IN the midst of unspeakable tragedy, hope remains for a better tomorrow for the Palestinian people. As Israel continues its genocidal campaign in Gaza, unfazed by global censure and warnings from international courts to stop its monstrous campaign, there is growing consensus within the comity of nations that legal recognition must be extended to Palestine as a sovereign state. After Ireland, Spain and Norway recognised Palestine last month, the central European state of Slovenia earlier this week did the same. This brings to 147 the number of countries that recognise Palestine as a state, confirming the fact that the global majority is in favour of granting the Arab nation its legitimate, and long-denied, rights.

But while such international solidarity must bring some solace to the people of Palestine, the troubling question of stopping Israel's campaign of extermination remains. The fact is that the international community's solidarity must result in a long-term ceasefire so that Tel Aviv's eight-month-old pogrom in Gaza is brought to a halt. This can only happen when those states that recognise Palestine put pressure on Israel's powerful benefactors — primarily the US — not to sabotage ceasefire efforts, especially within the UN Security Council. When Israel's warmongers know that America will defend them at every international forum that counts, why will they stop? Moreover, Palestine's allies must translate their gestures of support into concrete actions, for example enforcing a trade and arms embargo against Israel until it stops the bloodbath. Words enough will not be enough to bring Tel Aviv to its senses.

All states that value human life, and hundreds of thousands of ordinary people marching against genocide in cities across the world, have called for an end to the butchery in Gaza. But Israel remains unrepentant. The latest atrocity came in the shape of the Israeli attack on a UN school in which nearly 40 people were killed. Many of the victims were children. Unfortunately, the list of atrocities Israel has committed in Gaza since Oct 7 is a long one, and each fresh act of barbarism eclipses the previous action. Yet, despite the global outcry, Tel Aviv insists on 'finishing' the job in Gaza, which presumably means eradicating all signs of life in this forsaken territory. Moreover, Tel Aviv's warmongers are now eyeing Lebanon, with the possibility of their exchanges with Hezbollah mutating into a full-blown war. Therefore, recognition of Palestine is only the first step. The need is for the international community to endorse an immediate, unconditional ceasefire in Gaza. Unhindered humanitarian aid must simultaneously be made available to the occupied territory's traumatised population. At a later date, the comity of nations must hold Israel and its backers to account for the murderous rampage Gaza has been subjected to.

Chaman stalemate

THE recent outbreak of violence in Chaman, which left at least 40 injured, among whom 17 were security officials, serves as a reminder of the deep-seated grievances simmering in the border town. The root of the protesters' discontent lies in the government's decision to enforce a one-document regime, requiring valid passports and visas for crossing the Chaman border. This policy, introduced in October to curb security risks and smuggling, has disrupted long-standing routines whereby people on both sides would cross freely with their identity cards for family visits, trade and daily labour. Economically, the border protests have taken a heavy toll, with daily losses estimated in the tens of millions. The border closure has no doubt exacerbated poverty in an already impoverished region. In an effort to address the economic fallout, the government has opened a border market to provide traders with a local venue for commerce, eliminating the need to cross into Afghanistan. Additionally, a monthly stipend of Rs20,000 is being paid to daily-wage workers. But the protests have continued for over six months. It begs the question: why has the matter failed to see a resolution? Why the stiff resistance to the visa policy?

There have been several rounds of talks between government representatives and local leaders. What complicates matters are special interest groups that benefit from the status quo. The lucrative nature of illegal trade that flourished under an undocumented regime means these groups benefit from maintaining the current chaos. It is suspected that some political parties are also complicit, benefiting from the smuggling operations, and thereby allowing the protests to continue. The decision to introduce the visa policy is not without merit. Besides curbing smuggling, given the recent uptick in terrorism, strengthening border security is necessary. To resolve this impasse, the government must investigate and prosecute these conflict groups. Alongside this, similar to opening the border market, which is a commendable step, it must invest in local industries and job creation. It must also continue to engage in dialogue with local leaders to avoid setbacks. It is also crucial for the federal government to foster better coordination with Kabul to manage border policies that respect both nations' security and economic interests. With a recalibrated approach, the government can transform this volatile border into a zone of prosperity.

Deplorable performance

PAKISTAN held their heads in their hands; the unthinkable had happened. Their T20 World Cup hopes suffered a body blow at the very start of the campaign. In the recent cricketing land — the US — Pakistan are back in familiar Cup territory. A stunning Super Over loss to the hosts means that Babar Azam's men have not only left themselves no room for error but that they might also have to rely on other results to reach the next stage of the tournament. While the US, which also beat Canada in their opening match, celebrated a famous victory, the PCB and team management were left scratching their heads. The PCB should be asking itself how it has come to this. The answer perhaps lies in the team's mentality, as indicated by Babar himself afterwards. The Pakistan captain stated that the team had been more relaxed because the opposition was only making its debut at the tournament. Shockingly, the US have reminded Babar that at this level at a World Cup, there are no easy games. Pakistan were outclassed by a team that was more concentrated and more committed, and therefore better in every department.

Pakistan's batters struggled and the bowlers could not get breakthroughs. Had it not been for a late show of speed by Mohammad Amir and Harris Rauf — who eventually endured a disastrous final over — the US would have won the match even more comfortably. Shoddy fielding and inaccurate bowling by Amir in the Super Over helped the US post a sizeable target that proved too much for the big hitters. No doubt, arch-rivals India will be licking their lips at the prospect of taking on a demoralised Pakistan in New York on Sunday. The national side has once again proved to be the 'cornered tigers', a position it is, sadly, accustomed to. The hope is they can restore the fans' faith in the side soon.

OPINION



BY ISHRAT HUSAIN

Home-grown economic plans

Many detailed proposals have been generated but implementation is awaited.

THE government recently formed a committee of eminent international and Pakistani economists to draft a home-grown economic programme. This article shows that there is little need for such a committee. There is no dearth of reports, recommendations, cabinet decisions and plans prepared by the government itself as well as international development partners, private sector organisations, academic institutions, think tanks and professional bodies which cover all aspects of a home-grown programme. Numerous books, articles, open pieces, webinars, seminars and conferences have also provided many proposals. This piece confines itself to the last six years. During this period, the management of the economy was in the hands of the PML-N, PTE, PDM, the caretaker setup, and again PML-N.

The Nawaz Sharif government published Vision 2025, which was updated to Vision 2030, with five Es — eradicating extreme poverty, education, energy, environment and exports. The Planning Commission under the PTE produced its own development strategy. Five-year plans and annual plans were prepared regularly. None of these vision statements or strategy papers received enthusiastic support from either the finance ministry or sectoral ministries or the provincial governments. The finance ministry presented the medium-term budget strategy papers to parliament. The State Bank came up with the National Financial Inclusion Strategy, a digitalisation strategy, and financial sector strategic plans. The RCP revised the Companies Act and introduced the Code of Corporate Governance. Despite political differences, all these documents correctly identified the problems, outlined the priorities and proposed actions. Ministers have produced policies on strategic trade, logistics, aviation, digitalisation, electricity, etc. Have the outcomes of these policies been evaluated?

Economic advisory councils, task forces, working groups, government committees, the private sector, leading economists and other experts have generated over 50 detailed analyses and proposed short-, medium-, and long-term actions on governance, fiscal, taxation, trade, the financial sector, energy, CPEC, agriculture, etc. The SOE triage report resulted in the SOE policy and Act but the government is still struggling to im-

plement SOEs for privatisation, retention or restructuring. There have been very few transactions for privatising loss-making SOEs. Had the government implemented the PLA restructuring report submitted in the cabinet in 2021, additional liabilities of Rs100 billion could have been avoided.

On the subject of governance, the civil service, the restructuring of federal ministries, autonomous bodies and attached departments, the induction of technical expertise, pensions, and austerity, task forces and cabinet sub-committees have, after stakeholder consultation, submitted comprehensive reports that received cabinet approval but have yet to see the light of day. Moreover, a committee under Nasir Khan and a recent one under Jehanzeb Khan (both ex-bureaucrats) also made similar suggestions. It is a pity their reports were referred to other ministerial committees.

Performance agreements between the PM and each minister, with key indicators on priority action, were signed in 2022 after intensive dialogues, specifying cross-ministerial co-responsibilities. Promotions were to be made on performance rather than seniority; annual increments were linked to key performance indicators. Technical experts were to be inducted into several ministries. Proper implementation of these measures would have led to clear accountability. Attempts to enact laws empowering local governments (LGs) to deliver public services and transferring resources and taxation powers have met with little success. A merit-based, open competition policy to recruit MDs/CEOs of public sector entities was successfully practised for three years and several Pakistani experts showed interest. It is not clear if this policy was followed by successive governments.

It is my guess that the IMF, World Bank, ADB, OECD, UNCTAD, USAID, EU, UNDP, etc., must have collectively invested hundreds of millions of dollars in preparing excellent reports on macro, meso and micro issues, and providing consultancy services to ministries and foreign training to government officials. The World Bank's policy papers were discussed at conferences on human capital, fiscal policy and public expenditure. Issues such as child stunting, illiteracy and

poverty have found resonance in public debates. Yet, action is pending. Foreign trainings and visits have not proved useful as, once back, the officials are not posted in the ministries/agencies for which they were trained.

Among the think tanks, the noteworthy contribution is that of the PIDR, which has come up with an 18th package. One may disagree with some of their findings but their reports are a rich repository of alternative and divergent views on economic transformation, and should be utilised for policy formulation and discussion. Other local organisations which have done serious research and analyses are the CDPR, CRIER, IDEAS, SDPI, Lams, RNU, Nam, LRI, RPP, SDPC, IBA and AERC.

In the private sector, the Pakistan Business Council has produced a series of relevant reports on trade, taxation, tariffs, and the ease of doing business. The OCCI has developed a confidence index based on the survey of foreign companies, the PPCCI has formed a think tank, and APTMA regularly articulates its problems and proposals. The KCCI, RCI, LCCI are also active in pointing out the constraints of private business. Professional bodies such as ICAP, ICMA, ACCA, and many others are in regular dialogue on topics of national interest.

The purpose of this analysis is to back the assertion of the finance minister that 'we know our problems, we know what we need to do. The key is implementation'. I have argued elsewhere that implementing these reforms would be painful the first three years but by year five, the government can show stabilisation and growth revival. I disagree with those who hypothesise that these reforms would hurt the poor. Instead, by bringing 60 per cent of the economy into the tax net and reducing the sales tax rate, privatising loss-making SOEs, targeting energy subsidies on the poor, expanding BISP's scope, restructuring the size of government, devolving powers and diverting development fund allocations from the legislators to directly elected LGs would cause more pain to the elite (including me) than the common man. ■

The writer is the author of the Report on Institutional Pathways, 2021, approved by the National Cabinet.



BY RASHIDA DOHAD

Budgets to empower women

HOW much do governments in Pakistan spend to empower women? What are the trends in allocating and expending budgets for facilities and institutions that help women and girls get equal opportunities and live in dignity? Are there gaps in essential and strategic investments that can be phased to help reduce gender parity?

A gender budget tagging methodology developed for the governments of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) in 2023 helps answer these questions. It maps budgets to assess the quantum and nature of approved allocations and actual public spending likely to help women and girls access services like education, healthcare, training, credit, justice, security, disaster response and social protection. Public funds are also ranked on the basis of their relevance to empowering women.

Gender-tagging of the provincial budgets of Punjab and KP over the past three fiscal years, FY2020-21, FY2021-22 and FY2022-23, shows approved allocations with a high gender relevance ranged from 4.8 per cent to 6.73pc of the total budget, and spending was between 5.8pc to 7.53pc of the total expenditures. Budgets marked as high relevance have a principal purpose of supporting gender equality. These typically include funds for schools, hospitals, startups and other financing mechanisms designed to benefit women and girls. They also include public resources for creating and running shelters and providing other facilities that help respond to violence against women.

High relevance allocations were not the only gender-responsive investments made by the provincial governments. Rs1,315,409 million, or 56pc of total allocations over three years in KP, and Rs4,113,275m, or 44.43pc of the total in Punjab, were allocated for public services like universities, tertiary care hospitals, irrigation, and transport. These amounts are of medium relevance, as they likely benefited women and girls even though gender equality was not the deliberate purpose of these budgets.

An additional Rs254,999m, or 15pc of the cumulative total three-year budgets in KP, and Rs4,265,769m, or 13.67pc of the total in Punjab, represented low relevance funds; ie, amounts that may create an enabling environment for gender equality by supporting, for example, agricultural research that will assist women who depend on farming for food and livelihood. Going forward, more granular information, including sex-disaggregated data, will help governments show whether such public spending gives women and

girls access to equal opportunities and rights, demonstrating government compliance with domestic policies like the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Women Empowerment Policy, 2017, and the Punjab Women Development Policy, 2018, as well as international obligations such as the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Categorising gender-responsive budgets shows that the largest share in fiscal years 2020-23 was provided for social services in Punjab and KP. This included funds for education, healthcare, and basic services like drinking water. This was followed by budgets for women's economic empowerment, which support the access of girls and women to income opportunities and contribute to economic activity. This included funds for vocational training, credit, mobility, and facilities like work-

Gender-responsive budgets will help provide more equal opportunities, which can be a strong engine for macroeconomic stability.

ing women's hostels that make it possible for women to take jobs away from their families and households.

An analysis of Pakistan's federal budget for FY2023-24 shows that the largest share of gender-responsive budgets, Rs499,040m, was allocated for social protection, which includes support for social safety nets like the Benazir Income Support Programme. Ninety-four per cent of the amount categorised under social protection is highly relevant; ie, designed for gender equality. Rs139,720m expended for climate change supports adaptive and mitigation measures such as afforestation, solarisation and research on climate trends. However, in this category, dedicated funds are needed to develop the resilience of women, poor and others that are most vulnerable to climate shocks.

The information generated by gender tagging of federal and provincial budgets helps understand what is funded, how much is funded, where the funding gaps are, and how to better allocate

resources. Using such information and analysis for sustained and more impactful outcomes requires three priority actions.

First, integrate methodologies like gender budget tagging in the financial data management systems of the federal and provincial governments, so that robust data and analysis, including trends over time, are regularly made available to assist legislators, policy makers and government officials in making gender-responsive budget choices.

Second, provide more detailed information on current and development budgets to help more accurate gender tagging. Descriptions of budgets often do not provide enough information to judge their gender relevance. Some headway has been made to improve data contained in project planning documents, like the IPC-Is. These efforts should be further expedited and skills of government officials upgraded so that they are able to produce more detailed IPC-Is.

Third, use the information generated by gender tagging of budgets for in-depth assessments to help more impactful use of public resources to empower women and increase their agency. For example, providing schools and colleges for girls is important to reduce gender parity. But equally important is an assessment of how budgets can overcome challenges like high dropout rates of girls after primary school, estimated at 12pc. Also required are strategic investments, like including content in education curriculum that helps reverse pervasive social discrimination against women and girls.

Ranked 142 out of 146 countries, Pakistan is nearly at the bottom of the Global Gender Gap Index 2023, reflecting the grim realities of women, who make up 49pc of the country's population of 241.5m. Gender-responsive budgets will help reduce gender disparities and provide more equal opportunities, which can provide a strong engine for macroeconomic stability, stimulate economic growth, reduce income inequality, and make better development outcomes possible. According to the UNDP, \$12 trillion could be added to the global GDP by 2025 by advancing women's equality. But gender equality should not only be pursued for economic growth and inclusive development. It should be promoted because the ability to live with independence, dignity and freedom is a fundamental human right. ■

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OPINION



BY RIDA TAHIR

Children in prisons

ON a cold morning in 1957, a remand home was inaugurated in Karachi under the Bombay Children Act, 1924. This remand home was later shifted to near Central Jail in Karachi, and is now functioning in accordance with the Sindh Children Act, 1955, and the Sindh Remand Homes Rules, 2011. Another remand home has been sanctioned in Nawabshah/Shahdow Bazar, but it is non-functional.

Despite the passage of nearly 90 years, there is only one functional remand home in Sindh, highlighting the failure of the state in protecting children. There are 385 juvenile offenders of whom 106 are under the age of 16, whereas 560 are under the age of 18 languishing in the province's prisons, as per the latest data released by the Sindh Prisons and Corrections Service in 2023.

A remand home is a shift towards reformative and rehabilitative justice for children. In contrast to the harsh bars of prisons, a remand home provides a child with an environment of care, protection, observation and treatment. The purpose of remand homes is not to reprimand the child, but to reform their behaviour and reintegrate them into society. Remand homes are mandated to "provide proper accommodation to the inmates, including separate bed, sanitary, toilets and bathrooms", as per Rule 7 of the Sindh Remand Homes Rules. Further, Rule 16 mandates the provision of recreational facilities such as indoor and outdoor games during the child's stay at a remand home.

In 2018, the Juvenile Justice System Act was passed by parliament to protect the rights of children in conflict with the law. JJA, 2018, defines a child as a person who has not attained the age of 18 years. It did not repeal the Sindh Children Act, 1955, but it has an over-riding effect as per Section 24 of JJA, 2018. JJA, 2018, introduced the "preventive rehabilitation centre", which has been defined as "a place where a juvenile may be kept and given education, vocational or technical training for his mental, moral and psychological development". It is important to outline that the functions outlined for JRCs under Section 2 (k) of JJA, 2018, are analogous to the functions of the institutions of remand homes as per Section 26 of the Sindh Children Act, 1955, and Rule 2 (d) of the Remand Home Rules, 2011. Therefore, both federal and provincial obligations for the protection of juvenile offenders will be fulfilled if remand homes are established in each district of Sindh. Children do not belong in prisons. The

age of criminal responsibility in Pakistan has been capped at 10 years, as per Section 82 of the Pakistan Penal Code (amended in 2016). Further, Section 83 extends this protection to children of ages above 10 and under 14 years, who have not attained sufficient maturity of understanding to judge the nature and consequences of their conduct. Unfortunately, only 34 per cent of children under five are registered at birth nationally. This means that many children in the 10-14 age group are unable to escape the confinement bars even though the law protects them.

The absence of remand homes/ JRCs translates to children being put behind bars even where bail is the right of the child. Over 26 million children are out of school in Pakistan. Alarmingly, even among those attending school, 75pc are unable to read or comprehend simple text by the age of 10, according to data released by Unicef. Moreover, millions are trapped in child labour in the country.

Research has suggested that childhood experiences such as poverty, maltreatment, and school exclusion are associated with serious offences and frequent criminal convictions. Despite a comprehensive legal framework for the protection of children in conflict with the law, it is unfortunate that children trapped in the vicious cycle of conflict with the criminal justice system are not a priority of the state.

The Sindh Human Rights Commission has been actively advocating for the establishment of remand homes in each district of the province and the formalisation of provincial rules under JJA, 2018, which have not been notified in the province as yet. To protect children, it is suggested that the rules under JJA, 2018, when notified, are aligned and harmonised with the Sindh Remand Homes Rules, 2011. Additionally, the SHERC is also advocating for establishing free legal assistance for juveniles and children under Section 3 of JJA, 2018.

Children are not only the future but also the present of our society. It is imperative that the state safeguard and rehabilitate juvenile offenders to build a more equitable society. ■

The writer is a barrister of Lincoln's Inn and an advocate of the High Courts of Pakistan.

There is only one functional remand home in Sindh.



BY AISHA KHAN

Reshaping knowledge

GEOPOLITICS and geo-economics are seen as parallel pathways to progress. When there is information between the two, the outcome is good, when political differences come in the way of economic cooperation, the result is increased political tension and under-optimisation of economic activity.

In developing countries, this negative feedback loop is to the detriment of the people, where poor social and economic indicators, worsened by escalating debt burdens due to climate change, are increasing hardships for people.

Politics drive all agendas, but political activity does not take place in a vacuum, nor does it operate in isolation. The changing alignments in the geopolitical landscape at the global level also affect politics in South Asia.

Right now, that world is divided in two camps. The bipolar world, which became a unipolar world, is headed towards a second Cold War theatre.

The competing ideologies of free market and state capitalism are at the heart of the divide. This battle of political arrangement is embedded in a desire to create a world order based on the dominance of one system over the other.

This standoff is not likely to change in the foreseeable future and will continue to shape global politics. South Asia will have to navigate its way deftly in this tug of war between the competing blocks.

As it is, South Asia has a conflicted history with countries born out of divisions. The partition of Pakistan from India, and Bangladesh from Pakistan, has left scars that haunt relationships. This wounded sentiment is exploited by political actors and is responsible for holding progress hostage to a history of hostility.

The inability to sidestep differences has come at the cost of underpinning regional potential for growth and development. Meanwhile, climate change is pushing the region towards the limits of its coping capacity.

Reshaping knowledge amidst turmoil and using this ecosystem can help convert outdated strategies into fit-for-purpose actions that can change the regional dynamics for engagement.

The last six months have seen elections in Bangladesh, Pakistan and India. No mention or even an aspirational desire was expressed during the campaign for strengthening regional cooperation. This is largely because political ideology is deeply entrenched in emotions, and passions drive the agendas to the extent of making countries prefer remaining locked in perpetual acrimony over beneficial economic cooperation.

In this gloomy scenario, prospects may

look dim, yet there is a glimmer of hope that comes from the large youth cohort, which may want to craft a future that does not carry the weight of history. As the quantum of challenges increase, there will be a corresponding need for elevating response to avoid a humanitarian crisis. The region desperately needs intellectual space for an alternative trajectory that allows for free flow of ideas and interactions.

Under the normative framework, the logical ask would be for revival of Saarc, activation of Saffa, and making travel easier to facilitate cross-border communication. But none of this can happen despite the obvious advantages, because feelings of rivalry come in the way of cooperation. The sad reality is that the region is trapped in the past and tied in a Gordian knot.

Moving beyond the status quo will require inventing in the political economy of knowledge to promote innovative thinking, develop a new roadmap for engagement, and invest in regional integration. The youth and climate action offer the best chance for change. The young in South Asia cannot be the old, and climate is a common threat that respects no borders. Business as usual is no longer a workable plan.

Reshaping the knowledge landscape and empowering the youth with decision-making hold the key to unlocking rusty doors, using the gateway to build bridges of hope. The scope for expanding regional knowledge networks is immense.

Politics is about power, and market forces drive the economy. As the global resource base shrinks, political alignments will converge more with economic interests, putting vested interest groups against each other for grabbing critical resources. The ensuing demographic shifts will add to societal tensions and provide a breeding ground for populist leaders to exploit fear and scarcity for short-term political gain.

History tells us that science without humanity and politics without principles serve a limited purpose. Similarly, populism and the politics of hate also have a short shelf life, but like black carbon, can do great damage in a short time. This is a time for the youth to use knowledge platforms to change jaded narratives into hubs of hope and seize the opportunity for inventing in a better future. ■

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There is a glimmer of hope that comes from the youth cohort.

FROM THE PAST PAGES OF DAWN

1974 | Fifty years ago

Bid for hegemony

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto said tonight [June 7] that India had gone nuclear with the object of intimidating and blackmailing Pakistan, but he was confident the people of this country would face the challenge bravely. Winding up the debate on the repercussions of India's ... nuclear blast, he said that all roads led to the conclusion that India was brandishing the nuclear sword to extract political concessions from Pakistan and establish her hegemony in the Sub-continent.

Otherwise ... how did it make sense to spend billions of dollars to explode a nuclear device when India was in the throes of the worst ever economic crisis. The Indian entry into the nuclear club had brought about a qualitative change in the situation with the conventional Pakistan armed forces not only facing conventional but also nuclear Indian forces. The [PM] said that developments following the ... blast should not lull the lips of the "sinister-minded" individuals who tried to mislead the people by saying that he had ... entered into secret agreements with India. ... As regards the statement by his Government ... he said the decision to embark on a ... nuclear programme was taken at Multan in January 1972. — News agencies

1949 | Seventy-five years ago

'Israel's' breaches

AMMAN: "Israeli" forces today marched into neutral United Nations territory in the Mount of Evil Council area, South of Jerusalem, and occupied Arab College buildings next to the former Government house, which is now the seat of the United Nations Palestine Conciliation Commission, according to reports received here today [June 7]. An official of the United Nations Mediation staff said they were "disturbed" by the "Israeli" action. The "Israeli" have been asked to withdraw. ...

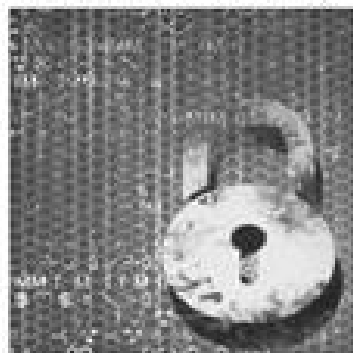
... An "Israeli" spokesman commenting on the report that "Israeli" forces today marched into neutral United Nations territory in the Mount of Evil Council area ... said that this area, although now occupied by the United Nations, was allocated to "Israel" under the armistice agreement. [Meanwhile in Philadelphia,] Dr Ralph B. Jacobs, acting United Nations Mediator for Palestine, said ... that permanent peace in the Holy City was in the offing, he believed fighting in Palestine to be over. A permanent settlement depended upon the wisdom and statesmanship of the Jews and Arabs now meeting in Lausanne. — News agencies

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Digital terrorism is an ominous reality



THIS is with reference to the report "Digital terrorism" to be notified out, declare commanders" (May 31). The military leadership's proactive approach in addressing politically motivated digital terrorism underscores its unwavering dedication to national security. This insidious threat, aimed at manipulating public opinion and harming the state of national unity through disinformation is often abetted by foreign actors. It has been rightly observed that it is done to create dependency in the nation, and disharmony among the institutions through blatant lies, fake news and propaganda.

Besides digital terrorism at home, the menace is actually a borderless entity and, as such, deserves international attention. Terrorists exploit the anonymity and reach of the internet to spread fear, to coerce populations, and to destabilise societies through propaganda, disruption of critical infrastructures, and incitement of violence.

The consequences can be devastating, as seen in the online hate speech that fuelled ethnic cleansing in Myanmar, or the foreign interference bid in the last American elections.

International terrorist organisations have also skillfully used social media for recruitment and for spreading their message across borders.

Combating this rather complex problem requires a multi-pronged approach involving international cooperation. It can be safely said that countries need to invest in robust cybersecurity mechanisms to defend critical digital infrastructure from cyberattacks.

On their part, social media platforms have a responsibility to develop strategies for identifying and removing extremist content while promoting responsible online discourse. Educating citizens on critical thinking skills is essential to

identify and counter misinformation online. Sharing intelligence about threats and coordinating efforts across borders are crucial steps to disrupt the activity of terrorist networks operating online.

Pakistan can further address digital terrorism by developing a national strategy to counter digital terrorism. This strategy should outline steps to defend critical infrastructure, counter online propaganda, and promote media literacy. Investing in training and resources for cybersecurity professionals is also vital. Partnerships with countries like China, with its advanced technological skills and capabilities, and the United States, a leader in cybersecurity research, can further strengthen the process of sharing information, developing collective responses, and enhancing Pakistan's ability to combat cyber threats.

By acknowledging the dangers of digital terrorism, adopting a multi-faceted approach, and fostering international collaboration, we can create a more secure and stable online environment for everyone. This collaborative effort will require a commitment from governments, technology companies, and citizens alike. By working together, the world can ensure that the internet remains a tool for positive change and not a weapon of destruction.

Majid Raza
Karachi

Victims of absurdity

MEDICAL experts emphasise the critical importance of administering the first hepatitis B vaccine to newborns within the initial 24 hours after birth. Aligned with this recommendation, I promptly sought vaccination for my newborn hours after delivery at a nearby rural People's Primary Healthcare Initiative (PPHI) centre. However, upon reaching the centre on a Thursday, I encountered an unexpected obstacle. The staff informed me that they exclusively administer the first dose of the vaccine to infants on Tuesdays only.

The revelation sparked immediate concern and prompted a discussion with the relevant healthcare providers. I reiterated the time-sensitive nature of the first vaccine dose, highlighting the necessity of adhering to the recommended timeframe. However, I pointed out, could newborns born on days other than a Tuesday receive timely immunisation if the protocol restricted the dispensation of vaccinations to only one specific day of the week.

Despite my earnest pleas for flexibility, the response offered was one of apology and a firm assertion of the staff's inability to deviate from the established schedule.

This encounter highlighted systemic issues within the vaccination protocols of the rural PPHI centres, raising broader

questions about healthcare accessibility and equity. Infants born on days other than a Tuesday face delays in receiving critical immunisation, putting them at risk of hepatitis B infection. Urgent action is needed to address the current logistical activity, and ensure equitable access to timely healthcare services for all newborns.

All rural PPHI centres should review and revise their vaccination scheduling and logistics practices. It is imperative that healthcare authorities prioritise the health and wellbeing of newborns by implementing measures to facilitate timely immunisation, regardless of the day of birth.

Raza Baboch
Gadhi Khairi

Eid and dacoities



THERE has been a disturbing rise in the robbery of sacrificial animals during the period leading up to Eidul Adha. This trend has affected the economic stability of individuals, and has left people wondering what kind of society we have become a part of where even sacrificial animals are not safe.

A particularly alarming incident that gained widespread attention on social media occurred in Lahore. A young man, seemingly in his 20s, was leading his two sacrificial animals through the city streets. Suddenly, a car approached him from behind.

In a swift and menacing move, the occupants of the car brandished a gun and forcibly took the animals, leaving the young man feeling threatened and helpless. This brazen act, captured and shared extensively online, underscores the growing insecurity faced by the people.

This was surely not an isolated incident. Similar cases have been reported in Karachi, where individuals have been deprived of their sacrificial animals in broad daylight. The frequency of such robberies has increased, leading to a pervasive sense of fear and insecurity among the people.

In both urban and rural areas, the theft

of these valuable animals has become a common occurrence, causing financial losses and emotional distress to many. The rise in these crimes highlights a significant failure on the part of the government to ensure the safety and security of its citizens.

Despite repeated incidents, there has been a lack of effective measures to curb this menace. The law-enforcement agencies appear ill-equipped to handle the situation, and the absence of stringent penalties for such crimes has emboldened the perpetrators.

The government's inability to protect the people reflects a deeper issue within the security apparatus and governance structures. For the common man in Pakistan, the promise of safety and security remains unfulfilled, leading to growing frustration and disillusionment.

It is imperative for the authorities to take immediate and decisive action to restore public confidence and ensure that such incidents do not become a regular feature of life in Pakistan. The protection of the people and their property, especially during significant cultural and religious events, must be prioritised to prevent any further erosion of trust in governmental institutions.

Farhan Ali
Islamabad

Mayor for Islamabad

METROPOLITAN cities around the world, like, say, London and New York, have elected mayors. In fact, we often copy the West in just about every matter, and one wonders why we have never had an elected mayor for Islamabad, which over the years has grown into a huge, sprawling metropolis.

An elected mayor and members of the elected municipal committees and union councils should be made responsible for all policy matters pertaining to the capital, and be delegated with financial matters as well.

It has been observed in the recent past that there is a lot of overlapping and infighting within the administrative machinery of Islamabad, with ongoing projects suffering or getting indefinitely delayed. This needs to end.

Hence, it is advisable that the office of a full-time elected mayor answerable to the constituents be established and thus made fully functional. Besides, the person elected should be empowered to run the affairs of the capital in a truly democratically elected manner. The tradition of leaving the matters to the dictate, discretion and whims of an individual or institution not answerable to anyone other than the appointing authority must be done away with immediately.

Ahmad
Islamabad

PHC rejects plea for removal of housing scheme scam suspect's name from ECL

Says records contradicted petitioner's claim of having addressed people's grievance

Bureau Report

PIESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court has refused to order authorities to strike the name of a private housing scheme's project director off the Exit Control List over an alleged fraud. A bench consisting of Justice Sahibzada Asadullah and Justice Wajid Ahmad dismissed the petition of Prof Abdul Hamid Jan of Professor Model Town II Peshawar for the removal of his name from the ECL, observing that the case of the affected people for grievance resolution are pending with the high court.

It declared that the petitioner's claim of having addressed the affected people's grievance was contradicted by the records and facts, so the petition was devoid of merit.

The National Accountability Bureau Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had launched an inquiry under the National Accountability Ordinance (NAO) into allegations of corruption and corrupt practices against the petitioner and others for "cheating public at

large" in respect of the Professor Model Town II Peshawar housing project.

It later issued a call-up notice to the petitioner as the housing scheme's project director over fraud allegations.

The NAB received 51 claims regarding the scheme and learned that the petitioner and other partners collected Rs38.441 million on pretext of providing developed plots to allottees but failed to deliver on the promise.

The claimants insisted that the petitioner and his other partners had deprived several people of their hard-earned money.

In 2020, the high court ordered the placing of the name of the petitioner on the ECL, at the request of a NAB deputy prosecutor general.

In the current petition, Prof Jan claimed that his firm had satisfied all claimants by giving them plots or returning their money.

His counsel contended that after amendments made in the NAO through the National Accountability (Amendment) Act 2022, the said project did not come under the purview of NAB.

During pendency of the petition, several affected persons filed applications with the court for compelling an respondent in the case. These pleas were accepted.

Advocate Malik Shahid Khan appeared for the housing scam's victims and told the petitioner along with other accused booked agreements under the garb of providing

amenities like mosque, school, hospital, community hall, and shopping mall in the private housing scheme.

He claimed that no NOC was obtained from the competent authority and instead a bogus NOC of the Peshawar Development Authority was shown to the claimants.

The lawyer contended that the petitioner was running a joint bank account with other accused, including Prof Naeem, Mohammad Nisar and Hameed Gid, through which huge amounts had been collected from the claimants with promise of allotment of developed plots.

He added that the petitioner had also fraudulently issued provisional allotment letters and possession letters to the claimants, whereas in fact the claimants had not been provided with possession of any plot.

The bench observed that admittedly under the 2022 amendment Act, jurisdiction of the NAB was vested in the instant matter but in light of the Supreme Court's judgement rendered in the "Imran Khan Nisar versus Federation of Pakistan" case, the matter wants to be decided afresh by the competent authority.

It added that as per the stand of the NAB, all referred cases were again reopened by the competent authority and that at the moment the present case was under consideration for decision afresh in light of the apex court's judgement.

Two brothers get life over girl's abduction, assault

CHARRAIDDA: A local court has convicted two brothers of abducting and assaulting a 14-year-old girl, and sentenced them to life imprisonment with a fine of Rs300,000 each.

Additional sessions judge Syed Iftikhar Shah pronounced that the prosecution had proved its case against Bilal and Hameed Ali.

The judge pronounced that both the convicts were sentenced to life imprisonment on two counts under section 305-B (kidnapping, abducting or compelling woman for marriage) and 375 (rape) of Pakistan Penal Code with fine of Rs200,000 each.

Furthermore, the judge pronounced the convicts were also sentenced under section 53 (sexual abuse) of Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa Child Protection and Welfare Act and were sentenced to seven years rigorous imprisonment with fine of Rs100,000 each.

The court extended them benefit of section 382 of Code of Criminal Procedure, under which the period of their detention prior to their conviction would be calculated in their prison terms.

The FIR of the occurrence was registered at Charsadda city police station on Sept 19, 2022 on the complaint of the victim's mother.

An assistant public prosecutor, Ambreen Gul, and counsel for the complainant contended that the two accused were directly charged in the FIR for the heinous offence.—Correspondent

CTD man martyred, militant killed in Lakki, Bannu

LAKKI MARWAT: A member of the Counter Terrorism Department was martyred and a militant was killed in two separate incidents in southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa districts on Thursday night.

Police in Lakki Marwat said on Friday that Wahid, a member of the CTD Lakki, was attacked by armed motorcycle in Gundi Khankhel area in the jurisdiction of Shuhad Ahsanullah Khan Khattak police station of Sarai Nasir town.

Wahid got critical injuries and died instantly. The body was shifted to a hospital, police said, adding funeral of the deceased was offered at the police lines.

Later, he was laid to rest in a graveyard in Naraki Kallay area with full official honours.

Meanwhile, the CTD claimed to have killed a militant commander in an exchange of fire in Tajgai area of Bannu on Thursday night.

The CTD killed Muhammad Umar of Siddiquiullah Galsara group — a subgroup of Haifi Gulabzadar group for Bannu district, during an intelligence-based operation, a statement said.

It said Umar was wanted by the CTD Bannu for his involvement in several attacks and targeted killing.

"As soon as the operation was launched, militants present in the area started indiscriminate fire at the CTD team," the statement said, adding an exchange of fire continued for 30 minutes, in which Umar was killed, but his associates managed to escape.

The CTD team also recovered arms and ammunition from the spot.

Separately, a policeman was shot dead by rivals over a family dispute in Tajgai area of Lakki Marwat, police said.

They said Shauhratullah, 36, and his father, Haroon, 51, were in the Tajgai Adda area when their rivals,

Naimatullah and Zaimullah, riding a motorcycle opened fire on them.

They said Shauhratullah died on the spot, while his father, who was buying foodstuff from a shop, escaped the attack.

The police said the deceased and attackers belonged to the Bettari tribal subdivision.—Correspondent

Rain, hailstorm lash South Waziristan

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: Heavy rain coupled with hailstorm lashed Wana, the district headquarters Lower South Waziristan, damaging fruit orchards and standing vegetable crops.

Farmers said the hailstorms inflicted heavy financial losses on them. They demanded of the government to compensate them for the losses.

Shah Hussain Wazir, a farmer, urged the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to release funds for the affected farmers in Wana.

On the one hand, rain broke the heatwave and turned the weather pleasant. However, electric supply was disrupted across the district.

JIRCA: Inspector General Frontier Corps (IGFC) South Maj Gen Haroon Hameed Chaudhary held a jirga with Wazir tribal elders at Wana Scouts hall here on Friday.

The jirga was attended by tribal elders from nine tribes of Ahmadi Wazir, youth, ulama and traders.

Lower South Waziristan deputy commissioner Muhammad Nisar Khan was also present.

Gen Hameed appreciated Ahmadi Wazirs' unwavering support to the security forces for the establishment of peace in the region.

He highlighted various economic measures taken for the development of the district, restoration of 3G/4G internet service, impact of smuggling on the national level, and assured to continue efforts to ensure peace and stability in the region.—Correspondent



Sukkur IBA University
www.iba-suk.edu.pk

CORRIGENDUM

This refers to Tender Proc /381 with PID (H) 391/2023 for Hi-tech Carbonless Paper in Daily Dawn and Daily The News. The last date of bid submission is extended till June 14, 2024, up to 3:00 pm (PKT). Bids will be opened on the same day at 3:30 pm. (PKT). All other terms and conditions will remain the same.

SUKKUR IBA UNIVERSITY
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Sindh, Pakistan
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Fax: +92-71-5804419



PAKISTAN REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT & MANAGEMENT COMPANY PRIVATE LIMITED

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)

Single Stage One Envelope (Least Cost)

Tender Enquiry #: PRIMACO/PAC/JANITORIAL SERVICES - LAHORE/12/5/2024

CLEANING & JANITORIAL SERVICES

PRIMACO invites sealed bids from eligible and interested bidders for Providing Cleaning & Janitorial Services at 66-M.A. Jahan Town Lahore.

Interested and eligible bidders may obtain Bidding Documents from the office of the undersigned in Islamabad against a payment of Rs. 5,000/- (non-refundable) in the shape of Bank Draft / Pay Order in the name of PRIMACO Islamabad (NTN 2795350-5) during 0900 hours to 1500 hours on any working day. Complete Bidding document set can also be downloaded from websites of PPMA (www.ppma.org.pk) or PRIMACO (<http://www.primaco.com.pk/tender.php>) and the same shall be submitted, complete in all respect and duly signed & stamped, along with Bank Draft / Pay Order of Rs. 5,000/- (non-refundable) in the name of PRIMACO Islamabad in the proposal.

Eligibility Criteria

Interested bidders who fulfill below criteria are required to submit following information / documents as part of bid:

- Complete credentials of the company with related details including current company's and completed assignments duly supported with copies of verifiable documents.
- The firm must be incorporated under ordinance or registered with SEC/P/GOP/Sole Proprietor.
- Valid Income Tax Registration with FBR/Tax Department (NTN), Sales Tax Registration and must be on ATL (for Income and Sales Tax).
- An original & valid affidavit on non-judicial stamp paper / e-stamp paper duly verified stating that the Bidder is not blacklisted by, or having no litigation with, any Govt. / Autonomous Body or between partners.

Fixed amount of Bid Security	Rs. 200,000/- in shape of Deposit at Call/ Bank Draft/ Bank Guarantee only
Tender Documents Submission Date-Time:	24th June 2024 till 1100 Hours
Bid Opening Date & Time:	24th June 2024 at 1330 Hours

Instructions:

- The bids will be opened on the aforementioned date & time in the presence of bidders or their authorized representative at the below address.
- Incomplete, late or conditional tenders and joint ventures (JVs) will not be considered.
- PRIMACO reserves the right to accept or reject any/all tenders.
- The Contract shall be governed under PPMA Rules & Regulations.

This advertisement is available on PPMA website (www.ppma.org.pk) & PRIMACO website (www.primaco.com.pk).

Manager (P&C)
PRIMACO 2nd Floor, 108H House, Plot # 32, 33 & 34,
Sector G-10/4, Marve Area, Islamabad. Ph: 001-8108254-55



PAKISTAN REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT & MANAGEMENT COMPANY PRIVATE LIMITED

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)

Single Stage Two Envelope (Least Cost)

Tender Enquiry #: PRIMACO/P&C/Supply & Fixing ACP/13/5/2024

Supply & Fixing of Aluminum Composite Panel, Cleaning of Facade & Reparing of Sign Board

PRIMACO invites sealed bids from eligible and interested bidders for Repair and Supply & Fixing of Aluminum Composite Panel, Cleaning of Facade & Reparing of Sign Board at 108H House, Plot No. 32, 33 & 34 Marve Area G-10/4 Islamabad.

Interested and eligible bidders may obtain Bidding Documents from the office of the undersigned in Islamabad against a payment of Rs. 5,000/- (non-refundable) in the shape of Bank Draft / Pay Order in the name of PRIMACO Islamabad (NTN 2795350-5) during 0900 hours to 1500 hours on any working day. Complete Bidding document set can also be downloaded from PRIMACO website (<http://www.primaco.com.pk/tender.php>) and the same shall be submitted with Bid Security, complete in all respect and duly signed & stamped, along with mandatory Bank Draft / Pay Order of Rs. 5,000/- (non-refundable) in the name of PRIMACO Islamabad in the bid proposal. Bid(s) will not be considered without respective Bidding Document fees.

Eligibility Criteria:

Interested bidders who fulfill below criteria are required to submit following information / documents as part of bid together with mandatory Bid Security of fixed amount of PKR 1,500,000/- in shape of Deposit at Call / Bank Draft or Bank Guarantee only (on the standard format provided in bidding documents) in the name of PRIMACO Islamabad (NTN 2795350-5). A copy of the same shall be placed in technical bid envelope:-

- Complete credentials of the individuals/company with related details.
- Having valid incorporation / registration with SEC/P/GOP/Sole Proprietor.
- Valid registration with PTC in category C-4 & above and with CE-10 specialized code.
- Valid Income Tax Registration with FBR/Tax Department (NTN), Sales Tax Registration and must be on ATL (for Income and Sales Tax).
- An original and valid affidavit on non-judicial stamp paper/e-stamp paper duly verified stating that the individual / firm is not blacklisted by, or having no litigation with, any Govt. / Autonomous Body or between partners. (Standard format is attached on page 29 of this tender document).

Tender Documents Submission Date-Time:	24th June 2024 till 1400 Hours
Bid Opening Date & Time:	24th June 2024 at 1430 Hours

Instructions:

- The bids will be opened on the aforementioned date & time in the presence of bidders or their authorized representative at the below address.
- Incomplete, late or conditional tenders and joint ventures (JVs) will not be allowed.
- PRIMACO reserves the right to accept or reject any/all tenders.
- The Contract shall be governed under PPMA/PEC Standard Bidding Documents.

This advertisement is available on PPMA website (www.ppma.org.pk) & PRIMACO website (www.primaco.com.pk).

Manager (P&C)
PRIMACO 2nd Floor, 108H House, Plot # 32, 33 & 34,
Sector G-10/4, Marve Area, Islamabad. Ph: 001-8108254-55



UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, LAHORE

TRUTH, THE ULTIMATE VIRTUE

VACANCIES FOR TEACHING AND NON-TEACHING POSTS

The University of Education, Lahore was established in 1978 out of several leading teacher training institutions all across the Punjab. University of Education encompasses of nine Colleges and four Functional Centres located in Lahore, Attock, Multan, Vehari, Dera Ghazi Khan, Faisalabad and Gujranwala. Currently we are in search of Teaching and Non-Teaching staff to be employed in the disciplines / departments listed below. The ideal candidates for the following positions who possess requisite knowledge, experience and have interest and motivation to work may apply.

1. Professor (BPS-21 Regular)		As per HEC Criteria	
English	1 each for Faisalabad and Division of Science and Technology		
Information Technology / Computer Science	1 for DG Khan Campus		
Physics	1 each for Jhelum Campus (Department of Experimental Physics) and Division of Science and Technology (Theoretical Physics)		
Chemistry	1 for Division of Science and Technology		
Astrophysics	1 for Division of Science and Technology		
English	1 for Multan Campus		
Management Sciences	1 for Division of Management and Administrative Sciences		
Education	1 for Division of Education		
2. Associate Professor (BPS-20 Regular)			As per HEC Criteria
English	1 for Multan Campus		
Business Administration	1 for Division of Management and Administrative Sciences with Specialization in Finance		
Education	1 each for Attock Campus and Division of Education, Faisalabad Campus		
Physical Education	1 for Division of Arts and Social Sciences, Lower Mail Campus, Lahore		
Chemistry	1 each for Jhelum Campus and Multan Campus		
Zoology	1 each for Vehari Campus and Division of Science and Technology, Faisalabad Campus		
Information Technology / Computer Science	1 for Multan Campus		
3. Assistant Professor (BPS-19 Regular)		As per HEC Criteria	
Physical Education	1 for Division of Arts and Social Sciences, Lower Mail Campus, Lahore		
Computer Science	1 for DG Khan Campus		
Biology	1 for DG Khan Campus		
Special Education	1 each for Faisalabad Campus and Division of Education, Faisalabad Campus		
Business Administration	1 for Multan Campus		
Zoology	1 for Dera Ghazi Khan Campus		
4. Assistant Professor (TTS Basis)			As per HEC Criteria
Physics	1 each for Attock Campus and Vehari		
Chemistry	1 for Faisalabad Campus		
English	1 for Faisalabad Campus		
History	1 for Division of Arts and Social Sciences		
Biology	1 for Dera Ghazi Khan Campus		
Information Technology / Computer Science	2 for Multan Campus and 1 for Vehari Campus		
5. Lecturer (BPS-18 Regular)		As per HEC Criteria	
Special Education	1 for Division of Education		
6. Treasurer (BPS-20) On Three Years Contract	1 (Head Office)		
			Eight years post qualification relevant experience
			OR
			MS or MPhil (Second Division) in Finance or Commerce or Accounting or Auditing or Economics or equivalent qualification from an institute or a University recognized by the HEC; and
			Five years post qualification relevant experience
7. Controller of Examinations (BPS-20) On Three Years Contract	1 (Head Office)		1 MBA in Finance or M.Com or ACCA or ICMA or M.Sc. in Economics (Second Division) or equivalent qualification from an institute or a University recognized by the HEC; and
			Eight years post qualification relevant experience
			OR
		MS or MPhil (Second Division) in any discipline or equivalent qualification from an institute or a University recognized by the HEC; and	
		Five years post qualification teaching or administrative or professional experience in a public or private institute or university recognized by the HEC or public sector organization	
8. Assistant Director (BPS-17 Regular)	1 (Student Affairs)	1 Master's Degree or MEd (Second Division) in any discipline or equivalent qualification from an institute or a University recognized by the HEC; and	
		Eight years post qualification teaching or administrative or professional experience in a public or private institute or university recognized by the HEC or public sector organization	
		OR	
		Master's Degree or MEd (Second Division) in any discipline or equivalent qualification from an institute or a University recognized by the HEC; and	
		Five years post qualification teaching or administrative or professional experience in a public or private institute or university recognized by the HEC or public sector organization	
9. Library Clerk (BPS-11 Regular)	1 (Central Library)	1 Master's Degree or MEd (Second Division) in any discipline or equivalent qualification from an institute or a University recognized by the HEC; and	
		Eight years post qualification relevant experience	
		OR	
		Higher Secondary School Certificate (Second Division) with certificate in Library Science from a recognized Board	
		Three years post qualification relevant experience	

How to Apply

- Applicants are required to apply online through university job portal with no late payoffs. The applicants are also required to submit signed photocopy/printout of seven pre-filled online application form to the Registrar Office, University of Education, College Point, Faisalabad Campus, Lahore. PB online applications form readily on its e-filing will be allowed after submission.
- The candidates applying for the post of Professor and Associate Professor are required to submit six sets of hard copies of current Online Application Form along with six complete sets of latest/recent passport photographs/certificates of any distinction etc.
- The applicants are required to print system generated fee challan and deposit job application processing fee as mentioned on challan in any branch of State of Punjab.
- The applicants are required to attach and submit attested copies of CNIC, domicile, all educational documents/certificates, experience certificates and any other relevant documents along with deposit receipt / deposited system generated fee challan worth as per the following approved rates on or before the closing date.

Scale	Amount (non-refundable)
BPS-19 to BPS-21 (BPS-21)	Rs. 4,000/-
BPS-22	Rs. 7,500/-

- Applicants submitted without deposited system generated fee challan will not be entertained. Deposited amount is non-refundable/non-transferable.
- For any Technical Assistance regarding Online Application Submission, please call at 042-9900254 during office hours.
- Closing date for submission of online applications is 04.06.2024 within office hours. Please note: applications form along with all attested documents must be submitted on 04.06.2024 in person or via courier. Incomplete applications will not be entertained.

or applications received after due date (even dispatched through courier) will not be accepted

General Information

- Relaxation in upper age limit may be granted to eligible candidates as per rules.
- The quota for disabled persons, minorities and women will be observed as per rules.
- Degrees only from HEC recognized Universities/degree granting institutions will be considered.
- Foreign degree holders must submit their experience certificates issued by the HEC, Pakistan.
- Candidates presently working in Government, Semi Government and Autonomous Bodies must send their applications through proper channel only. Online applications submitted without NOC/Advance Copy shall not be entertained.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview. No TA/DA will be admissible.
- The University is not responsible. It will follow its prospectus/noticeboard to any type of Courier Agency / Post Office / Telephonic Message.
- Experiences, where presented, must include relevant experience, is a profession or in the service of an autonomous or semi-autonomous organization or well-regarded private organization (paid after applying form) requisite qualification for the post.
- University reserves the rights to increase/decrease or totally withdraw the vacancies without assigning any reason.
- University reserves the rights to conduct any test/screening for the shortlisting of candidates.

REGISTRATION
University of Education
College Road, Faisalabad, Lahore-Pakistan
Phone: 042-9900254
E-mail: queries@ue.edu.pk

08/06/2024

UN staff, other aid workers kidnapped in Yemen

DIRIAD: Yemen's Houthi rebels have detained an unspecified number of aid workers, including United Nations staff, in an apparently coordinated sweep, a diplomatic source said on Friday.

Eighteen aid workers were kidnapped in four Houthi-held parts of the country, the Yemeni Mayday Organisation for Human Rights said, listing 10 workers from UN agencies.

A diplomatic source said "more than a dozen" aid workers, including UN staff, were kidnapped on Thursday.

The abductions underline the perilous task facing aid workers in Yemen, whose long-running civil war has precipitated one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

"The Houthi armed group raided the homes and kidnapped staff of the United Nations and other international organisations operating in four governorates under" their control, the Mayday Organisation said.

This "serious escalation... constitutes a violation of the privileges and immunities of United Nations personnel", it added, describing the abductions as "blackmail practices in order to obtain political and economic gains".

The "simultaneous" abductions took place in the capital Sanaa, the key port of Hodeida, Aden and Saada, the Houthi's traditional stronghold, the aid group said.—AFP

Google won't face jury trial in digital ads case

WASHINGTON: A federal judge ruled on Friday that Google will not face a jury trial over its alleged digital advertising dominance. The development comes after the company wrote a cheque to the United States in order to cover monetary damages.

The US Justice Department and a coalition of states sued the tech giant last year, claiming it was unlawfully "monopolising digital advertising and overcharging users". The jury trial would have been the "first-ever" in a civil antitrust case, lodged by the Justice Department, Google stated.

Friday's ruling by the US District Judge, Leonie Brinkema (in Alexandria, Virginia), means that Google will now face a "non-jury" trial in the lawsuit. The lawsuit seeks pri-

marily to break up its digital advertising business, to allow for increased competition.

Google confirmed that Brinkema (who had previously scheduled a jury trial for September), issued the ruling during hearing of the court. However, the tech company declined to comment further. The company denies any wrongdoing and says it is not admitting liability, by submitting a damages payment.

A Justice Department spokesperson declined to comment.

Google had said last month that the government, which had initially claimed more than \$100 million in damages, could not show more than \$1 million in damages. Google then "wrote a cheque" to cover the amount. The final amount, however, has not been disclosed.—Reuters



PLUMES of smoke rise from the site of an air strike in Sosna, on Friday.—Reuters

Russia blames US for deaths on its soil

The statement follows warnings by Putin that the West is risking a global war by allowing Ukraine to fire missiles supplied by it

ST PETERSBURG: Russia accused Ukraine on Friday of "using US-supplied rockets" to kill women and children, in a region of southern Russia and added that "Washington is in blame".

This is the first time Russia has stated that it holds the United States responsible for civilian deaths on its own soil. This accusation follows warnings by President Vladimir Putin that the West is playing with fire and risking a global conflict by letting Ukraine fire Western-supplied weaponry into Russia.

The spokeswoman of the Russian foreign ministry, Maria Zakharova, said the strikes occurred last week, within the Belgorod region. She alleged this was "shortly" after the United States "agreed for the first time" to let Ukraine fire US-supplied weapons into Russia.

The US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, confirmed last week that President Biden had approved the step as Ukraine could defend its Kharkiv region, which lies adjacent to Belgorod. Washington has barred Kyiv from firing US weaponry deeper into Russian soil.

Zakharova said that statements from Washington which "give the green light" for such attacks amounted to "a confession, for the murder of children and women in the Belgorod region".

"Fragments of HIMARS (rockets) will serve as direct proof," she told reporters.

Zakharova did not present any images of rocket fragments, nor did she say how many people were killed in the alleged incident. Putin has warned "increasingly" in recent weeks that the West risks a global conflict if it enables deeper strikes into the Ukraine war. In remarks to foreign editors on Wednesday, he said Russia reserved the right to supply weapons to adversaries of the West in a "symmetrical" response to the "Western arming of Ukraine".

Meanwhile, a Ukrainian missile strike on the Russian-controlled city of Lugansk ripped through a

block of flats on Friday, killing four people and wounding over 40, Russian-appointed officials said.

The eastern Lugansk border region is almost entirely under the control of Moscow, which has claimed its full annexation.

The main city, also called Lugansk, came under a "massive" missile attack on Friday morning, according to its Russian-appointed head, Leonid Pasechnik.

A section of an apartment block collapsed and the "bodies of four peaceful civilians killed" were removed from the rubble, the Moscow-backed region's government said on Telegram.

"Forty-six people have received medical treatment," said regional health minister Natalya Pashchenko, adding that they included an eight-year-old boy and three teenage boys.

The condition of two of the injured is "grave", she said.

The strike tore open the facade of a five-storey Soviet-era block of flats from the roof down and left a deep crater in the ground, images posted by the Russian emergency services showed.

Rescuers carried out one elderly casualty on a stretcher, footage posted by the emergency services showed.—Agencies

Biden asks Americans to 'recommit to democracy'

POINTE HISC: A group of US army Rangers 80 years ago on D-Day, President Joe Biden compared the threats posed by Nazi Germany to those facing the world today in the face of "dictators and authoritarianism". He urged all Americans to resist isolationism and "recommit to democracy".

Biden's speech in Normandy, his second in as many days, aimed at bolstering support for Ukraine. Biden stated the army Rangers who fought that day would want Americans to "defend freedom".

He was referring to the June 6, 1944, Allied landings in France during World War II.

"Does anyone doubt that they would (America to stand up against Putin's aggression here in Europe today)" he asked.

Biden refrained from mentioning his Republican rival in the Nov. 5 presidential election, namely, Donald Trump. However, the Democrat President's speech criticised the former president's "isolationist inclinations".

Biden once was in target American to convince the Rangers whose dramatic heroism on "D-Day" helped make the invasion a success.

"As we gather here today, it's not just to honor those who showed such remarkable bravery that day, June 6, 1944," Biden said. "It's to listen to the echo of their voices. To hear them. They're not asking us to scale these cliffs. They're asking us to stay true to what America stands for." On June 6, 1944, the elite Ranger troops scaled the 100-foot cliffs overlooking Omaha Beach. The Rangers then seized German artillery pieces that could have fired on American troops coming ashore at Omaha.—Reuters

No air-conditioning for Ukraine officials

KYIV: The Ukrainian government ordered all ministries and regional authorities on Friday to stop using air-conditioning and switch off external lighting. The order came as Russian bomb-hatchments forced long blackouts across the country.

Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said reducing power consumption and saving as much electricity as possible was essential, following Russian strikes on Ukraine's power infrastructure.

"Due to the Russian attacks, we have a significant deficit in the energy system. To improve the situation, we restore and expand generation and simultaneously reduce consumption," Shmyhal told a government meeting.

"We approved the government's order to reduce electricity consumption by all state authorities. Ministries, central institutions and regional administrations should stop using air conditioners and external lighting of buildings and nearby areas."

Temperatures in Ukraine are hovering at approximately 25 degrees Celsius (77°F) and could rise up to 35C (95°F) in the months of July and August.

Shmyhal says the government recommended similar steps to law enforcement institutions and judicial authorities. He urged businesses to follow suit and limit the use of air-conditioning and other energy-intensive equipment as much as possible.—Reuters

In poll campaign blow, Sunak apologises for leaving D-Day events early

LONDON: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, in a rare setback to his election campaign, apologised on Friday for leaving D-Day commemorations early. He said he left early to give an interview in which he attacked the main opposition party.

Sunak's decision not to stay at the event in northern France alongside other world leaders, was met with dismay in the Conservative Party. Opinion polls suggest he faces the prospect of a heavy defeat in the national election on July 4.

The leader of the opposition Labour Party, Keir Starmer, remained in Normandy for the duration

of events marking the 80th anniversary of the "D-Day" landings. Starmer was seen talking to leaders, including the Ukrainian President, Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

"On reflection, it was a mistake not to stay longer, and I've apologised for that, but I also don't think it's right to be political in the midst of D-Day commemorations," Sunak told reporters. "The focus should rightly be on the veterans."

Sunak says his plans had been set, long before the start of the election campaign.

US President Joe Biden, Britain's King Charles and other leaders gathered

at the events in Normandy. Sunak spoke at a British-led event but delegated other duties to ministers, which included Foreign Secretary David Cameron.

Cameron was pictured with Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

A usually loyal Conservative politician (who asked not to be identified) said: "I can't explain it and I won't." The lawmaker said it could become the "Gillian Duffy moment", a reference to 2010 when Gordon Brown (the then prime minister) had apologised for

being caught on tape calling a voter "a bigoted woman". This moment was seen as a turning point, in a campaign which he eventually lost.

Sunak's Conservative lag about 20 points behind Labour in opinion polls. Sunak's campaign lost an inauspicious start last month, when he announced the election date under a downpour of rain. Sunak competed to "be heard" against Labour supporters, who blamed a pop song associated with their party's crushing "1997 election victory".

In another major blow to the Tories, Brexit campaigner Nigel

Farage assumed leadership of the right-wing Reform UK party. Farage stated this week that he plans to stand in the election.

Political pain

Sunak says he is the person "best placed", to look after Britain's security. Sunak added that he will introduce mandatory national service, should he stay in power.

The wealthy former hedge fund executive has often been portrayed as being "out of touch" with ordinary people. This is during a campaign in which a cost-of-living crisis is a significant issue. He was asked repeat-

edly about the decision, whilst on the campaign trail, on Friday.

Chris Hopkins, who is political research director at the polling company Savanta, says Sunak's "political misjudgement seems almost laser-guided in causing Rishi Sunak and the Conservative Party as much political pain as humanly possible".

Senior Labour spokesman Jonathan Ashworth accused Sunak of "choosing to prioritise his own vanity TV appearances over our veterans" and "it is yet more desperation, yet more chaos". Liberal Democrat chief Ed Davey accused Sunak of a "total dereliction of duty".—Reuters



SYROS: A view of Syros, on the Greek island of the same name. Police combed the town on Friday after Michael Mosley, a British TV doctor, went missing.—Reuters



WILMINGTON: James Biden, brother of Joe Biden, and his wife Sara Jones Biden, arrive at the Caleb Boggs Federal Building on Friday to attend the trial of Hunter Biden, the US president's son. Hunter Biden went on trial this week on charges he lied to police that he was not a drug addict while purchasing a gun in 2018.—AFP



MUNICH: Pretzel and EU flags are pictured before the last rally for European elections of Germany's Christian Democratic Union.—AFP

NEWSMAKERS



FRENCH national Laurent Vinatier, an adviser to a Swiss non-profit organisation, stands inside an enclosure for defendants during a court hearing in Moscow.—Reuters

Frenchman pleads guilty in Russia for not registering as foreign agent

MOSCOW: French researcher Laurent Vinatier pleaded guilty in a Moscow court on Friday to a charge of failing to register as a foreign agent while gathering information on the Russian military.

Vinatier, 47, could face up to five years in prison. He was placed in pre-trial custody on 11 Aug 5, despite a request to free him endorsed by the French embassy.

"I apologise for not registering as a foreign agent. The most upsetting thing is that throughout the 10 years of my work I tried to defend Russia and its interests," state news agency RIA quoted him as saying in court.

Vinatier is a Russia specialist and adviser to HD, a Swiss-based conflict mediation group whose full name is the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue.

A short video posted by the Moscow courts service showed the Frenchman being led in handcuffs into the courtroom and ushered into a barred metal cage at the start of the hearing.

He joins a growing list of foreign

nationals detained in Russia who have found themselves caught up in the crisis in relations between Russia and the West during the Ukraine war.

US reporter Evan Gershkovich is awaiting trial on spy charges and Russian-American journalist Alex Kuznetsov for failing to register as a foreign agent. Another American, Paul Whelan, was jailed for 16 years in 2020. All deny any guilt, and the US has accused Moscow of conducting "hostage diplomacy".

Gordon Black, a US soldier, went on trial in Russia's Far East on Thursday on suspicion of stealing from his Russian girlfriend and threatening to kill her.

French President Emmanuel Macron on Thursday denied Vinatier worked for the French state and described his arrest as part of a campaign of disinformation by Moscow. Under Russian law, a person is obliged to contact the justice ministry and register as a foreign agent if they are involved in political activity or collecting military information.—Reuters



THE HAGUE: Dutch King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima pose with their children, Crown Princess Amalia, Princesses Alexia and Ariane, during an official photo session, on Friday.—Reuters



CHERBOURG: President Emmanuel Macron of France speaks with WWI veterans as he attends a ceremony in north-western France on Friday as part of commemorations marking the 80th anniversary of the D-Day Allied landings in Normandy.—AFP

Israeli forces batter Gaza as tanks advance in Rafah

CAIRO: With a renewed ceasefire push stalled, Israel hammered central and southern areas of Gaza Strip again on Friday, killing 28 Palestinians, and tank forces advanced to the western edges of Rafah.

Qatari and Egyptian mediators tried again this week to reconcile clashing demands preventing a halt to the hostilities, a release of Israeli prisoners and Palestinians jailed in Israel, and an armistice-motivated flow of aid into Gaza to alleviate a humanitarian disaster.

But progress close to the talks said there were still no signs of a break through.

A month after evicting into Rafah in what Israel said was an attempt to wipe out Hamas's last intact combat units, tanked forces have advanced to the southwest fringes of the city that skirts the Gaza Strip's border with Egypt, residents said.

They said tanks were stationed in the Al Ibra district, near the Mediterranean coast, while snipers had commandeered some buildings and high ground, trapping people in their homes. They said Israeli machinegun fire had made it too dangerous to go out.

Gaza health officials said two Palestinians had been killed and several wounded in western Rafah from tank shelling there. In central Gaza, Palestinian media said 15 people died overnight in Israeli bombardment.

"I think the occupation forces are trying to reach the beach area of Rafah. The raids and the bombing overnight were tactical, they covered under heavy fire and then retreated," one Palestinian resident said via a chat app.

In the larger city of Khan Younis, just to the north of Rafah, an Israeli air strike on a house killed eight people and wounded several, including children.

In northern Gaza, three Palestinians were killed

in an Israeli air strike on a Gaza City school building that was sheltering displaced families, rescue workers said.

Hamas said on Friday its fighters shelled military in the central city of Deir al-Balah shelled a house where Israeli troops were barricaded, killing some and wounding others. It said helicopters were seen landing to extract into the stricken Israeli unit.

The Israeli military focused on central Gaza in its latest update, saying it had killed "dozens" of militants and destroyed more militant infrastructure in continuing operations in the al-Rafah refugee camp and nearby city of Deir al-Balah.

Israel's military blames Hamas for Gaza's high civilian death toll, accusing it of operating within densely populated neighbourhoods, schools and hospitals as cover, something it denies. U.N. and humanitarian officials accuse Israel of using disproportionate force in the war, which it denies.

Death circle

On Thursday, Israel hit an al-Nasrains school building with what it said was a targeted airstrike on up to 10 militant combatants inside, and a Hamas official said 40 people were killed including women and children sheltering at the U.N. site.

"It's just another horrific example of the price that civilians are paying, that Palestinian men, women and children who are just trying to survive, who are being forced to move around in sort of a death circle around Gaza, trying to find safety, are paying," U.N. spokesperson Stephanie Dujarric said.

Israel has ruled out peace until Hamas is eradicated, and much of Gaza lies in ruins, but Hamas has proven resilient, with militants reinforcing to fight in areas where Israeli forces had previously declared to have defeated them and pulled back. —Reuters



A VIEW of vehicles destroyed during an attack by Israeli settlers in Bureh, a town in Israeli-occupied West Bank. —AFP

UN to call out Tel Aviv for 'violations' against children

NEW YORK: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has added Israel's military to a global list of offenders who have committed violations against children, Israel's UN envoy Gideon Erlich said, describing the decision as "shameful".

Erlich said he was officially notified of the decision on Friday. The global list is included in a report on children and armed conflict that is due to be submitted to the UN Security Council on June 14.

Israel's Foreign Minister Israel Katz said the decision would impact the country's relations with the United Nations.

Erlich said he was notified by Guterres' chief of staff and posted a

video on social media of him responding to the decision during their phone call.

"I am utterly shocked and disgusted by this shameful decision of the Secretary-General," said Erlich.

But Guterres spokesperson, Stephanie Dujarric, declined to comment.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement that the UN had "added itself to the black list of history when it joined those who support Hamas".

Guterres' annual report to the 15-member Security Council on children and armed conflict covers the killing, maiming, sexual abuse, abduction or recruitment of children, denial of aid access and targeting of schools and hospitals.

It was not immediately clear what violations Israel's military had been accused of committing.

The list is split into two parties that have put in place measures to protect children and parties that have not. Erlich said he was told Israel had been included on the list of parties that had not put in place adequate measures to protect children.

The report has been compiled by Virginia Gamba, Guterres' special representative for children and armed conflict.

The list attached to the report aims to shame parties to conflicts in the hope of pushing them to implement measures to protect children. —Reuters

Netanyahu to address US Congress on July 24

WASHINGTON: Israeli leader Benjamin Netanyahu will address lawmakers in the US Congress on July 24, Republican party leaders announced on Thursday.

The visit comes amid mounting pressure for the US ally and Hamas to agree to a permanent ceasefire as Israel faces growing diplomatic isolation over the rising death toll in Gaza.

President Joe Biden last week presented what he called an Israeli three-phase plan that would end the conflict, free all Israeli prisoners and lead to the reconstruction of the devastated Palestinian territory without Hamas in power.

But Netanyahu's office stressed that the war sparked by the October 7 raids would continue until Israel's "goals are achieved," including the destruction of Hamas, which has not given its response to the plan.

The four top party leaders in the US House and Senate from both sides told Netanyahu last week to speak before a joint meeting of Congress in a letter voicing solidarity with Israel "in your struggle against terror".

Netanyahu's visit "symbolises the US and Israel's enduring relationship and will offer... Netanyahu the opportunity to share the Israeli government's vision for defending their democracy, combating terror, and establishing just and lasting peace in the region", House Speaker Mike Johnson and top Senate Republican Mitch McConnell said in a statement.

Earlier, the proposal to invite Netanyahu to address a joint session of Congress was reviled by key Democrats. Two-time presidential candidate Senator Bernie Sanders and former House speaker Nancy Pelosi were among a host of lawmakers who had opposed the idea of the Israeli leader addressing Congress.

Israel's military offensive in Gaza has killed at least 36,654 people, mostly civilians, according to the health ministry.

US media had earlier reported that Netanyahu had agreed to visit on June 13, but his office told Israeli media the date had "not been finalised" and would not be on that date because it interferes with a Jewish holiday. —PTP

Millions of Chinese take entrance exams

BEIJING: Mothers in crimson dresses and fathers clutching umbrellas, "huddled together" in drizzly Beijing. This was after sending their children into an exam hall on Friday, which was the first day of China's biggest "gaokao" tests, that will shape the futures of millions of high school going children.

The number of students taking this year's multi-subject gaokao series is set to be a "record high", with the Ministry of Education saying that 13.42 million candidates have registered for the high-stakes tests.

"People say that this is the start of a life," 50-year-old mother Zhi Huihui told reporters. "So one cannot slack off." Zhi dressed a traditional qipao dress to take her daughter to the examination site in central Beijing, hoping that its auspicious bright red colour would bring good luck.

China's gaokao drifts high school students on subjects including Chinese, English, mathematics, science and humanities, the results of which are critical for gaining admission to university.

High-level education has expanded rapidly in China in recent decades, as an economic boom pushed up living standards, as well as parents' expectations for their children's careers.

The job market which fresh graduates enter is "no longer" as easy as it once was. The world's second-largest economy is struggling to achieve a post-pandemic recovery, with high youth unemployment emerging as a significant concern.

"I think this is a necessary process of growing up," Zhi stated, when asked about the pressure young people face.

"(The gaokao) is also a method for the country to select talented people," she said. "Only after undergoing pressure can one's mental tolerance increase. Then you will be able to withstand those pressures in the future when working in society. 'I think this is understandable'."

Peace from space

On Friday morning, the list of top trending topics on social media site Weibo was stacked with exam-related discussions. Users shared pictures of uniformed students exchanging high-fives and hugging their parents, before entering testing centres.

Even the official Weibo account of China's Chang'e-6 lunar probe, which began carrying samples back to Earth from the far side of the Moon on Tuesday, offered encouragement. "Every one of you that is striving hard is terrific," it said.

Images from across the country taken on Friday morning showed students and well-wishers preparing for the first session. In the central city of Wuhan, crowds of parents stood behind a barrier, as test takers checked documents, on their way into the examination centre.

Education authorities are on high alert after elaborate cheating attempts were uncovered in previous years. Areas around testing centres are often tightly controlled, with traffic diverted and honking prohibited. —AFP

US, British citizens among suspects on trial in DR Congo

KINSHASA: More than 50 defendants, including six who have US, British, Canadian or Belgian citizenship, appeared in court in the Democratic Republic of Congo on Friday. They were charged with taking part in a "failed coup", alongside "other offences", which carry the death penalty.

On May 19, armed men briefly occupied an office of the presidency, in Kinshasa, the country's capital city. This was just before their leader, the US-based Congolese politician, Christian Malunga, was "killed by security forces".

The defendants include Malunga's 22-year-old son, Marcel Malunga, two US citizens and the three other holders of foreign passports. However, they all have Congolese roots.

The first day of the military trial took place under a tent, in the yard of Nkisi military prison, on

Kinshasa's outskirts. The defendants filed in, wearing blue and yellow prison-issued tops and lined up before the judge.

The 53 defendants face charges including illegal arms possession, criminal conspiracy, terrorism and attempts to destabilise state institutions and undermine the integrity of the state, some of which risk the "death penalty" or lengthy prison sentences.

The defendants were identified in court and their charges read out. However, they were not asked to enter a plea. Congo lifted a moratorium on the death penalty in March, citing treachery and espionage as recurring armed conflicts as the reason.

Richard Banda, a lawyer for one of the US detainees, told journalists it was too soon to talk of possible extraditions, and the presumption of innocence applied. —Reuters



BAMAKO (Mali): Villagers hold fishing nets as they wait for the start of a collective fishing rite. The Bante collective fishing site commemorates the founding of the town San and marks the beginning of the rainy season. —AFP

Will regressive taxation continue to dominate?

Continued from Page 1

tariff hikes on imports of used cars and increased FFD proposals for tobacco. While the petroleum levy is classified under non-tax revenue in the budget, it is similar to regressive in nature. Proposals to reintroduce a carbon tax or significantly raise the petroleum levy to Rs160 per litre are spine-chillingly alarming.

An increase in indirect taxes burdens those already crushed under the weight of inflation. An increase in direct taxes has a similar effect of taxing those who are already taxed — already roughly 3pc of filers pay 90pc of income tax collected.

Various stakeholders, including institutions such as the Asian Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund, have repeatedly called for widening the tax net through real estate, agriculture and retailers. However, these sectors have stubbornly and successfully resisted all efforts to be taxed in proportion to their revenue.

Fighting a 'mafia'

Last month, the Regional Tax Office in Rawalpindi awarded certification to honour the first four traders who have officially registered themselves under the Tajar Dost Scheme. The scheme is the latest attempt to

integrate traders and wholesalers into the formal tax net. Introduced at the start of 2024, the voluntary registration period only ended on April 30. In the first month of its voluntary registration, fewer than 100 traders signed up, indicating the absolute lack of interest in joining the formal net.

Retailers and wholesalers contribute 50pc to GDP but their tax contributions stand at a mere 4pc, probably because only 300,000 of about 3.5m retailers are actively filing tax returns. Taxing retailers may net an increase in revenue of Rs450 billion to Rs500bn, according to some estimates.

Since 2017, three distinct schemes have been proposed to bring the retail sector into the net. However, insufficient political will and strong opposition from the trading community have brought the efforts to naught.

Comparing the retailers to the 'mafia', former chief of the FBR Shabbir Zaidi lamented the 'failed' system of the state that has been unable to tax the retailers. "They bring down the shutters and block the entrance to the markets," he says, explaining why the government has repeatedly failed to impose taxes.

The agri anomaly

Similar to the retail sector, the agricultural sector's tax revenue is insignificant

compared to its contribution to GDP. Agriculture accounts for roughly a quarter of Pakistan's GDP, but agricultural income tax (AIT) is only about Rs2.5 billion, far below its potential of around Rs600 billion, suggests a study by Pate.

Farmers must file two income tax returns: one to the FBR and the other to the provincial authorities. Tax return filing to the FBR involves paperwork to ensure that the farmer remains on the filers list — the provincial authorities collect the actual tax, explains Khalid Wattoo, a farmer and development professional.

However, there is an anomaly. AIT is taxed at a much lower rate than other industries. For example, up until Rs4.5m, agricultural income is taxed at 10pc, whereas income from other sources is taxed at over 30pc, says Mr Wattoo.

A farmer, who is also an industrialist — a definition that may apply to many feudal landlords who are incidentally in politics as well — can declare his income as agricultural and pay a lower tax rate, effectively turning his income "white".

Reduce taxes to increase tax revenue

The real estate sector presents another challenge. Its actual value is difficult to gauge and even more complicated to tax due

to much of its capitalisation existing off the books.

Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) capitalisation is about \$30-40 billion, but real estate capitalisation (across Pakistan) is about three to four times that of the PSX, estimates Hassan Bakshi, former chairman of the Association of Builders and Developers (Abad).

About \$10bn in remittances flow in every month, and roughly half of it is used to purchase real estate and renovations, says Mr Bakshi, suggesting his estimate by quoting a State Bank of Pakistan report. However, since the wealth does not exist on paper, it remains largely untapped as a source of tax revenue.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that an increase in tax rates will result in a decrease in registrations, he argues. Higher tax rates promote the transfer of property through the power of attorney. For example, a man wants to sell his bungalow to a builder. Instead of outright selling the property, he transfers it through a power of attorney to evade the higher taxes. This creates additional litigation problems since if the man dies before the bungalow is demolished, the property is transferred to his heirs, and the power of attorney is void. The heirs can choose to

honour the agreement, or it can get tied up in the already overburdened courts.

In Pakistan, the paper value of a property and its market value are vastly different. Mr Bakshi contends that to bring the paper value closer to market value, the government needs to decrease taxes and close the gap over time. The IDC values cannot be linked overnight with a stroke of the pen but increasing them over a span of five to 10 years will close the gap realistically. All praises for the housing and construction policies under the PFI government, Mr Bakshi compared the real estate sector to Bollywood of the 1970s. "In the past, Indian producers had to go to the underworld to raise financing for their films. Similarly, builders had to resort to informal credit before PFI's focus on real estate. By opening financing lines for builders, builders got access to formal financing," he says.

Under PFI's taxation system for builders and developers, a fixed tax rate per square foot of construction was implemented, leading to about 2,200 projects being registered for the first time because of the system's simplicity and its predictability of costs.

"If you want to raise tax revenue from real estate, replicate what the PFI government had done in terms of fixed tax per square foot," he says.

Combative Modi invited for oath tomorrow

By Our Correspondent

NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to be invited to the swearing-in ceremony of the government on Sunday, after his election as the leader of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), this time including his own BJP lawmakers, on Friday.

Addressing the NDA in his acceptance speech, Modi also played all the bitterness he showed towards the opposition during his furious electioneering, particularly targeting the Congress party by name. The speech ended a distinct sense that Modi had not abandoned the combative mode, ignoring the convention that such occasions are used to highlight the achievements of democracy. This could be because he would remain insecure until winning the mandatory trust vote in the new Lok Sabha.

In a TV discussion with political analyst Parul Chatterjee, the author noted that the name of Modi's BJP rival and cabinet colleague Nitin Gadkari was being mentioned among a section of BJP MPs as a better alternative to

him. Gadkari was seen not rising from his seat when others stood up to greet Modi in the central hall of the parliament. It is possible that a section of the opposition parties would also agree to back him should Gadkari throw his hat in the ring.

The BJP has fallen short of a majority in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, winning 240 seats, and having to rely on its allies to form the government. But Modi persisted, claiming, "people of the country know that we had never lost before and neither have we lost now". At the meeting, he was unanimously elected as the leader of NDA, leader of the BJP in the Lok Sabha, and the leader of the BJP parliamentary party board.

Shift to NDA govt

The new government depends crucially on the support of the Janata Dal (United) led by Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar and the Telugu Desam Party led by Chandrababu Naidu who hold the key, as was evidenced in their seating position right next to Modi at the front table during the NDA parliamentary party meeting. While the BJP tailored its campaign



NARENDRA Modi shows the president's letter requesting him to form the new government.—AFP

around Modi alone, including naming its election manifesto as Modi Ki Gharana, even since the party failed to win a majority on its own, the reference to his government have widely moved to "NDA government" from the "Modi government".

Modi continued with his attack on the opposition. "You have seen our behaviour after the 4th. We know how to handle our victory. Our attitude is such that we don't take victory too seriously and neither do we mock those who have

been defeated. You can ask any child whose government was in power before the Lok Sabha elections? They will say the NDA. Then ask who formed the government after 2024, and they will say the NDA. So how did we lose? It was an NDA government in the past, still is and will be."

The biggest blow to the BJP's final tally came from UP, where it won only 53 seats. Overall, the NDA — BJP and Bahujan Lok Dal — won only 36 seats in comparison to the INDIA bloc's 43 seats. The Samajwadi Party won 37 seats, while the BJP won 33, the Congress six, RLD two and Apna Dal (Samaj) one, and Aam Samaj Party one.

While the main table gave pride of place to all the BJP allies which are now crucial to the government formation, interestingly, RLD's Jayant Chaudhary was conspicuous by his absence and was made to sit with other new MPs, even though Amrapur Patel whose Apna Dal (Samaj) won only one seat in comparison to the RLD's two got a seat in the main table. The Wire noted Chaudhary who was part of the INDIA bloc had joined the NDA before the polls.

CEC blames top judiciary for electoral complications

- ECP reserves verdict on pleas seeking transfer of petitions
- PTI terms Feb 8 polls most rigged in country's history

By Hishar A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja on Friday indirectly blamed judiciary for the complications witnessed during the process for general elections 2024.

While hearing applications filed by all the three MNAs from Islamabad seeking transfer of petitions pending before the tribunal against them, Mr Raja said he went to the then chief justice of Pakistan and chief justice of the Lahore High Court and requested them to spare judicial officers for performing duties as DRDs and ROs, but to no avail.

The remarks came when Faizal Chaudhary who appeared before the ECP's four-member bench as counsel for PTI-backed candidate from NA-46 Aamer Manzoor Maghail, termed the Feb 8 elections the most rigged polls in the country's history.

He pointed out that bureaucracy had been tasked with holding the elections twice—in 1977 and 2024—and on both times they failed Pakistan.

The CEC's remarks about non-availability of judicial offi-

ces for poll duties were also seen by many as an admission that DRDs and ROs drawn from the bureaucracy had failed to deliver.

Faizal Chaudhary argued that ECP can neither make recommendations nor can it regulate its proceedings. "You cannot sit as a revisiting or appellate authority on the orders of the tribunal," he told the bench.

He continued that any decision taken by the ECP in violation of law would open floodgates of litigation, attracting petitions from across the country.

Opposing the applicant's plea for constitution of a new tribunal, he pointed out there was no such prayer in the application and argued that ECP cannot go extra mile. He said that the applicant, a respondent in the case before the tribunal, had neither submitted a response, nor did he raise any objection over the election petition being time-barred there.

He said the tribunal had granted extra time to the applicant (MNA Aamer Manzoor Maghail) for submission of his reply, yet he had failed to submit his reply. He alleged that the applica-

tion had been filed with malicious intent to cause damage to the answering respondent's livelihood.

He contended that the application was vague, cursory, and based on surmise and had been prepared on a mischievous and bad faith basis. The applicant has brought the presiding officer of the tribunal into ridicule, hatred and contempt, he added.

He told the bench that the entire exercise was aimed at delaying the proceedings before the tribunal, ECT, after failing to submit the reply to the election petition as per law.

Advocate Shaukat Shahzad, the PTI-backed candidate who had lost the election, argued that the ECP's June 4 decision had been challenged in the Islamabad High Court, where the hearing was ongoing and a decision was awaited.

He termed all the arguments presented by the petitioners irrelevant and argued that the decision to transfer the tribunal could only be made in consultation with the chief justice concerned.

After hearing the arguments, the ECP reserved its decision on the tribunal transfer case.

FO pins hopes on new Indian govt for peace

By Baqir Sajjad Syed

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office on Friday expressed the hope that India's new government would promote peace and address the Kashmir dispute, underscoring Pakistan's commitment to regional stability.

FO Spokesperson Mushtaq Zahra Baloch, while speaking at a media briefing, said, "We hope that India will take steps to create a conducive environment for advancement of peace and dialogue and resolution of long-standing disputes for the mutual benefit of the peoples of Pakistan and India."

Despite cobbling together the required numbers in Lok Sabha to form the government, BJP's substandard performance in the polls means it will have to heavily rely on regional parties' support. This shift, coupled with a strong opposition, signals a more complex political environment for the ruling alliance. Pakistan has so far not congratulated PM-designate Modi on his party's success in polls meaning, when the spokesperson said, the completion of "the process of formation of government".

Ms Baloch refused to comment on India's electoral process, saying, "It is the right of the people of India to decide about their own leadership."

Though there has been a steady deterioration in ties between the two countries since Mr Modi first assumed office in 2014, the spokesperson noted that his action of stripping Occupied Jammu and Kashmir of its autonomous status and annexing it with India in 2019 "viciously and bilaterally" against Pakistan was prominently used during the recent elections.

The spokesperson emphasised that despite ongoing challenges in relations with India and the hostile rhetoric emanating from there, Pakistan has consistently chosen to respond responsibly.

"Pakistan has always desired cooperative relations with all its neighbours including India. We have consistently advocated constructive dialogue and engagement to resolve all outstanding issues, including the core dispute of Jammu and Kashmir," Ms Baloch said.

"Pakistan believes in peaceful coexistence. We want peace and stability in the region," she added.

She reiterated that superficial electoral outcomes in India-held Jammu and Kashmir cannot alter the reality prescribed by international law, which mandates that the future of Kashmir is to be determined by its people in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

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SPORT

Paris hangs Olympic rings on Eiffel Tower

PARIS: As the count-down to the Olympics passed the 50-day mark, Paris hosted its rings on the Eiffel Tower overnight and shared them off on Friday morning.

Workers assembled the prefabricated steel rings and after dark on Thursday lifted the logo, weighing 30 tonnes and 29 metres long, into place between the two legs of the tower just above its first level.

Pierre Engel, an engineer at ArcelorMittal, the steel company that manufactured the rings from recycled material, said tests and studies had been carried out for many months to ensure the success of the operation.

The rings, each nine metres in diameter, will be illuminated every night.

"It will be one of the images of the Games," predicted Thierry Robaut, director of events and organisation at the Paris Olympics Organising Committee.

Only two other buildings in Paris have the five rings attached to their facade.

Earlier in the week, the rings were also hoisted at Paris La Defense Arena, in suburban Nanterre, where the Olympic and Paralympic swimming events will be held.—AFP



THE Olympic rings are being installed on the Eiffel Tower for the Paris Games.—AFP

Tyson to fight Paul on Nov 15

NEW YORK: Mike Tyson and Jake Paul will fight on Nov 15 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, promoters said on Friday after the bout was pushed back from its July 20 date due to the former heavyweight champion's recent knee flare-up.

Medical professionals had recommended Tyson, 57, does minimal high training as he recovers from a torn ACL sustained with his last fight, but he has returned to training with no limitations.—Reuters



JANNIK Sinner of Italy plays a backhand return against Spain's Carlos Alcaraz during their French Open semi-final at the Roland Garros Complex on Friday.—AFP

Alcaraz downs Sinner to reach first French Open final

PARIS: Spain's Carlos Alcaraz recovered from a brief start to beat an inconsistent Jannik Sinner 2-6, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 and qualify for his maiden French Open final after a near-upset encounter on Friday.

The third seed was a studious of his brilliant self in the opening set before making the most of his Italian opponent's premature cramps to level before the fifth match went into a decider.

Australian Open champion Sinner, who will take over as world number one next week, bowed out when he returned a massive forehand down the line while on the third match point on court Philippe Chatrier.

Double Grand Slam champion Alcaraz, who is hoping to add to his Wimbledon and US open titles, will face German

Alexander Zverev or two-time runner-up Casper Ruud of Norway on Sunday.

"You have to find the joy in suffering, I think that's the key, even more here on clay, here at Roland Garros, long rallies, four-hour matches, five sets, you have to fight, you have to suffer," said Alcaraz.

"Probably, the toughest matches that I've played in my short career have been against Jannik, the US Open 2022, this one, it shows the great player Jannik is... and I hope to play many, many more matches like this one against Jannik, but you it's one of the toughest matches that I've played, for sure."

Sinner got off to an explosive start and his pace, pace and precision were too much to handle for an out-of-sorts Alcaraz as the

Italian raced to a 4-0 lead.

The Spaniard, however, reacted and pulled a break back as Sinner's first-serve percentage took a dip.

But Alcaraz still could not find his stride and Sinner won another two games in a row to bag the opening set when his opponent served an ill-timed drop shot.

Yet another unforced error handed Sinner the early break in the second set, but the Italian, who before the French Open had not played for almost a month because of a hip injury, suddenly lost his stride, allowing Alcaraz to use his forehand to devastating effect and level the match.

The Spaniard broke for 2-1 in the third set with a gravity-defying crosscourt passing shot as Sinner's forehand continued, but despite suffering from apparent

hand cramps, the future world number one showed his way back and saved break points in the fifth game to stay in the contest.

Sinner then broke twice more to take the set — a scenario that seemed highly unlikely when he was barely able to hold his racket a few minutes earlier.

The match finally fired up to its billing in the fourth set with both players trading impressive blows. Leading 5-4, Alcaraz rallied from 30-0 down on Sinner's serve to win four points in a row, forcing a decider with a cross-court backhand winner at the end of a spectacular point.

He watched the early break by wrongfooting Sinner in the second game and did not look back, despite some nerves on the first two match points.—Reuters

Guinea shock Algeria, Senegal held in World Cup qualifiers

CAPE TOWN: Fifa's World Cup qualifiers saw Guinea shock Algeria on Thursday in a 1-0 draw in a World Cup Group 'B' qualifier in Diamniadio on Thursday.

Senegal, without injured talisman Sadio Mane, have taken five points from a possible nine in a shaky start to their bid to reach the finals with only the top team in the pool guaranteed a place in the United States, Mexico and Canada.

The west African side led through Papa Matar Sarr but dropped more points having also drawn with Togo in November.

Senegal top the standings with seven points as they spent a surprise with a 2-0 win in Mauritania in November following a 15th-minute opener from Ndiffora Bakht and an own goal by home

defender Aly Aboud.

Algeria won their first two qualifiers but were beaten 2-1 at home by Guinea on Thursday in another shock result.

Morocco's Youssef En-Nachiti gave Guinea the lead but Algeria equalised following an own goal from Yasser Rahbi before the visitors hit the front again through Aggoullou Camara.

A quickfire brace from Tarek Moudilal put Mohamed Salah's Egypt 2-0 up at home to Burkina Faso in Cairo, but they were made to sweat when Lassine Traore pulled one back just before the hour mark.

The Pharaohs held on, however, to maintain their 100% start to the qualifiers as they lead Group 'A' by four points after three rounds.

Second-placed Guinea-Bissau were held to a 0-0 home

draw by Ethiopia.

Crystal Palace forward Jordan Ayew scored in added time as Ghana came from behind in Group 'C' to triumph 2-1 in Mali and rise from fifth to second.

Kennedy Dorembia had given the home side the lead, but Idriss Traore equalised and Ayew came off the bench to claim all three points.

Libya moved top of Group 'D' with a 2-1 home win over Mauritania, with all the goals coming in the first half in Benghazi.

Faisal Al Badri converted a penalty for Libya but they were pegged back when Kevin Bru equalised. Ahmed Ekraoui scored the winner for the hosts five minutes before the break.

Victory lifted the Libyans to seven points, three more than Cameroon and Cape Verde. Malawi moved within three

points of Group 'B' pacemakers Tunisia, thanks to a 3-1 win over Sao Tome e Principe in Lilongwe.

Tunisia, seeking a third straight appearance at the World Cup finals, have nine points, Namibia seven and Malawi six.

A Group 'E' fixture between Congo Brazzaville and Niger was not played, reportedly because of a dispute over where it should take place.

It was originally set for Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo across the Congo river from Brazzaville, because the national stadium in Congo was sub-standard.

However, the Brazzaville stadium was approved for international football after a last-minute inspection and, when Niger insisted on playing Kinshasa, Congo refused to go there.—Agencies

Constantine says Pakistan 'better than before' despite loss to Saudis

ISLAMABAD: When Pakistan played their opening match against Saudi Arabia on their maiden foray into the second round Asian World Cup qualifying, they suffered a 4-0 loss.

Over six months on, in the return match against the Saudis at Jinnah Stadium on Thursday, Pakistan were on the losing end again. This time the scoreline read 3-0 but head coach Stephen Constantine was happy with the progress the team has made.

"We were better than before we were compared," he told reporters. "We didn't have much of the ball, we didn't have many opportunities but that's how it is. We were playing Saudi Arabia — they have lots of quality."

Saudi Arabia's victory thanks to two goals from Firas Al-Buraikan (24th and 45th minutes) and one after the break by Musab Al-Jumayli (59th) saw them advance to the final round of qualifying for the 2026 tournament in the United States, Canada and Mexico and they were later joined by Jordan, who beat Tajikistan 3-0 in the other Group 'G' game.

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 2026 World Cup.

Winless Pakistan, who play Tajikistan in their final group game on Tuesday, now go into the third round of qualifying for the 2027 AFC Asian Cup and Constantine is banking on the team's consistent improvement to propel them to a maiden appearance at the continental championships.

"The boys give everything in the game and as a coach you cannot sit aside for more," said Constantine, who created his very last year by steering Pakistan past the first qualifying round. "Maybe the quality is not there but it's part of the process to learn from mistakes. We have a lot of young players who will be the future of Pakistan football. I want to look forward. I think we are better than we were when I came."

PALESTINE CREATE HISTORY

In other late action across the continent, Palestine created history when they booked a place in the third round for the first time

following a goalless draw against Lebanon in Dubai.

Against the backdrop of the war in Gaza, the Palestinian team has already claimed a piece of footballing history this year by making a debut appearance in the Asian Cup knockout phase.

On Thursday, Palestine, who came into the Group 'F' match with seven points, only needed a draw to progress, and they got the desired result despite some rough tactics by Lebanon as they picked up seven yellow cards.

It will also mark the fourth consecutive time Palestine have booked their place in the Asian Cup finals, to be hosted by Saudi Arabia in 2027.

Manager Malkram Bakhadad's men take on group winners Australia on June 11 next.

AFGHANISTAN HOLD QATAR

In matches played in the Middle East, the biggest surprise was Afghanistan holding reigning Asian champion Qatar to a goalless draw at Prince Abdullah Bin Jalawi Stadium in Al-Hassa, Saudi Arabia.

Qatar have already qualified for the third round, but could not make anything out of dominat-



DOHA: Palestinian players celebrate after drawing their FIFA World Cup qualifier against Lebanon at the Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium.—Reuters

ing the game and enjoying nearly 70 percent possession against a plucky Afghanistan, who now have five points in Group 'W' — level with India, who drew 0-0 with Korea to leave only one point separating the three teams behind the group-winning Qataris.

The two-time Asia champions lost chance among many came in the 57th minute, but Tahsin

Jarrah's header, off a Mahdi Salem cross, was denied by the goalkeeper.

United Arab Emirates never looked back after an early brace in the 12th and 14th minutes by Harib Sahal and trounced Nepal 4-0 in Dammam.

Bahrain's 0-0 draw with Yemen, meanwhile, confirmed their second-place finish in Group 'B' behind the UAE.—Agencies



Williamson hails expanded event after US stunner

PROVIDENCE: New Zealand captain Kane Williamson hailed the T20 World Cup's expansion to 20 nations after co-hosts United States beat Pakistan on Thursday in one of the biggest upsets in the tournament's history.

The World Cup, also co-hosted by the West Indies, has an extra four teams, giving fledgling cricket nations more high-stakes experience while also raising concerns their presence could mean more one-sided results.

Williamson, who made his T20 World Cup debut in 2012 when Sri Lanka hosted 12 teams, said the bigger field was a "fantastic thing".

"That sort of exposure is only beneficial for all teams," he told reporters in a video call from Guyana. "When you come to a tournament-time anything can happen which is the beauty of the sport."

But it's ultimately great for the growth of cricket."

The US, who were guaranteed entry as co-hosts, pulled off a Super Over win against Pakistan in Dallas after beating fellow tournament debutants

Harris accused of ball tampering

DALLAS: United States bowler Harry

Theron has accused Pakistan pacer Harris Rauf of ball tampering during the T20 World Cup match between the two sides on Thursday.

Theron, who is not part of the co-hosts squad, alleged that Harris was running his thumb over the ball, which was two overs old, and hence it was moving.

The 38-year-old seamer, who used to play for South Africa before, also slammed the ICC for having a blind eye in the alleged incident.

"ICC are just going to pretend Pakistan aren't scratching the ball out of this bloody changed ball? Flawing the ball that's just been changed 2 overs ago?" he wrote on social media platform 'X'.

"You can literally see Harris Rauf running his thumb over the ball at the top of his mark. @uscricket #Pakistan, USA," Theron added.—Agencies

Warner wants England to use pace of Archer, Wood

BRIDGETOWN: Seasoned Australian opener David Warner believes his team can use the pace of England's express bowlers Mark Wood and Jofra Archer when the traditional rivals face off in the T20 World Cup here on Saturday.

England's bowling line-up which comprises among others speed merchant Archer and Wood. On the other hand, Australia's batting line-up is equally impressive and it promises to be a thrilling Group B clash at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown.

Warner said that T20 is a different format adding that varying bowlers could be a surprise.

"You just have to use their pace. [In] Test cricket they set different fields, different balls. In T20s, you only have to get half an edge on it and it can go. So there's a fair difference. I've played a lot of cricket over here. You are expecting it to be low rather than bounce unless it is really short," Warner said while talking to reporters.

"The variation in bounce is what surprises you. Because when they pitch the ball that nightmare [from the stumps] length, your instinct is to pull it. But you have to go back to targeting straight, backing yourself, and if it does bounce, so be it."

Warner, who was criticised a bit for his poor performances in the IPL, said that he does not care about criticism.—Agencies

SL complain to ICC over 'different treatment'

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka said on Friday they have complained to the ICC over their T20 World Cup team's treatment and conditions in co-host the US.

The sports minister Haris Fernando alleged other teams had it better and said Sri Lanka had lodged a formal protest after the squad was held up by a seven-hour flight delay at a Florida airport.

He said Sri Lanka had also been given accommodation more than 90 minutes' drive from the practice stadium when they reached New York. He said India's team had been put up much closer.

"Sri Lanka Cricket has complained to the ICC," Fernando told parliament. "Different countries are being treated differently. We have called for an explanation from the organisers of the tournament."

Sri Lanka's sports ministry has dispatched an officer to the United States to look into the welfare of the team, Fernando added.—AFP

KARACHI

Sunset 07:21 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 05:41 am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum 29°C
Maximum 34°C
Outlook Partly Cloudy

METRO South



Alcaraz downs Sinner to reach first French Open final

Pg.19 SPORT

KE comes under fire in NA over prolonged loadshedding in Karachi

By Syed Irfan Raza

ISLAMABAD: The K-Electric came under fire in the National Assembly on Friday as MNAs belonging to the ruling alliance lashed out at the power utility for carrying out prolonged loadshedding and high tariff.

Lawmakers on the treasury and opposition benches warned the Centre that people may compel to go for civil disobedience if they were not provided electricity right from the Sindh to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in the upcoming heat.

During the session that was presided over by Deputy Speaker Ghulam Mustafa Shah, a scathing session notice was moved by Pakistan Peoples Party MNA Asad Alam Nisai on long duration of power loadshedding in Karachi.

Another PPP MNA, Nabeel Ghani, said his constituency Igari had been facing up to 16 hours of loadshedding. "If the issue of loadshedding is not resolved people will go for civil disobedience," he added.

PPP MNA Shazia Marri said more than 20 hours of power loadshedding was being carried out by power utilities in Sindh.

"The relevant minister just records his statement on the floor of the house but he does nothing practically," she added.

PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari also attended the NA session.

The opposition Jamiat Ulema Islam-Fazl staged a walkout in the NA as its leader Abdul Ghafur Hashmi said: "It is appreciated that the NA session was continued during Juma prayer."



AMR skyrocketing prices and rising inflation, a market for sacrificial animals, set up on the city's outskirts, swells customers on Friday. — Online

Rumpus in PA as MQM-P stages noisy protest over street crime surge

Home minister defends police performance, says they have curbed crimes 'to a large extent'

By Imran Ayub

KARACHI: Enraged at an alarming rise in street crime and killing of youth in robberies, opposition lawmakers belonging to the Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) staged a noisy protest during the Sixth Assembly session on Friday and condemned the provincial government and police for failing to curb the menace before walking out of the house.

Their protest, however, attracted a strong reaction from treasury benches as the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) legislators defended the performance of the Sindh police and claimed that it had controlled street crime in the metropolis 'to a

large extent."

The MQM-P legislators took a strong position right from the beginning of the session, looking well-prepared and organised to take up the issue of street crime on the floor of the house. After the recitation of the Holy Quran, the session, which was scheduled for the home minister Zia Larmer to answer the questions raised by the members from both sides of the benches, witnessed uproar from the opposition MPAs.

As the home minister was taking up the questions, mostly from the opposition members, the MQM-P MPAs came up with harsh queries, questioning the role of police and the government's strategy while condemning the "failure" of the law-enforcement agencies in the city.

With many legislators talking at a time, the session became noisy and unmanageable, pushing Speaker Asim Qadir Shah to intervene and ask the members from both sides to maintain the decorum.

However, his intervention failed to restore the order when the MQM-P MPAs stood up

chanting slogans and raising the portraits of the victims who were killed during the past few weeks while resisting armed snatching attempts. In different parts of the city, Sindh Assembly Opposition Leader Ali Khuresheed defended his party's colleagues and called their protest a "lifeline for the people of Karachi."

"The law and order and peace in Karachi is crucial for all of us. We aren't protesting for any fun. It's not right the way to run the session," he said. The calm and composed Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, who was also in the House, too, expressed his displeasure over the opposition's "way of protest" and called it "inappropriate" for opposition members to stand up from the seats and start speaking without seeking permission of the Speaker or waiting for their turn.

As the home minister was replying the questions of the members, the cross talk between the legislators of both sides continued.

MQM-P's Qasim-ul-Ain Khan in her question

Continued on Page 14

Indus River could swell to alarming level during monsoon, minister warns

CS reviews govt preparation to deal with heavy rains during monsoon across Sindh

Dawn Report

KARACHI: Revenue and Rehabilitation Minister Makhdoom Mehboob Zaman has informed participants in a meeting that above-average rainfall is expected from July to September, which, combined with glacial melt, can bring 500,000 to 600,000 tonnes of water into the Indus River.

He said that in 2022, Pakistan experienced 1,026 per cent more rainfall than usual, and

Larkana saw 584pc above-average rainfall.

Speaking about rain emergency measures, he mentioned that Karachi, Jamshoro, and Sukkur warehouses were stocked with 300,000 tarpaulins, 1.9 million mosquito nets, and 57 heavy dewatering pumps.

The meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Syed Asif Hyder Shah was held in the Sindh Secretariat to review preparations for expected heavy rains and flooding between July and September.

Chief Secretary Syed Asif Hyder Shah instructed all departments concerned to maintain contact with the Meteorological Department and the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA).

He directed deputy commissioners to coordinate District Disaster Management Authority

meetings to prepare medium and high flood contingency plans.

He emphasised the need for ensuring availability of emergency equipment, machinery, dewatering pumps, and other gear.

Furthermore, he ordered the creation of an inventory of all resources, including life jackets, boats, and rescue personnel available in each district.

The chief secretary stressed the need for heightened awareness and preparedness due to climate change, which is causing more frequent and severe rains and floods.

The officer warned of the risk of urban flooding in major cities of Sindh and instructed the department of relief to keep all agencies updated about weather conditions and preparedness measures.

He also emphasised the need for informing residents of the Indus River's catchment areas about the situation. The health department was directed to declare emergency in hospitals and ensure availability of medicines, particularly for malaria and waterborne diseases.

Provincial Minister for Local Government Saad Ghani highlighted the inclusion of local government representatives in rehabilitation efforts.

He announced that relief camps would be set up at the union-council levels in any emergency situation and emphasised the need to store ration, tents, and other essential supplies in district warehouses to prevent logistical issues.

He assured the meeting participants that funds would soon be provided to Wana in Hyderabad to ensure the clear-

ing of stormwater drains.

During the meeting, the secretary of irrigation briefed on the measures taken to protect the Left Bank Outfall Drain and manage water flow from Balochistan.

The meeting was attended by ministers Saad Ghani, Mehboob Zaman, senior members of the Board of Revenue Baqirullah Usar, Local Government Secretary Syed Khalid Hyder Shah, Information Secretary Nadeem Rehman Memon.

Rehabilitation Secretary Wassim Shamshad, Secretary general of Revenue 1122 Dr Ahsan Khaliq and representatives from the army, police, power utilities.

Additionally, all divisional commissioners, deputy commissioners, and assistant commissioners participated via video link.

Another youth killed by security guard in North Karachi

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A private security guard shot dead a teenage boy in North Karachi on Friday.

The Sir Syed police said that Samad, 17, a reggie, was shot at and wounded by guard Ramazan after a quarrel.

The teenager suffered a bullet wound in the abdomen and was taken to the Abbasi Shahid Hospital where he died.

The police said that the security guard managed to escape.

This is the second such incident in which a private security guard has killed a young man over a petty issue.

Earlier, a YouTuber was gunned down by a guard at Samia Mobile Market when he was making a video.

Prices of different varieties of naan reduced across city

Commissioner sets price of 120 gram tandoori naan at Rs16; prices of 150 and 180 gram naans fixed at Rs20 and Rs25, respectively

By Aamir Shafiq Khan

KARACHI: Amid falling rates of flour, the commissioner of Karachi has reduced the price of tandoori naan and flour varieties but kept the chapati rate unchanged.

However, it remains to be seen whether the commissioner office has the will to enforce the official rate.

Tandoori naan (120 grams) price has been cut by Rs1 per piece to Rs16 from Rs17 while two new categories of roti have been added to the list.

In the notification issued on June 5, the price of tandoori naan weighing 140-150 grams and 180 grams have been fixed at Rs20 and Rs25 per piece, respectively.

A member of the All Sindh Sheermal and Tandoor Association (ASSTA) said that prices of 140-150 grams and 180 grams tandoori naan had actually been cut by Rs5 per piece in the June 5 notification as these varieties were not included in the May 5, 2024 notification.

He said the sale of 120 grams of tandoori naan had remained unchanged due to its low weight while it could not be kept for longer hours.

"We have asked the commissioner to keep one standard naan of 180 grams instead of breaking it into different varieties, but he did not pay any heed," he said.

The price of chapati (100 grams) had been kept unchanged at Rs12.

Flour prices

In flour varieties, the ex-mill price of wheat flour No. 2.5 has been reduced by Rs2 per kilo to Rs88 from Rs90 per kg. Followed by a drop in its wholesale price and retail prices to Rs91 and Rs95 from Rs93 and Rs98 per kg.

In fine and chukka atta varieties, the commissioner of Karachi reduced the price of ex-flour mill fine atta, wholesalers fine atta, retail fine atta and chukka flour retail prices to Rs62, Rs65, Rs100 and Rs15 per kg on June 5, 2024 from Rs117 per kg, Rs120, Rs125 and Rs123 per kg.

The ASSTA member said that the price of 50kg fine and super fine flour (maida) bags had plunged to Rs4,000 from Rs4,500 in the last few days.

The flour prices across the country have witnessed a notable decline in recent weeks after massive import of wheat and its pungent crop in the country.



A MAN rolls freshly baked naans at a tandoor. —White Star file

ISLAMABAD

Sunset 07:18pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 04:54am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum 23°C
Maximum 38°C
Outlook Mostly Sunny

METRO

North



Alcaraz downs Sinner to reach first French Open final

Pg.17 SPORT

Court issues notice to AG in plea against law on election tribunal

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday issued notice to the Attorney General on the petitions of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)-backed runners up for three NA seats from the federal capital against the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) proceeding on transfer of their election petitions and the recently promulgated law for appointment of retired judges as presiding officer of the election tribunals.

The petitioners Muhammad Shauq, Muhammad Ali Bakhtari and Amir Mughal contested for three National Assembly seats of Islamabad.

They challenged the vices of Section 151 of Elections Act that empowered ECP to transfer election petition from one tribunal to another, and the Ordinance V of 2024, namely, the Elections (Amendment) Ordinance, 2024, promulgated on May 27 that allowed appointment of retired judges for the election tribunals.

Counsel for the petitioners contended that under section 151 of the Elections Act, 2007 (the Act), the power has been granted to ECP to transfer a matter pending before the election tribunal.

In this behalf, it was contended that power is not administrative in nature but a quasi-judicial.

It was contended that dispute before election tribunal is of the nature where allegations have been leveled against ECP and it is true law that no one can be a judge in his own cause hence ECP ought not have the power to transfer.

It was submitted that in order to make scheme of law work, it would be appropriate that it should be read in section 151 that the consultation of the chief Justice of the respective High Court is mandatory before power of transfer is exercised.

It was contended that even otherwise, Election Commission of Pakistan, in its impugned order, has requisitioned the record of election tribunal, which it could not have done.

Justice Farooq observed that "since vices of Federal Statute is in question", and issued notice under Order XXVIA to the Attorney General for Pakistan.

Further hearing in this matter has been adjourned till June 11.



WORKERS build a structure to install a screen at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Friday where Pakistan-India match of the T20 World Cup will be telecast on Sunday (June 9). — Photo by Muhammad Asim

Commotion compels chair to adjourn Senate proceedings till Monday

Senators reject proposal to include former husband's name in women's passports

By Hishar A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: Rumpus ruled the Senate on Friday, with the opposition protesting against a presiding officer chairing the session in the presence of Deputy Chairman Syed Khalid Khan Nasir. As a result, the chair abruptly adjourned the proceedings till Monday evening.

Initially Senate Chairman Yusuf Raza Gilani presided over the session, but Pabwasha Muhammad Zai Khan from the panel of presiding officers assumed the chair after Mr Gilani left the house to witness the outfitting of his son as a member of the National Assembly.

Soon after, PTI senator Faizul Arshad said it was regrettable that Pabwasha Khan was presiding over the session in the presence of the deputy chairman. Mr Khan replied that it was the chairman's prerogative to make that decision, adding that the deputy chairman had arrived after she had already begun chairing the session. Amidst Senator Arshad's interruption, Pabwasha Khan repeatedly told the opposition benches to decide among themselves who they wanted to speak next.

Leader of the Opposition in the Senate Shibli Faraz said: "Do not make a mockery of the house and do not damage its sanctity. This is no way that you make the deputy chairman a decoration piece."

Afterwards the deputy chairman left the house, but the protest continued. The opposition leader and Pabwasha Khan had an argument as the latter said the deputy chairman came in after her while Shibli Faraz insisted that Mr Nasir was already seated in the Senate.

Mr Khan asked the opposition leader to mind his tone to which the senator questioned the way she was speaking to him.

"I am speaking to you the same way you're speaking to me," she retorted as she turned to the treasury benches and ordered Rana Mehmoodul Hassan to be given the mike. As clamouring continued from the opposition benches, the presiding officer chastised them, saying: "Fine, continue to create a ruckus. I choose to ignore you."

She subsequently ordered that PPP Senator Farooq Naik be given the mike to speak, saying: "I do not fall for this baiting game, and this cannot go on." As Naik attempted to speak, Shibli Faraz interrupted and said it was "shameful" that the PML-N sent its own deputy chairman out of the house to which Pabwasha retorted: "It's alright, he doesn't have an issue with this."

Asking which rule was violated by Pabwasha Khan presiding over the session, Mr Naik said: "The Senate chairman gives a list of presiding officers, and who presides in his absence is the prerogative of the chairman. He can tell any presiding officer to preside over the session. And the way you are presiding right now, this is within the Senate rules."

He reiterated that there was no violation of any rule with her presiding over the session. Agreeing with him, Pabwasha Khan said the purpose of this uproar was just disruption.

She repeatedly asserted that no one could compel her to adjourn the session through "force and bullying". Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam-Fard (JUI-F) Senator Attaur Rehman noted that the presiding officers come into picture only when the chairman and deputy chairman were not available.

He said that it was inappropriate for someone to become a presiding officer while the deputy chairman was present in the house. "It would be better if you call the deputy chairman to come and sit in this seat that will be appropriate otherwise we will walk out against this behaviour," Mr Rehman said.

Pabwasha Khan responded by saying that she had been made a presiding officer in accordance with the rules. The opposition benches began raising slogans to which

PML-N Senator Tahir Chaudhry said: "I want to thank the opposition leader and PTI for showing so much love for the PML-N deputy chairman."

The presiding officer subsequently adjourned the meeting till 5pm on Monday. Earlier, the session also debated the recent issue of women having to carry their ex-husband's name on passports with Senator Kamina Munir calling it "ridiculous".

"Instead of improving our passport rankings, we're discriminating against women," she said, adding that, "if you want women to carry the names of their ex-husbands, then make men carry the names of their ex-wives too".

Federal Housing Minister Riaz Hussain Paracha pointed out that the high court had struck down the proposal in an order and that it had given women the option to add their father's name.

He suggested that the matter be referred to the standing committee if there were to be consultation on it. Senator Faraz said family laws also needed to be updated since the matter posed a problem to several women and families. He also suggested referring the matter to the standing committee.

Agreeing with him, Senator Attaur Rehman said the opinion of the Council of Islamic Ideology would also be taken, however, women senators objected to his proposals.

Senate Chairman Yusuf Raza Gilani termed women and minorities his constituency and referred the matter to the standing committee.

The Senate was also informed that Sukkur-Hyderabad motorway would be built soon.

Responding to a calling-attention notice, Federal Minister Riaz Hussain Paracha expressed the confidence that progress on the project would become visible in the next six months.

"We want to complete the project at the earliest in partnership mode," he said, and disclosed that talks with China and other friendly countries were underway.

Colony for IHC judges planned

By Kaiba Ali

ISLAMABAD: The ministry of law and justice has decided to establish a small housing colony in Diplomatic Enclave for the Islamabad High Court judges.

The projects in this regard have been proposed in the upcoming federal budget and Annual Plans Coordination Committee (APCC) has cleared the projects in the first phase of approval.

The APCC headed by the deputy chairman planning commission has recently approved the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2024-25, which included acquisition of land and the construction of boundary wall and residences for the chief justice and the judges of the IHC. The estimated cost of the project is around Rs366 million, and in the first phase Rs115 million will be released during the upcoming fiscal year 2024-25.

However, under the system the projects of the PSDP will be finalised by the National Economic Council, chaired by the prime minister, which usually meets a day ahead of the finalisation of the federal budget.

The sanctioned strength of the IHC is 10 judges including the chief justice and the project includes construction of guest rooms too.

There are dedicated residential units for the judges of the Supreme Court near the Punjab House but the judges of the IHC are housed in the government residences spread in the federal capital.

Meanwhile, Rs500 million has been allocated for another project of the ministry of law and justice for Islamabad.

The APCC in the PSDP of next fiscal approved allocation of Rs500 million for Judges' Facilitation Centre for the judges of district courts in G-10/1. The project has been delayed for more than year for want of funds, resulting in cost escalation too.

Protesters block road after robbers kill boy

TAXILA: Protesters on Friday blocked Taxila-Hatler Road for hours after a 15-year-old boy was shot dead by robbers.

The protesters raised slogans against the police and local administration for their failure to control crime. They demanded removal of the police officials posted in the area.

This was the second protest staged by people in the current week against rising street crime.

According to Usama, he and his friend Saif Ahmad were returning home after Friday prayers when three motorcyclists intercepted them and snatched cash and a mobile phone from him. Usama said when his friend Saif tried to resist, one of the robbers shot him and fled. The injured was taken to the Tahir Headquarter Hospital from where Saif was being shifted to Rawalpindi when he died.

Following the incident, protesters gathered on an overpass bridge on Taxila-Hatler Road and blocked traffic.

Jameel Ahmed, a relative of the victim, said the negligence of Taxila police could be judged from the fact that a few days ago a handcuffed robber fled from a private detention cell of the station house officer city and the authorities pushed the issue under the carpet.

After negotiation between protesters and leaders of different political parties and police officials, the protest was called off. Long queues of vehicles. — Correspondent



PLAYERS in action during the 12th test pegging championship held at F-9 Park in Islamabad on Friday. — White Star

Taha died over 24 hours before postmortem: report

Teenager disappeared on Margalla Hills on May 25 and was found dead two days later

By Munawar Azeem

ISLAMABAD: The autopsy on the body of Mohammad Taha, who disappeared on Margalla Hills on May 25 and was found dead two days later, has revealed that the teenager had died more than 24 hours before the postmortem.

According to the autopsy report, the body of the teenage boy was brought to PIMS at 6:57pm on May 27 and the autopsy was conducted at around 10:15pm.

The report said final opinion will be given after observations from a radiologist and reports from Punjab Forensic Science Agency were received.

"All muscles, joints are healthy;

however, X-rays trauma series done and radiology expert opinion is awaited," said the report.

The deceased's scalp, skull, vertebra, membranes-brain and spinal cord were healthy and intact.

His ribs, cartilages, pleurae, lungs and trachea, right and left lungs, pericardium, blood vessels, walls, peritoneum, stomach, pharynx and oesophagus, diaphragm, stomach and its contents, pancreas, small and large intestines and their contents, liver, spleen, kidneys and bladder were also found healthy and intact," the report said.

The samples of the deceased's heart and lungs were sent for histopathology tests while samples of liver, stomach and contents were sent for toxicology tests. Similarly, samples of nails scrapping also were sent for detection of DNA as well as anal swabs for detection of semen and DNA analysis to ascertain sexual assault. The body was in advanced decomposition and in a putrefied phase.

According to the FIR, Taha along with his classmates/friends left for Trail-5 on Margalla Hills from his home for hiking on May 25. At about 5pm, one of his friends called his mother and asked if he had returned home or not, saying all others had reached their homes.

Later, his mother reached Trail-5 to search for him and also reported the matter to Rescue-15. In response, police reached there and conducted a search till late night but failed to find him.

She told the police that her son was abducted by someone and asked for action, the FIR added.

The police registered a case on May 26 under section 305 of PPC.

The wildlife staff spotted the body in a ravine on May 27 and later informed the police, who along with rescue workers reached the spot and retrieved the body.

Later, the police also added a murder charge to the case in response to the complaint of the deceased's mother.

CONCLUSIONS

He said the government was trying to further increase the export of kinross produced in Saskatchewan.

Muhammad Zubair reported to police that his 14-year-old son was abducted by four armed men.

The National Assembly

dielectric constant, ϵ , of the medium.

ISLAMABAD
THUNDER: Order of the \$ 500 Street
Band 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837,

In the Court of Additional Commissioner Maheshwar Dhanraj Bhatkar (Senior Bench) Case No. A.P. No. SP/MIL-1 Date of submission: 23/04/2024 Next hearing date: 17/04/2024 Briefly stated facts as per Minutes filed are: Motion to respond dated: 01/01/2024 Drafted (by) Advocate Name of Best Guide Mr. [Redacted] Short Name Kishor Subhashrao Telang Dargan Director Maheshwar (Pond and Beach) Andhra Pradesh.

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 خوشخبری 

پنجاب گورنمنٹ سروس ہاؤسنگ فاؤنڈیشن

فاؤنڈیشن کی رضا کارانہ ممبر شپ منسوقی کروانے والے خواہشمندوں کو طویل عرصے کے بعد اگلی رقم واپسی (Refund) ملتی تھی جس سے انہیں کئی مسائل کا سامنا کرنا پڑتا تھا۔ اب آپ کے لئے خوشخبری یہ ہے کہ آپ کو اپنی جمع شدہ رقم کی واپسی (Refund) کا چیک صرف 3 دن میں مل جائے گا۔

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(منیجنگ ڈائریکٹر)

042-99204555
042-99204868

(022-01)

اطلاع عام



GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

EVACUEE TRUST PROPERTY BOARD, LAHORE

9-COURT STREET, LAHORE. Ph: 042-99211184

INVITATION TO BIDS

Ref. No: 19/2023-24, Dated: 04-06-2024

1. Evacuee Trust Property Board invites sealed bids under Single Stage Two Envelope procedure from eligible firms licensed by the Pakistan Engineering Council in the category C-1 or for the year 2023-2024 for the works tabulated hereunder.

2. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by an interested eligible bidder or payment of fee (non-refundable) from the office of the undersigned during office hours on or before 25-06-2024 on submission of a written application on firm's letterhead accompanied with attested copy of CNIC, certificate of A/E, of FBR and PEC license. Bidding documents shall be issued to the proprietors of the Firms or their legally authorized representative having registered/ duly attested power of attorney.

3. All bids must be accompanied with a Bid Security in form of Cash Deposit with the Firm's Company's name from any Scheduled Bank of Pakistan in the name of ETP Board, Lahore and attached with the Technical proposals. Bids in sealed envelopes should be dropped in tender box in the office of the undersigned on 26-06-2024 before 02:00PM and the Technical proposals shall be opened on the same day at 02:30 PM in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend, at the same address.

Terms & Conditions:

- Bidding documents will neither be sold/issued after the closing date/nor through Post or Email etc.
- In case of public holiday, the receipt and opening of bids will be the next working day.
- The notice for invitation of bids is also available at PPRA Website (www.ppra.gov.pk) & ETPB Website (www.etpb.gov.pk).
- If the bid amount of successful bidder is found seriously unbalance in relation to the detailed estimate, the bidder shall have to furnish additional Performance Security equal to the difference between estimated cost and total bid amount in the shape of Bank Guarantee duly issued by any Scheduled Bank of Pakistan or Insurance Bond duly issued by an Insurance Company possessing 'AA' Rating.
- The department reserves the right to reject all bids or proposals, at any time, prior to acceptance under clause 33(i) of Public Procurement Rules, 2024.
- The Successful bidder shall have to submit Security Clearance from Special Branch of prior to award of work.

Any information/query regarding terms & conditions may be clarified from the office of an undersigned.

Sr. #	Name of Work	D.N.I.T Cost (Rs.)	Bid Security (Rs.)	Period of Completion	Tender Fee (Rs.)
1	Revamping & Up-Grades of Toilet Block, Gurdwara Purja Sahib, Hassanabad, (Triple Story Block Gura Arjun Devjee)	26,763,413	500,000	12 Months	10,000/-

BILAL AHMAD

Executive Engineer

PPR(D-1) 3888
ETPB (C-1)

Postal stamp aimed at conserving Kashmir markhor issued

By Jamil Shahid

ISLAMABAD: To conserve and protect the markhor population and their habitats in the country, Pakistan Post in collaboration with WWF-Pakistan issued stamps showcasing the Kashmir markhor.

These stamps were released at a ceremony organised at the Pakistan Academy of Sciences building here on Friday. According to experts, the Kashmir markhor in Pakistan faced numerous threats that jeopardised its survival.

The major threats to the markhor population included habitat loss, agricultural expansion, illegal hunting, climate change and infrastructure development. These threats have led to a dramatic decline in markhor population across its habitat range.

Considering multiple challenges to the population, WWF called for conservation efforts to protect and preserve this iconic species.

The markhor, declared as the national animal of Pakistan, is large wild goat species native to South Asia and Central Asia, mainly existing in Pakistan, India, the Karakoram Range, parts of Afghanistan and the Himalayas. Since 2015, it has been classified as near threatened on the IUCN red list. Often based on their horn configuration, markhor have been divided into five sub-species: Astor markhor, Bakhara markhor, Kabul markhor, Kashmir markhor and Sulaiman markhor.

Speaking at the launch ceremony, Hamid Naei Khan, Director General WWF-Pakistan, said the postage stamp not only celebrated the existence of Kashmir markhor but also highlighted the need for concerted conservation efforts to safeguard their future. This initiative also aimed to draw attention to the species threatened status and the pressing need for habitat preservation and anti-poaching measures.

He said the issuance of the postage stamp dedicated to the Kashmir markhor would serve as a reminder of the collective responsibility to protect and preserve our natural heritage for future generations.

"It will also provide a platform to showcase Pakistan's commitment to wildlife conservation on the global stage," he added.

Pakistan Post Additional Director General Razaan Hashmi said Pakistan was home to rich biodiversity, including Indian river dolphins, whales, common leopard, snow leopard and many raptors and migratory birds. This postage stamp about Kashmir markhor expresses the government's commitment to raising awareness and protecting this threatened species which is confronted with different challenges.

He said it was essential to promote collaborative conservation initiatives that help address the threats to wildlife and take on-ground actions. He appreciated the role of communities in the protection of the markhor species in Pakistan.

WWF said as true goans of the Himalayas, the Kashmir markhor was the most spectacular among wild goats, distinguished by its large body, long spiralling horns, thick fur and a flowing beard and neck ruff. It is widely spread from Afghanistan to Pakistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Seminar held to promote community policing

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad police in collaboration with Bahria University Islamabad organised a seminar to promote community policing and enhance police-public contact.

FRS for the Islamabad Traffic Police said that following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Havi, the Islamabad police, in collaboration with Bahria University Islamabad, organised the seminar.

The seminar was attended by IGP, Law & Order Shaker Hussain Durrani, DGP Security Mohammad Jawad Tariq, and other officers of ITP.

From Bahria University, Senior Assistant Professor Khalid Munir and Senior Associate Professor Saeed Zameer participated in the seminar.

During the seminar, students asked questions on various topics, including the relationship between the police and the public, the role of the police in solving societal issues, and the provision of justice and facilities to the general public. The police officers promptly answered these questions.

The participants of the seminar appreciated the efforts of Islamabad police in maintaining law and order, combating crime, and ensuring smooth traffic flow on the roads. On this occasion, the police officers expressed that Islamabad police have always considered students as the vanguard and believe that students play a significant role in the development of any country.

The purpose of this seminar was to promote community policing and to foster a sense of mutual affinity.

At the end of the seminar, commemorative shields were exchanged between the police officers and university professors. — Staff Reporter

Entertaining evening for fashion enthusiasts, music lovers

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels on Friday partnered with Rehmat Association to host a fundraising event under the banner of cultural diplomacy.

The event's proceeds went directly to the Rehmat Maternal and Children Hospital, a vital institution providing comprehensive healthcare services to mothers and children, enhancing the quality of care within the community.

According to a statement, the evening featured an impressive fashion show featuring apparel by artisans from Rehmat and a mesmerising musical performance by Sadeh, blending entertainment with philanthropy to make a significant impact.

Fashion enthusiasts and music lovers were treated to a memorable experience, showcasing stunning dresses and creations of Rehmat Association's skilled artisans.

This event highlighted their exceptional craftsmanship, traditional techniques and unique designs, supporting community development and empowerment.

Models on the runway helped bridge the gap between artisans and a broader audience, promoting the preservation of traditional crafts and supporting sustainable livelihoods for the workers involved.

Rehmat Association President Akhla Malik said: "Our artisans create stunning apparel that illustrates their exceptional craftsmanship and dedication to traditional techniques. These pieces are not just fashion statements but symbols of our cultural heritage. With Serena's invaluable support for our fundraising efforts, we can channel proceeds towards our hospital project, providing better healthcare facilities and supporting the overall development of our community."

The statement said Serena Hotels recognised the importance of community development and was committed to playing its part in creating a positive change.

Supporting initiatives that uplifted and empowered communities was fundamental to its values.



MODELS walk on the ramp during a fashion show titled 'Embracing Dreams' in Islamabad on Friday. — Photo by Tanveer Shahzad

Owners of high-rise buildings told to get fire safety certificates

DC says drive launched to check fire safety equipment in commercial buildings

By Asim Yasin

RAWALPINDI: The district administration has asked all high-rise building and commercial plaza owners to ensure fire safety equipment in their outlets and get fire safety certificates.

Deputy Commissioner Dr Hassan Waqar Chishti said that a drive had been launched to ensure fire safety equipment in the commercial buildings and high-rise plazas to avoid any untoward incident.

He said Rescue 1122 had been asked to launch a crackdown against commercial building of more than 50-foot high whose owners had not installed fire safety equipment. He said the Civil Defence Department had been asked to check all commercial buildings, LPG manufacturers and fuel filling stations.

He said Rawalpindi Municipal Corporation and Rawalpindi Development Authority as well as the district council had been asked not to approve any commercial building which failed to mention emergency exit doors in their building plans.

District Officer Emergency Shabazullah said that a survey was conducted in the district and found more than 150 high-rise buildings without safety equipment and emergency exits.

He said that the department had formed four teams in each tehsil. He said these teams had started the campaign in tehsils Rawalpindi, Gujar Khan and Taxila simultaneously. He said the department already issued notices to more than 150 high-rise buildings to install firefighting equipment.

He said according to the survey, approximately

all commercial buildings especially in downtown Rawalpindi were not properly equipped with fire safety measures. He said under the survey, they checked whether or not the building owners had installed auto fire alarm system, sprinklers and internal fire hydrants and separate emergency stairs at 100 feet.

He said there was a problem in commercial buildings as these were not managed by one owner and multiple owners had separate shops and offices in the commercial buildings. He said that the market committee had been constituted and asked to adopt fire safety measures to avoid any untoward situation. He said more than 80 building owners had submitted applications for fire safety certificates.

District Officer Civil Defence Tahir Hussain said the markets at Raja Bazaar, City Saddle Road, Kashmiri Bazaar, Garipandi and adjoining main grain market and other bazaars were located in narrow streets and could be dangerous if they did not adopt fire safety measures.

He said owners whose multi-storey buildings were located in narrow bazaars had been asked to erect fire-isolated stairs and install sprinkler system in their premises.

He said that according to building bylaws, essential safety measures were basically required in commercial, industrial and public buildings to ensure the safety of occupants in the event of a fire or emergency. The layout plans of commercial buildings must have exit doors, fire hydrants, fire-isolated stairs, emergency lifts, mechanical ventilation and sprinkler system, smoke alarms, safety management system and the fire control centre.

He said the department would check all hotels and restaurants and issue challans to those who had not installed fire fighting systems.

About LPG, he said the Civil Defence had launched a grand operation against illegal business of decanting of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and sealed 126 illegal LPG agencies for not adopting fire safety measures in the last one week.

Seminary teacher held for 'rape' of two minor boys

MUZAFFARGARH: Police arrested on Friday a seminary teacher for allegedly raping his two minor students and threatening them with torture if they disclosed the assault.

As per Ghara Dina Panchayat police, the complainant, Jafar Bito, said in his application that his son and a neighbor, aged between 10-12 years, had been studying at Madrasah Yaseen at Chak No 143/ M.I. for a couple of months.

He said the boys told him that their teacher "I" raped them at the seminary and threatened them with torture if they said anybody about the assault.

On the complaint, the police registered the case against the suspect under section 376-4A, 377-B.

The police say they have arrested the suspect, while the boys were sent to hospital for the medical examination.

DHES: A man dies after being struck by lightning, while another was critically injured in the incident occurring near Adila T-8, Sultan Colony Road, Shrawan, Kot Aakh on Friday.

According to locals, Zafar (21) and Pira (25) were on a motorcycle when lightning struck, leaving the former dead on the spot, while the latter was critically injured.

On being informed by the locals about the incident, a Rescue 1122 team arrived on the scene and shifted the body and the injured man to hospital, where his condition was said to be critical.

The incident occurred during the rain that lashed the area for hours. — Correspondent



GOVERNMENT OF GILGIT-BALTISTAN
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVE

Reference No. ETIGB/PCU/COD/PRO/2024

June 8, 2024

TENDER NOTICE FOR HIRING OF RENTAL VEHICLE

Economic Transformation Initiative ETI-GB invites sealed bids from the dealers and service providers of the following vehicles to be placed at the disposal of Department of Cooperative GB.

Sr. No.	Particulars
1.	Rental Vehicle with Driver, 10' box, with engine capacity 1500cc to 1600cc Model 2005 or newer, (4 persons seating capacity, adequate storage space for luggage, vehicle, maintenance, insurance, model oil change, driver salary and per diem charges (per month rental basis).

1. Interested firms / service providers are requested to obtain the bidding documents / RFQ free of cost from the office of undersigned in working days from the date of publication of this advertisement during office hours (9:30 am to 4:30 pm).

2. Bids received after due time and date shall be suitably rejected.

3. The bids prepared in accordance with the instructions given in the bidding documents / RFQ, must be delivered to the undersigned by 10:30 am on or before June 28, 2024. Bids will be opened publicly on June 28, 2024 at 11:00 am in Committee Room of ETI-GB Office Gilgit in presence of firms or their authorized representatives who choose to attend.

4. In case the last date of bid submission falls on / within the official holidays / weekends of the purchaser, the last date for submission of the bids shall be the next working day.

5. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of minimum 3% (refundable) of the total bid price in form of Bank Draft / ICCB issued by scheduled Bank in favor of ETIGB-PCU must be attached with the bid document.

6. The procuring entity may increase or decrease the quantity of requisite items.

7. A firm will be selected in accordance with the RFQ set out in PPTA/ETAD / Project Procurement Handbook that can be accessed via the website of PPTA www.ppta.org.pk and ETAD www.etad.org.pk and www.etad.org.pk.

8. This advertisement is also available on ETI-GB website (www.etigb.com.pk) and PPTA website (www.ppta.org.pk).

DIRECTOR FINANCE & ADMIN
Economic Transformation Initiative - Gilgit Baltistan
House No. 64, River View Road, Chinar Bagh, Gilgit-15100, Pakistan
Phone +92-01811-922884 E-mail: procurement@etigb.com.pk

058-5050

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The Local Government, Elections and Rural Development Department invites online applications from capable and motivated individuals having knowledge of Khayr Pak Tehsil/Margalla Areas to fill the following project posts, purely on contract basis. The candidates fulfilling the following qualifications and experience criteria may only apply.

S.No.	Post/Title	No. of Post	Minimum Qualification & Experience	Age Limit at the time of closing date
1	Senior Resource Officer	01	Professional accounting qualification (CA/ACCA/CMA) or a Master's degree in Business Administration in Finance or M. Com. or equivalent degree in Finance or accounting from HEC recognized university or institution. At least 07 years of financial management or Audit & Accounts management experience, including 02 years as Finance Specialist or in a similar position.	Up to 45 years
2	Local IT Specialist	02	M (4 Years) Information Technology, Software Engineering, Computer Science / Master in Computer Science from HEC recognized university / institution. At least 07 years working experience in the field of information technology and Management. Experience of working with aid agencies desired.	Up to 45 years
3	Senior Capacity Development Officer	02	Master's degree in Social Sciences/ Social Sciences from HEC recognized university/ institution. At least 07 years' experience in planning & implementation of capacity development projects/ training projects.	Up to 45 years
4	Senior M&E Officer	02	M (4 Years) Information Technology, Software Engineering, Computer Science / Master in Computer Science from HEC recognized university / institution. At least 3 years related work experience in the field of programming, website, database, and application development is required.	Up to 40 years
5	Environmental & Social Specialist	02	Master's degree in Environmental Sciences, Environmental Economics/ Bachelor of Engineering or Master degree in Social Sciences, Public Administration, Political Science, Agricultural Sciences, Anthropology and other relevant Qualification from HEC recognized university/ institution with at least 3 years related work experience.	Up to 45 years
6	Capacity Development Officer	04	Master's degree in Social Sciences/ Social Sciences from HEC recognized university/ institution. At least 05 years' experience in planning & implementation of capacity development projects/ training projects.	Up to 35 years
7	Database Officer	02	M (4 Years) Information Technology, Software Engineering, Computer Science / Master in Computer Science from HEC recognized university / institution with at least 3 years' experience in relevant field.	Up to 35 years
8	Database Developer	04	M (4 Years) Information Technology, Software Engineering, Computer Science / Master in Computer Science from HEC recognized university / institution with at least 03 years in Database Management, IT management, programming software and computer networks.	Up to 35 years
9	Unit Officer	05	M (4 Years) Information Technology, Software Engineering, Computer Science / Master in Computer Science from HEC recognized university / institution with at least 05 years in IT management, programming software and computer networks.	Up to 35 years

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Candidates will be provisionally allowed to appear in the ETI-GB screening test. However detailed scrutiny will be carried out by the appointing authority and if any candidate is found ineligible in any respect at any stage of the recruitment process, he/she will be disqualified by the appointing authority.
- All the candidates will be required to create profile on ETI-GB website. After creating the profile and before applying/submitting for any post, each candidate will have to print /upload application from ETI-GB website and get their CNIC No. verified from any NADRA (Suburban franchise (Kiosk). Without such application, they will not be able to apply for any post.
- The ETI-GB qualification and experience for each post can be downloaded from the official website of Local Government, Elections & Rural Development Department, Khayr Pak Tehsil.
- Appointment to the above posts will be made under the project policy of the Government of Khayr Pak Tehsil. The employees so appointed will be governed by the project policy and their services will be liable to termination upon expiry of the project life or when their performance is found unsatisfactory.
- Interview call letter will be issued to short listed candidates only.
- Candidates shall be eligible in all respects to the last date of receipt of the applications.
- Incomplete applications and applications received after due dates will not be entertained.
- The candidates working in Government/semi Government bodies should apply through proper channel.
- Candidates intending to apply for more than one post shall apply separately for each post with separate fee.
- Experience is from recognized institutions or the accepted only.
- Competent Authority reserves the right to increase/decrease the number of vacancies or cancel/reject any application without assigning any reason.
- No DA/DA will be admissible for test/interview.
- In case of foreign degree, equivalent certificate from HEC must be provided.
- Errors/Omissions in number of posts are subject to rectification.

HOW TO APPLY

- Interested candidates may first visit www.etigb.com.pk and apply for the posts online.
- After successful submission of online application, a generated online deposit slip (having token number, Project code & candidate's personal information) will be generated.
- Take a printout of the generated deposit slip & deposit the prescribed fee (non-refundable) through EasyPaisa app or Agent or Cash app or at any branch of UBL Bank via UBL Cash app.
- After successful fee submission, please keep the original deposit slip (candidate copy) having bank desired stamp with yourself and do not share it with anyone else.
- After online apply, don't send documents/credentials to ETI-GB office, copies of testimonials/documents will however, be provided by the candidates who qualify the screening test, as and when required by ETI-GB or the Appointing Authority for writing purposes.
- Availability of online Application for more info www.etigb.com.pk or T' helpline, 2024.
- Last date for submission of online Applications is 23 June 2024.
- Candidates will be informed through SMS by ETI-GB to download and Print their bid No. Slip from www.etigb.com.pk. Candidates are directed to do not give personal/financial details/numbers.
- Test Date, Time & Venue will be mentioned on bid No. Slip.
- No separate Call letter will be issued to candidates for screening test through postal/courier means.

PROJECT DIRECTOR,
Project Implementation Unit, KP-RDSP
Directorate General, LGARCO
Plot No. 20, Sector B-5, Phase-V, Hayatabad, Peshawar.

058-50

HP (P) 121824

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LAHORE

Sunset 07:08 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 04:55 am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum 27.0°C
Maximum 43.0°C
Outlook Partly Cloudy

AQI

Maximum (Yesterday) 143

METRO
Central

Alcaraz downs Sinner to reach first French Open final

Pg.17 SPORT



SHOPPING bags are being sold at the Circular Road wholesale market. — White Star

Environment dept to map plastic manufacturing, recycling

Punjab biggest consumer of plastic

By Mansoor Malik

LAHORE: The Environment Protection and Climate Change Department (EPCCD) is preparing a digital registry to map and gauge plastic bag production and registration of all producers, distributors, collectors, and recycling units to gather data to take informed decisions to implement the Punjab government's "No to Plastic" initiative.

Punjab, being the most populous province, is currently responsible for more than half of the total plastic consumption in the country, but there had been no data on the scale of plastic bag production, a source in the department told Dawn on Friday.

The WWF-Pakistan says the country consumes 55 billion plastic bags annually, with an expected annual increase of

15 percent. It says Pakistan's per capita plastic consumption is 6.5 kilograms, which is approximately equal to the average weight of all vital organs combined in human body. As a result, an average Pakistani consumes so much plastic in over 50 years that its total weight would be equal to that of at least five adults.

"This suggests that, in addition to over eight billion humans on the planet, these humans are contributing to a growing 'plastic population' that is outnumbering the human population, which may eventually also outnumber fish in the oceans," asserts the WWF.

An environment protection department official says that Pakistan, in 2022, imported virgin resin from material to make plastic products worth USD8 billion as compared to the import of one tonne of the key imports in the country worth USD707 million — not even a quarter of the total plastic imports.

Recognising the growing need to control the production and use of plastic products, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has taken political ownership and decided to take the challenge head-on by

imposing a ban on plastic bag production and use from June 5.

The chief minister has instructed the environment department to monitor all registered premises to ensure no production unit violates the rules by producing single-use low-micros plastic bags. Additionally, the department will be required to conduct vigilance operations to ensure no plastic bag production unit is left unregistered.

Recognising the risks beyond clogging of drains, Senior Minister for Environment Protection Maryam Azeem says the past failures to control the plastic problem have shown that elimination will not be possible with isolated interventions.

"Multi-sectoral interventions have been identified and the entire plastic elimination regime has been institutionalised within the Punjab Planning & Development Department. This time, it's not just about banning the production of plastic bags less than 75 microns thick, but also facilitating businesses towards sustainable production. The focus is on responsible consumption and produc-

tion," adds Ms Azeem.

Responding to a query, she says the Punjab government is not closing any industry, and instead acting as a catalyst to facilitate their transition to production of environment-friendly shopping bags.

EPCCD Secretary Raja Jhangir Anwar says the entire initiative has been supported by legislative measures and stakeholders have been taken on board to eliminate any gaps or discrepancies in implementing the plastic-free Punjab programme.

Furthermore, he says, the government has banned the entry of single-use plastic bags in its departments, schools and other public spaces. "These 'Safe Zones' will facilitate the transition to safer non-plastic bags use in daily life."

Mr Anwar says the department has also engaged national and multinational corporations and Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) companies and encouraged them to carry on plastic audits.

"These companies have assured the government of compliance in all their productions," Mr Anwar adds.

Kisan Bank, green tractor schemes for farmers

Farmers to get 70pc subsidy on small tractors, 50pc on big ones

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz announced the Punjab Kisan Bank as well as the Green Tractor Scheme for farmers to grant them soft loans and help them improve their production.

She turned down a proposal for disbursement of Rs600,000 subsidy on a tractor and directed the officials to give 70pc subsidy on a small tractor and 50pc on a big tractor. On a proposal, the number of tractors under the Punjab Green Tractor Scheme has been enhanced by 10,000.

Ms Maryam directed the officials concerned to complete the first

phase of the Punjab Green Tractor Scheme within a year. It was also decided to increase the number of tractors under this scheme every year. The scheme possessing land from six to 50 acres will be eligible to apply in the tractor scheme.

The decision was made during a meeting presided over by the CM here.

Maryam Nawaz also approved a high-tech mechanisation programme being prepared for collaboration of international companies with the local companies to manufacture harvesters and other tools in Punjab. The proposal to grant incentives to the international firms for manufacturing the latest agricultural tools was reviewed in the meeting.

Approval to launch an oil seed promotion programme in Punjab was also granted under which the farmers would be persuaded to

Continued on Page 14

Alarm over surveillance of girls in private spaces

By Kalbe Ali

ISLAMABAD: The Digital Rights Foundation (DRF) has expressed concern over the ongoing surveillance of women and girls in private spaces through unregulated CCTV cameras in women's shelters, hostels, universities, and salons, invading their right to privacy and dignity in private spaces.

According to the 2023 Gender Gap report, Pakistan ranks 142 out of 146 countries in terms of gender parity, including economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival, and

political empowerment.

The DRF statement said that women are already subjected to gender-based violence, harassment, and social surveillance by society, which in turn pushes them to seek refuge in gender-segregated private spaces such as these.

With women's participation being severely limited and restricted in the country, they are significantly more financially dependent, prompting them to look towards spaces like Daulat Aman. Women residing in Daulat Aman were largely vulnerable, particularly when they face little to no familial support and are seeking refuge.

The DRF has said that

women living in these shelters have also complained of gross mistreatment and abuse at the hands of those in charge at these centers.

The DRF has referred to the Rawalpindi Daulat Aman incident and the Lahore women's hostel where hidden cameras were found on the premises of the building.

These reported instances of CCTV cameras being installed in private spaces under the guise of safety, and the footage being misused, serve as a direct invasion of privacy and threat to women's physical safety, creating a hostile environment of mistrust and insecurity.

Continued on Page 14

DC told to decide PTI request for Mochi Gate convention

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court on Friday directed the deputy commissioner to decide an application of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) seeking permission to hold a workers' convention at Mochi Gate.

Justice Abid Hussain Chaudhry passed the order on a petition filed by Chaudhry Asghar Qaiser, a local leader of PTI.

The petitioner's counsel argued that a request was submitted to the DC on June 1 for permission to hold workers' convention at Mochi Gate scheduled on June 9.

He said despite several days passing, the DC had not made a decision on the request of the petitioner.

The counsel argued that the constitution guaranteed every political and religious party a complete freedom to hold meetings, processions, and rallies within the bounds of the law.

He alleged that the PTI's political activities were being hindered while other political and religious parties were given full freedom to hold meetings, processions, and rallies.

He said the DC had been delaying the decision on the request on the pretext of security reasons.

Two cops martyred, another injured in dacoits' firing

By Our Correspondent

RAHIM YAR KHAN: Two police officials were martyred, while another critically injured allegedly when dacoits opened fire on a police vehicle in Khanbela town area in Sheedat Sharif police limits, Liaquatpur tehsil, some 60km from here on Friday night.

According to police, they were informed that dacoits were looting shops in Khanbela area.

Acting on the information, a police team reached the spot.

On seeing the police, the dacoits opened fire on their vehicle that was retaliated by policemen.

In exchange of heavy firing, driver of police vehicle, Constable Shafiq Ahmed, was hit by a bullet and died on the spot.

Another Constable Zeshan Khuram Bohar, who was injured in the dacoits' firing, was shifted to the Sheikh Zayed Medical College Hospital (SZMCH), where he succumbed to his injuries.

Meanwhile, Constable Ishag, who was also among the injured, is said to be in a critical condition at the hospital.

The dacoits fled away after the crossfire, while police have cordoned off the area and launched a search operation to arrest them.

LHC extends market hours

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court on Friday extended market hours till the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha not to be celebrated on June 12.

Justice Shahid Nazim said the markets would remain open till 1am on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, and till 12 midnight on other days of the week.

The judge was hearing multiple petitions relating to smog and other environmental issues.

Earlier, the Punjab Food Authority (PFA) presented a report regarding action taken to curb sale of dead chicken, stating that 40,670 kilo dead chicken was disposed of in Tolin Market.

It said 94 cases were registered against those selling dead chicken and unsafe meat besides a total fine of Rs22.5 million was imposed on those selling dead chicken meat. It said daily raids were conducted for meat inspection.

Additionally, the judge ordered the Irrigation Department to open the irrigation channel of Baghi-i-Jinnah.

A member of a judicial commission stated that despite court orders, no serious measures had been taken to curb smog, which was increasing and posed severe health risks. He requested for concrete steps to eliminate smog.

The judge sought a fresh report from the environment department on the steps being taken to curb smog by June 14.

Punjab Assembly session turns chaotic

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Punjab Assembly session on Friday turned chaotic as the treasury and opposition benches engaged in a heated debate over the request of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers.

Opposition Leader Ahmed Khan Mueech criticised the government for violating the sanctity of chadar and chair dewan and detaining political activists despite their release on bail.

Speaking on a point of order, Mr Mueech said the government had painted a rosy picture of law and order in the province in the previous session, which ended only two days ago. However, the situation was quite different, as political activists securing bail from courts

of law were being detained soon after they came out of prisons.

He said the police were disallowing them from even meeting sitting former opposition leader Mahmood Rashedi. He demanded that the government explain who was behind these arrests, if not the government itself.

He said Imran Khan was the leader of the single largest party in the country and could not be broken psychologically through such tactics. He added that Nawaz Sharif had termed Gen Zia his spiritual father, while the PMO-N had taken oath, despite wearing black arm-bands, administered by Gen Musharraf in 2008.

At this, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mughab Shuja got infuriated and said that Gen Rajwa was the father of the PTI, as he had secured the success

of the PTI in the 2018 general election. He also lambasted the opposition party for role in the May 9, 2023, attacks on military installations and said that remnants of former chief justice Saqib Nisar were still supporting the party.

This led to a war of slogans between the two sides, turning the house into a fish market.

In the meantime, opposition MPA Rana Shehbaz pointed out a lack of quorum in the house.

The chair directed the ringing of bells for five minutes to invite the MPAs sitting in the lobbies into the house. However, the chair had to put off the proceedings till Monday afternoon as the required minimum strength of 94 members in the house could not be ensured.

Earlier, both sides lambasted the inter-dispute delays in starting the session,

which finally began two hours and 40 minutes late. Senior Intrad Council's Rana Afroz urged the chair and members to take the session seriously, as prolonged delays in starting the proceedings invited ridicule from the galleries. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mughab Shuja also regretted the situation and requested cutting down the delay gradually.

Deputy Speaker Zakoor Iqbal Chaudhry sought assurances from both sides that they would come on time for the session on Monday, and promised to start the proceedings punctually regardless of attendance. On assurance from both sides of the aide that they would come in time for the session on Monday, the chair said that whether members were present or not, he would begin the proceedings in time.



281 animal sale points set up across Punjab

By Khalid Haasani

LAHORE: The Punjab government has set up 281 sacrificial animal sale points, including six in Lahore, to facilitate the sale and purchase of animals for Eid al-Adha.

According to Local Government and Community Development Department Secretary Mian Shabbir, there are 25 major sale points (for Mandi), including the Shabkar Kargan cattle market in Lahore. The remaining 246 points are temporary and will operate till the third day of Eid. The Shabkar Kargan cattle market, Punjab's largest, witnessed a significant influx of animals and buyers on Friday. The market will operate round the clock till the third day of Eid, in addition to its regular weekly market day on Wednesdays.

Other sale points in Lahore include New King Lane Housing Society,

Sport Complex (Ableh Rakh Chak), Wagah, Shalimar (Tahid Shalimar), LBA City near Sahar Village Khatra Khatra in Nishtar Town (Model Town), Sagian Road near Sagian Office in Ravi Town (City Tolls), Ravi Road near Panagari City in Atiq Town (Canton), and Haveli near Haveli Market in Allama Iqbal Town (Rawat Tolls).

A visit to the mandi on Friday showed a usual activity: buyers and sellers busy negotiating prices, with some sellers demanding higher prices than last year.

"I cannot sell this goat for less than Rs60,000," said one seller, while a buyer argued, "Your price is too high, I bought a similar goat for Rs45,000 last year."

An official at Shabkar Kargan market expects the market to pick up momentum from next Wednesday, with prices expected to be 25-35% higher than last year.

Seminary teacher held for 'rape' of two boys

MUZAFFARGARH: Police arrested on Friday a seminary teacher for allegedly raping his two minor students and threatening them with torture if they disclosed the assault.

An per Daira Din Panah police, the complainant, Jafar Din, said in his application that his son and a nephew, aged between 10-12 years, had been studying at Madrasah Yaseen at Chak No 143/M, for a couple of months.

He said the boys told him that their teacher "R" raped them at the seminary and threatened them with torture if they told anybody about the assault.

On the complaint, the police registered the case against the suspect under section 376-III, 377-B.

The police say they have arrested the sus-

pect, while the boys were sent to hospital for the medical examination.

DINA: A man dies after being struck by lightning, while another was critically injured in the incident occurring near Adila 1-R, Sultan Colony Road, Srinagar, Kot Adila on Friday.

According to locals, Zahir (22) and Pina (25) were on a motorcycle when lightning struck, leaving the former dead on the spot, while the latter was critically injured. On being informed by the locals about the incident, a Rescue 1122 team arrived on the scene and shifted the body and the injured man to hospital, where his condition was said to be critical.

The incident occurred during the rain that lashed the area for hours. — Correspondent

Clinic on Wheels – a half-baked project

Facility is designed for urban slums and irrelevant for far-off areas

By Ifsana Haq

RAHIM YAR KHAN: Punjab Chief Minister's "Clinic On Wheels" programme is providing some basic health services to the urban slums of the city whereas many people in rural areas are deprived of health facilities which are far away from Rural Health Centres (RHCs) and Basic Health Units (BHUs).

The Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department, along with the District Health Authority chief executive officer launched the COW project on May 13, 2024 in four union councils (UCs) of urban slums: 30-A, 31-B, 32-C, and 38-L.

The initiative uses six vehicles equipped with experienced doctors, lady health workers, dispensers, and vaccinators to provide basic health services, illness diagnosis, vaccinations, nutritional screening for children, ultrasound, and treatment for malaria and diabetes. Sixteen types of medicines are also available through the programme.

Despite these efforts, residents of three out of the four union councils are unaware of the programme.

A political activist from Teer Colony, Atmar Rana, said he had neither heard of nor seen the clinic in UC 31-B in the past three weeks. Muhammad Aslam, a resident of UC 32-C, said he continues to visit Sheikh Zayed Medical College Hospital (SZMCH) for medical needs and had no knowledge of the mobile clinic.

However, Zafar Iqbal Shairi, a religious cleric from UC 30-A, appreciated the programme and said that he established a camp outside a mosque on the request of the health department where about 300 people visited.

But in the same UC, there were few people in the camps established at Chak 15-P East and Ishabagar, he added. A senior doctor at SZMCH, Dr. Shabbir Wazir, said the programme would be more beneficial for rural areas, as urban localities are already near SZMCH.

A former UDO Health, Dr. Makhdoom Basharat, said former chief minister Mian Shabbir Shairi had started a programme - Mobile Health Unit (MHU) in 2015. The unit consisted of a 10-wheeler trailer equipped with two beds, X-rays, ultrasound, laboratory for baseline tests and a mini-operation theatre with routine medicines.

The clinic on wheels was the replica of that programme but MHU was for the betterment of rural areas patients in the radius of 35 to 40 kms where the peo-



RAHIM YAR KHAN: Doctors of a mobile health unit examine women at Chak 11 where locals set up a camp to accommodate patients. — Dawn

ple could not access the RHCs or BHUs and its proper schedule was released in advance. But in 2018 that MHU was stopped due to unknown reasons.

COW Programme local person Dr. Rao Shehzad provided conflicting details. He said only four vehicles are operational, with ultrasound available in just one. These vehicles transport medical teams and medi-

cines, while camps are established in scheduled areas to provide services such as antenatal and postnatal care, family planning, nutritional screening, child vaccination, and general outpatient services.

More than 10,000 patients were facilitated by this programme and daily average of patients was 600.

Answering a question as to how the programme was adver-

tised among masses of four UCs, he replied that there were two methods. First, they mobilised the people through lady health workers and secondly they displayed banners and make announcements about the clinic on wheels camps.

But Dr Rana has no argument why the programme was started for urban area people despite a large health facility in the shape of SZMCH.

Detection of poliovirus

Vaccination drive in three S Punjab dists from 10th

Dawn Report

LAHORE/RAHAWALPUR: Punjab has decided to launch a special polio eradication campaign from June 10 to June 14 in three districts of south Punjab after samples from Ahmedpur in Bahawalpur district tested positive in May.

The campaign would cover three taluhs of Bahawalpur: each of Muzaffargarh and Rahim Yar Khan.

A spokesperson for the Punjab Emergency Operations Centre said over 7,000 polio workers would take part in the inoculation drive targeting 0.9m children.

The centre's coordinator and head of the polio eradication programme in Punjab Khir Ahmad chaired a meeting with the district health authorities of the three districts on Friday. He confirmed detection of poliovirus in environmental samples of Bahawalpur and instructed the health authority officials concerned to specifically focus on the polio campaign after the detection of the crippling virus there. He highlighted the risk of further spread, saying the virus could infect other cities if not responded.

Mr Khir reminded the district officials that the Eid holidays were beginning in a few days and massive movement of people was expected, which put the districts at even greater risk of the virus importation.

Addressing the officials belonging from the three districts, he stressed treating the polio eradication campaign as a priority and urged the officials to engage as many officials in the polio teams as possible. "There should be no missing links. No missed children at the end of the campaign. The districts need to ensure proper reporting during and after the campaign and participate in the evening meetings daily with the deputy commissioners," he underlined.

The officials concerned from the target districts joined the

meeting via a video link. Meanwhile, the district administration of Bahawalpur swung into action for anti-polio measures, including vaccination drive, after the detection of poliovirus in the district.

According to the National Institute of Health (NIH), Islamabad, the Bahawalpur district had been free of virus for the previous many years.

Talking to Dawn, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Tanzeem Ahmed Shah of District Health Authority (DHA) said that after the communication from NIH regarding detection of poliovirus in the Bahawalpur district's sewage samples, the Deputy

Commissioner Rahmat Awan Jajja chaired an emergency meeting of district polio eradication committee to take stock of the situation.

The meeting decided to launch an emergency anti-polio drive for a week in the Bahawalpur district from June 10.

He said poliovirus was detected in the samples, collected from the disposal site of Ahmedpur East city near the road carting away and it was suspected that the people living in the vicinity had come from Karachi.

It may be recalled that the samples found with virus had been collected from Ahmedpur city some months ago.

Cop held for sexually assaulting colleague

NAROWAL: A constable of Narowal police has been arrested for sexually assaulting and black-mailing a woman colleague by filming the act.

According to Nazam Farooq, spokesperson for Narowal police, the accused cop has been suspended by District Police Officer Muhammad Hassan Iqbal.

He said the superintendent of police

(investigation) has started a departmental inquiry against the constable on the direction of the DPO.

In another case, Narowal police arrested a man for having group sex with his second wife and 10-year-old son (from his first wife) and shooting the act.

The arrest was made on the application of non-in-law of the main accused.

Police registered a case against the main accused and his second wife.

During the preliminary investigation, police seized a video of the act from the mobile phone of the accused. — Correspondent

Police kill man, bury in hurry

By Our Correspondent

SARGODHA: The Sargodha police killed Ahmed, alias Shum, in a controversial encounter on Friday.

The police quickly buried the body in Bagha Colony cemetery, allegedly to avoid legal action from the victim's family.

Ahmed's father said his son was innocent and was killed in a fake encounter.

The police have promised to provide a statement on the incident later.

DETAILS: The Sargodha police arrested seven suspects from an inter-district gang involved in kidnapping for ransoms.

The gang had demanded Rs10 million for the release of Akhtar and Naif.

The police recovered vehicles, mobile phones, and documents from the suspects. The arrested suspects belong to Arad, Kashmir, Rawalpindi and Sargodha districts.

PROTESTS: The police have registered a case against 74 protesters who raised an anti-encroachment operation on the bank of the canal at Ptd 511 stop on Faisalabad Road.

The protesters, allegedly affiliated with the corruption media, pulled stones at government vehicles and set tyres on fire.

The police are treating getting the incident.

2024 پروگرام عید الضحیٰ

میدانگی کی پیشوں کے دوران وطن کنٹروٹ کے ایہ ہا میں تمام صفائی عمل سب معمول ہا ہا ہا کی سے کام کرتا رہے گا وائٹ کیت 7 ٹیکڑز میں تقسیم کیا گیا ہے ہر ٹیکڑز میں شکایت سینٹر قائم کیے گئے ہیں جن کی تفصیل درج ذیل ہے ہر ایک مرکزی کنٹرول روم 1 شکایت سنٹر آفس وائٹ کیت پورہ احمد بخش روڈ آرا سے بازرقام کیا گیا ہے جو کہ میدانگی کے دوران 24 گھنٹے کھلا رہے گا۔

042-99220406 کنٹرول روم فون نمبر

سیکٹر نمبر 01-A (ڈی۔ ایچ۔ اے فیر II-I)

ایہا

ڈیفنس ہاؤسنگ اتھارٹی فیر II-I

کنٹرول روم: میسرز ویسٹ بسٹرز

ایچ آر ج ٹیکڑز: جاوید اقبال (سینٹری انکپلر)

اکبر احمد سلیم: (سینٹری سپروائزر)

غلام عباس: بت: (سینٹری میٹ)

ملک نیک: (سینٹری سپروائزر کنٹرول روم: میسرز ویسٹ بسٹرز)

0312-2367707 موبائل نمبر

0314-9552162 موبائل نمبر

0300-4555596 موبائل نمبر

0312-4413119 موبائل نمبر

مقام شکایت سینٹر: [1] مسجد چوک ڈی۔ ایچ۔ اے [2] فی کرش مارکیٹ

(LHR-6)

PD (U) 3889

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

HEADQUARTERS NATIONAL DATA BASE AND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY (NADRA)

VEHICLES FOR AUCTION

AUCTION NO. NADRA-HQ-AUC-115/2024

1. Following vehicles and motor cycles are required to be auctioned:

S #	Registration No	Make & Type	Model
Vehicles			
1	GV-981	Toyota Hilux (Fabricated)	2010
2	GV-982	Toyota Hilux (Fabricated)	2010
3	GU-539	Toyota Hilux (Fabricated)	2010
Motor Cycles			
1	GR-122	Yamaha/YD 100	2011
2	GQ-331	Yamaha/YD 100	2011
3	GQ-391	Honda 100	2011
4	GR-109	Honda CG-125	2011
5	GL-155	Sohrab JS-70	2004
6	GL-150	Sohrab JS-70	2004
7	GL-150	Sohrab JS-70	2004
8	GL-188	Sohrab JS-70	2004
9	GL-151	Sohrab JS-70	2004
10	GL-152	Sohrab JS-70	2004

2. Terms and condition for auction of vehicles are mention in tender documents.

3. Tender documents can be obtained from Headquarters NADRA (MT Section), State Bank Building, G-5/2, Islamabad.

4. The vehicles will be disposed off on "as and where it is" basis.

5. The vehicles can be inspected between 10:00 AM to 03:00 PM from **24 June 2024 to 28 June 2024** except Saturday and Sunday in the presence of Secretary Auction Committee.

6. The bids will be opened on **02 July 2024 at 12:00 AM** at HQs NADRA, State Bank Building, Sector G-5/2, Islamabad.

7. The Competent Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the offers as per rule 3.3 of PPRA.

PID (U) No.7580/23

Administration Directorate (MT Section)

State Bank of Pakistan Building, Shehr-e-Jamhuriat,

G-5/2, Islamabad

Telephone: 051-90392560, 1316

(LHR-6)

PESHAWAR

Sunset 07:26pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 04:56am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum 24°C
Maximum 38°C
Outlook Mainly Sunny

METRO
North

Alcaraz downs Sinner to reach first French Open final

Pg.17 SPORT



A CAMEL dance being presented at a three-day spring festival that started in Kharashakhta Storkhal in Orakzai tribal district on Friday. — Dawn

PHC rejects plea for removal of housing scheme scam suspect's name from ECL

Declares records contradicted petitioner's claim of having addressed people's grievance

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court has refused to order authorities to strike the name of a private housing scheme's project director off the Exit Control List over an alleged fraud.

A bench consisting of Justice Sahibzada Asadullah and Justice Waqar Ahmad dismissed the petition of Prof Abdul Hameed Jan of Professor Model Town-II Peshawar for the removal of his name from the ECL, observing that the cases of the affected people for grievance resolution are pending with the high court.

It declared that the petitioner's claim of having addressed the affected people's grievance was contradicted by the records and facts, as the petition was devoid of merit.

The National Accountability Bureau Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had launched an inquiry under the National Accountability Ordinance (NAO) into allegations of corruption and corrupt practices against the petitioner and others for "cheating public

at large" in respect of the Professor Model Town-II Peshawar housing project.

It later issued a call up notice to the petitioner as the housing scheme's project director over fraud allegations.

The NAB received 51 claims regarding the scheme and learned that the petitioner and other partners collected Rs98.461 million on pretext of providing developed plots to allottees but failed to deliver on the promise.

The claimants insisted that the petitioner and his other partners had deprived several people of their hard-earned money.

In 2020, the high court ordered the placing of the name of the petitioner on the ECL, at the request of a NAB deputy prosecutor general.

In the current petition, Prof Jan claimed that his firm had satisfied all claimants by giving them plots or returning their money.

His counsel contended that after amendments made in the NAO through the National Accountability (Amendment) Act 2022, the said project did not come under the purview of NAB.

During pendency of the petition, several affected persons filed applications with the court for impounding as respondents in the case. Their pleas were accepted.

Advocate Malik Shafiq Khan appeared for the housing scam's victims and said the petitioner along with other accused looted investments under the garb of providing

amenities like mosques, school, hospital, community hall, and shopping mall in the private housing scheme.

He claimed that no NOC was obtained from the competent authority and issued a bogus NOC of the Peshawar Development Authority was shown to the claimants.

The lawyer contended that the petitioner was running a joint bank account with other accused, including Prof Naeem, Muhammad Nisar and Harat Gul, through which huge amounts had been collected from the claimants with promise of allotment of developed plots.

He added that the petitioner had also fraudulently issued provisional allotment letters and possession letters to the claimants, whereas in fact the claimants had not been handed over possession of any plot.

The bench observed that admittedly, under the 2022 amendment Act, jurisdiction of the NAB was vested in the instant matter but in light of the Supreme Court's judgment rendered in the "Imran Khan Khan versus Federation of Pakistan" case, the matter was to be decided afresh by the competent authority.

It added that as per the stand of the NAB, all referred cases were again reopened by the competent authority and that at the moment the present case was under consideration for decision afresh in light of the apex court's judgment.

Three-day spring festival begins in Orakzai

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Adviser to the chief minister on tourism, culture, archaeology and museums Zahid Channab on Friday said that the merged tribal districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had abundant natural beauty and scenic spots to attract foreign and domestic tourists.

"New tourist sites here will soon become the centre of attraction for tourists. We have opened camping pods and a rest house for tourists at the Samana Top to provide them with comfortable and affordable accommodation and recreational facilities so that they can enjoy their stay in the scenic site," Mr Channab told the inaugural ceremony for the three-day Jashan-e-Baharan Spring Festival in the Kharashakhta Storkhal area of Orakzai tribal district.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority director-general Barkatullah Marwat, project director for Tourism Wing for Merged Districts Istiaq Khan, Orakzai deputy commissioner Tayyab Abdullatif, district police officer Nasir Ahmad, Lt-Colonel Tariq Rahimul Orakzai Scouts and others were also present on the occasion.

On the directives of Channab, the Jashan-e-Baharan Festival will be held until June 9, according to an official statement issued here.

The event is organised by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority (KPCTA) in collaboration with the Tourism Wing for Merged Districts, Orakzai district administration and the paramilitary wing of Pak Army, to "showcase traditional and non-traditional sports competitions for the tourists and local people."

Mr Channab said that rest areas would be built to facilitate visitors to Orakzai.

He said Orakzai was a beautiful district having many tourist spots, including Kalaya, Samana Top, Gulistan Fort, Porokhal,

Continued on Page 15

ANP for opening trade routes with Afghanistan

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Awami National Party Khyber Pakhtunkhwa president Mian Iftikhar Hussain on Friday called for the opening of all trade and transport routes with Afghanistan declaring it the need of the hour.

In a statement issued by the Rasht Khan Markaz here, Mr Hussain said that the federal government should review domestic and foreign policies.

He said that Pakistan needed to have good relations with

neighbours.

Mr Hussain urged the provincial government to take serious steps to counter terrorism and lawlessness.

"The government needs to take measures for ensuring provincial autonomy and improving the law and order situation in the province," he said.

The ANP leader claimed that the last Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-led government in the centre released more than 500 terrorists from jails, while more than 40,000 terrorists were resettled in the country.

He said that the province suf-

fered due to the resettlement of terrorists.

Mr Hussain said that the prevailing poor law and order situation showed parliament and other stakeholders were not taken into confidence during the government's talks with terrorists.

He said that the ANP supported the resolution of all issues through dialogue and when it ruled the province, it opted for talks to resolve the Malakand issue.

"When terrorists violated the peace agreement, the government ordered a military action

against them," he said.

The ANP leader said that at that time, the state, parliament and the provincial government were on the same page on the issue of action against terrorists.

He said that the ANP had so far been "punished" for military operations against terrorists.

Mr Hussain said that the current situation in the region was precarious and therefore, the state had to tread carefully to avoid repeating past mistakes.

He said that the ANP would continue its struggle for the rights of the province and provincial autonomy.

Faulty scanning machine affects trade activity at Torkham

Customs clearing agents and transporters complain NLC unresponsive despite requests

By Ibrahim Shirwari

KHYBER: Customs clearing agents and transporters have complained about the persistent technical issues with the electronic scan-

ning machine operated by the National Logistic Cell for imported goods at the Torkham border crossing, claiming the issue is hindering Pak-Afghan trade.

They told Dawn that despite their repeated requests for resolving the issue, the NLC was unresponsive.

Jamshed Khan, a customs clearing agent, complained that though the NLC charged vehicles taking goods to or from Afghanistan Rs8,000 each, it had failed to ensure the smooth functioning of the scanning machine, to their satisfaction.

He said that the machine's poor

quality often led to inaccurate readings about the container's contents.

"The scanning machine's faulty readings pose a significant security risk, as it often fails to accurately detect items inside a container," he said.

Mr Khan insisted that the matter was taken up with NLC officials many times, but to no avail.

He said that the faulty machine delayed scanning causing traffic congestion at the already overcrowded import and export terminals of the Torkham border crossing.

"The problem also causes signifi-

cant delays in scanning export goods, as the NLC directs import vehicles to the export scanning machine, overburdening it," he insisted.

Another clearing agent, Gulab Shirwari, called for the installation of a modern, high-tech scanning machine at the import terminal.

He said that the NLC should immediately remove all hurdles to Pak-Afghan trade via Torkham.

Mr Shirwari alleged that NLC officials often made excuses and falsely claimed to be in contact with Chinese technicians to fix the issue.

"In the last one week, the machine broke down three times, troubling both travellers and transporters, who suffered financial losses over delay in the delivery of goods," he said.

The clearing agent said that the NLC's failure to ensure early completion of work on the Torkham customs terminal forced transporters to deposit parking fees without having the parking facility.

COMPENSATION: Elders of the Neotikhal sub-tribe of Zakhakhal in Landi Koral told here has demanded their "due share in compensation" for their land, provided

for the construction of a rest house near the Sigda Stupa.

The demand was made during a jirga that met here on Friday with Shakir Akhri in the chair.

The participants gave the administration the June 11 ultimatum for the payment of compensation and warned if the demand wasn't met, they would block work on the rest house.

The jirga members insisted that their tribe had reached an agreement with the district administration over payments for the rest house land in 2018 but the money had yet to be given to them.

Compassion for sacrificial animals

By Shahmeer Asif



Cont...
pg 4



Dad's handy holder

This simple, yet handy, heartfelt craft for Dad is a great way to show him you care. Make it and keep it safe, and give it to him on the upcoming Father's Day

Pg 5



Mystery messages

Sometimes, being jealous can lead someone to do things that hurt others. Read about a girl who tried to ruin friendships, but what happened next will surprise you!

Pg 10

Rooh Afza

**TAAZGI
SE BHARAA
HAR EK GHOONT**

Zindagi Mubarak

Declutter your heart

This is concerning the article "Declutter your heart" by Ramsha Mujib (YW, April 20). I admire the writer for writing on a topic that is very important for young readers. It tells us that we should not only remove clutter from our lives, but also from our mind.

Clutter in the heart and mind means accumulation of negative feelings like hate, jealousy and gossip. If we get rid of these emotions, we'll feel refreshed and have new energy to live life and be a good example for others.

Nimra Ehsan,
Lahore

The plastic pandemic

This is concerning the cover article "The plastic pandemic" by Shahmeer Asif (YW, April 20). Even though we know plastic is really bad for our planet and all living things, people still use a lot of harmful plastic stuff.

The article explains how we can stop using microplastics like single-use plastic bottles and plates, synthetic fabrics and processed food, and keep ourselves healthy.

Faisal Faseeh,
Peshawar

||

It's sad that even though we know plastic is bad for our health, we still use it a lot, like plastic bags that we use once and then discard carelessly.

The article "The plastic pandemic" by Shahmeer Asif

reminded us to stop using plastic, especially plastic bags, and suggested using fabric or paper bags instead. I believe we can all take this one small step to help save the planet.

Hafsa Tauseef,
Hyderabad

Hard work pays off

This is concerning the story "Hard

Mailbox

work pays off" by Ayman Siddiqui (YW, April 20th). The writer talked about how hard work always pays off in the end. The article also stressed the importance of studying in groups and asking teachers for help.

The story made me realise that discussing what I know with friends can help me understand better. I used to work alone and quietly, but I wasn't satisfied with the results. This story taught me and others that working with others can lead to better results.

Ameer Ghous Bux,
Sukkur

||

The story "Hard work pays off" by Ayman Siddiqui teaches us that hard work and positive thinking lead to success. It tells us that we can solve problems by practicing them repeatedly until we understand. So if you're motivated to learn something, you can do so. With hard work, a positive mindset and a different approach, anything is possible for everyone.

Mishaal Faisal,
Sheikhupura



Your contributions should mention your full name, age, class, school, address and telephone number/email address. If you are under 18, you need to give your parent's or guardian's name too with their CNIC number. Young World accepts original contributions only.

Quotes

"When the uncertain future becomes the past, the past in turn becomes uncertain."

— Mohsin Hamid
(Novelist, writer)

"We all face death in the end. But on the way, be careful never to hurt a human heart!"

— Rumi (Poet, mystic)

"Rest but never quit. Even the sun has a sinking spell each evening, but it always rises the next morning. At sunrise, every soul is born again."

— Muhammad Ali (Professional boxer)

"The person who can bring the spirit of laughter into a room is indeed blessed."

— Bennett Cerf (Writer, publisher)

"Without training, they lacked knowledge. Without knowledge, they lacked confidence. Without confidence, they lacked victory."

— Julius Caesar (Roman emperor)

"Happiness doesn't depend on what we have, but it does depend on how we feel toward what we have. We can be happy with little and miserable with much."

— William D. Hoard (Politician, publisher)



Word search

Find the names of some capitals of countries, from the list given below, hidden in this word grid.

Wordlist:
PARIS
BERLIN
MADRID
ROME
VIENNA
ATHENS
HELSINKI
WARSAW
BUDAPEST
STOCKHOLM
BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN
PRAGUE
BEIJING
TOKYO
BAGHDAD

B	M	G	D	O	S	I	R	A	P	W	O
U	X	V	E	C	V	D	O	O	X	R	T
D	E	T	E	I	S	Z	M	W	R	V	Z
A	P	R	A	G	U	E	E	H	A	K	L
P	C	O	P	E	N	H	A	G	E	N	F
E	A	Y	M	D	A	D	H	G	A	B	M
S	T	K	T	L	B	E	R	L	I	N	B
T	H	O	K	F	O	C	J	H	S	P	R
L	E	T	E	L	Z	H	P	H	Y	R	U
Z	N	X	P	C	Q	W	K	N	X	H	S
D	S	W	A	S	R	A	W	C	P	Y	S
G	N	I	J	I	E	B	N	A	O	T	E
A	H	E	L	S	I	N	K	I	F	T	L
T	X	A	N	N	E	I	V	H	X	S	S
J	M	A	D	R	I	D	D	M	T	W	Y

Mythical creatures

So many mythical creatures roaming in the world,
Some shine just like a pearl.
Unicorns and their magical horns,
They sparkle since they were born.
Mermaids and their mesmerising tails,
And the luscious swish of their hair.
Fairies and their fluttery wings,
And their dresses are all ambling.
Dragons and their fearsome roars,
And they definitely are not bored.
I hope you believe in all of these,
And don't forget to shine bright please.

.....
Zahra Qadir,
9 years, Karachi

People

People change indeed,
They use you when in need.
They act like they care,
I know it doesn't feel fair.
They break our hearts,
And throw the pieces like darts.
You have to take a stand,
Cause people don't understand.
They play with your mind,
And leave you shocked and blind.
They steal your peace,
And your stress level increase.
You have to take a stand,
'Cause people don't understand.
But remember one thing,
Not everyone is bad.
But your best friends should be your Mum and Dad.

.....
Mahnoor Faheem,
12 years, Lahore

Shadow

Shadows are always with us,
That's what we are going to discuss.
Throughout the day, their size changes.
But are always with us from head to ankles.
They are everywhere, also with the trees.
Even with the small honeybee.
Its colour is usually black,
It's something we cannot attack.

.....
Yasoo Ali Khan,
13 years, Lahore

To my teddy bear

To my smart and loyal teddy bear,
Black and pink love, I agree.
In class, you shine so incredibly bright.
With you by my side, everything feels right.
You rock my world, my partner in crime,
Through thick and thin, we'll conquer time,
Best friends forever and every single day!

.....
Manha Mansoor,
14 years, Sukkur

Spot the difference

There are eight differences in these pictures, see if you can spot them.
You can find the answer on Page 11



Created by S. Murtaza

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Compassion for sacrificial animals

Eidul Azha holds significant religious and cultural importance for Muslims around the world. As we know that at the heart of the observance of Eidul Azha is the practice of *qurbani* (animal sacrifice), which involves the slaughter of specific animals to honour the supreme sacrifice made by Prophet Ibrahim and his son Ismail, as a symbol of submission and devotion to Allah's Will.

The meat from the sacrificed animals is then distributed among family, friends and the less fortunate, promoting the values of charity, compassion and sharing of blessings.

As this sacred event approaches, most Muslim households are buzzing with excitement and preparations. Discussions and plans revolve around selecting the appropriate animals for sacrifice, and considering factors like one's family size and budget. All family members eagerly share their opinions, ensuring nothing is left out from celebrating the festivity of Eidul Azha.

Besides preparing to buy sacrificial animals, ensuring the health and well-being of these animals — whether sheep, goats, cows or camels, remains our topmost responsibility until Eid. Today, I will highlight some of the main tips on taking care of these innocent sacrificial animals to maintain the sanctity of the occasion.

How prepared are you for the animal?

While the responsibility of selection of animals is mainly of the adults in any household, children are also very interested in the discussion and participation in the deed. However, a few crucial steps should be followed to avoid any kind of nuisance.

For instance, one must carefully select animals and the suitable location in which they are supposed to be kept. Suppose you plan to keep the animal in your own house and not your locality's joined enclosure. In that case, you must remember to install and arrange necessary supplies such as feeding troughs, water containers and proper resting areas before the animals arrive. Though your parents already have these things in mind, if you want to be part of the whole process, you must help them out in

the arrangements.

Avoid cattle markets

Most youngsters are too eager to go to cattle markets. Ideally, as the family's youngest member, you should not accompany your elders to the cattle market for two main reasons. First, the animals come from various rural areas and are often not hygienically cleaned. And the area where they are tied is typically full of fodder and dung, which is also the breeding ground for germs and infections. Elders have stronger immune

So, my dear young fellows, I know you are excited to go, but please consider these points. If you do go, always wear a mask and stay close to your parents.

A risky animal arrival process

We have often witnessed that while unloading the animals, they sometimes get injured. Some handlers are too impolite, while others are just careless and in a hurry, so they initiate the process of unloading them quickly. The animals, already under the stress of traffic and noise, often cannot handle the pressure, resulting in knee, ankle or toe in-

prevent accidents.

Daily care and management

Once the animal is settled, daily care and management are essential for maintaining its health and well-being. You must take care of it at all costs. Proper feeding, including water, hay, green grass, etc., must be maintained. Regularly check the animals for common health issues, such as infections, parasites or physical injuries, and also observe behaviour and activity levels.

If your animal is tied with other animals in a joint enclosure, remember to check for hygiene and cleanliness of the area and that of your animal. If the handlers there are not taking care of the animals, you must inform the elders in your family. The area where the animals are kept must be cleaned or washed regularly, and there should be someone to make sure that the proper disposal of waste is maintained to prevent the spread of diseases.

Ensuring animal comfort and stress reduction

I have often noticed some enclosures have large sound systems installed and, throughout day and the night, music was played at high volumes, while the enclosures were illuminated with high-watt bulbs or bright lights, making it feel like a marriage hall.

The animals at these places could neither sleep nor rest, creating a highly stressful situation for them. Make sure you or your friends are not keeping the lights on all through the night, nor playing music at high volumes the entire time. Ensure that you are taking care of the animals by providing them with a calm and stress-free environment, especially when it is time for them to sleep. The cattle need to rest both during the day and at night, so turn off or dim the lights and avoid playing music for long.

Moreover, most of you will be too eager to take your animal out for a walk. While taking them out for a walk is a good idea, you should not make them run or start running with them. Always take an elder with you, so that if the animal startles or gets out of control, an elder should be there to take things under control.

Bathing the animal

If you have already bought your sacrificial animal(s), bathing them every other day is very important for several reasons. Firstly, bathing helps maintain their hygiene, min-

Cont...
pg1



system and better protection awareness that makes them keep themselves somewhat safe. But those who are young, they can easily catch germs and get sick because their immune system is not strong enough to fight harmful germs that these animals and marketplaces carry.

Second, these markets are usually chaotic due to the large number of animals, buyers and also the onlookers at the same time. The noise and people teasing the animals sometimes make the animals agitated, leading them to get out of control, running and hitting people. There have been many such instances in the past.

juries from falling or jumping off the trucks or loaders.

Sometimes, when kids and crowds surrounding the animals hoot, whistle and make weird sounds while the animals are still in the trucks, it can startle them and cause them to jump out, leading to potential injuries.

This is a festival that you must respect, including respecting the animals that arrive. Remember, they are brought for a noble cause, so you should prioritise their safety and health. Avoid teasing them or making loud noises to grab their attention. Keep a distance from the animals and tell your friends to stay away too, to help minimise stress and

minising the risk of infections that could affect their health and consequently, the quality of the meat. Clean animals are less likely to catch parasites and harmful bacteria.

As this is the peak of summer and the weather is hot everywhere, these animals can't stand the heat either and can get exhausted, suffer heat strokes or develop diarrhoea easily. Moreover, this hot and humid weather increases the risk of particular diseases and hoof-related problems. You might not notice, but if you closely inspect the animal, it may show signs of difficulty while standing in a certain position.

So ensure that you are taking good care of your cattle by providing them with ample water to drink and giving them a regular or every other day bath. This also promotes the animals' comfort and well-being, which is an essential aspect of treating them humanely. Furthermore, a clean and well-groomed animal reflects respect and consideration for the sacrifice being made, aligning with the ethical and spiritual values of Eidul Azha.

Preparation for qurbani

Eidul Azha teaches us not only to give the most beloved things in Allah's way. It also reminds us to be merciful to animals, as they give their lives to Allah. Thus, it is important to perform the sacrifice humanely and also hygienically; ensure that the animals are treated with respect and that pain and distress levels are minimised. Moreover, in my opinion, young kids should not attend the sacrifice of the animal as this may cause them distress at a tender age.

Post-qurbani care and responsibilities

After the sacrifice and distribution of the meat, the next step involves washing the area hygienically. Disinfecting equipment and surfaces used during sacrifice is also important to ensure safety and cleanliness. If your elders forget about this crucial step, don't forget to remind them to buy various cleaning supplies.

Dear kids, considering the above precautionary tips, I hope you will be more careful this Eid. From the arrival of the animals to the day of Eid, it requires careful planning and attention to detail. By following best practices for animal care, hygiene and ethical treatment, we can celebrate Eidul Azha in a manner that honours both tradition and the well-being of you and your animals. ■

Wonder

Craft

Dad's handy holder

By The Crafter

The craft we will make today is designed with the upcoming Father's Day in mind, so you still have time to create it easily. With Eid also upon us, it's the perfect time to make something adorable that reminds your dad of your love and appreciation. This simple, yet handy, DIY mobile holder, which also functions as a notepad holder, is a great way to show him you care.

Things you need:

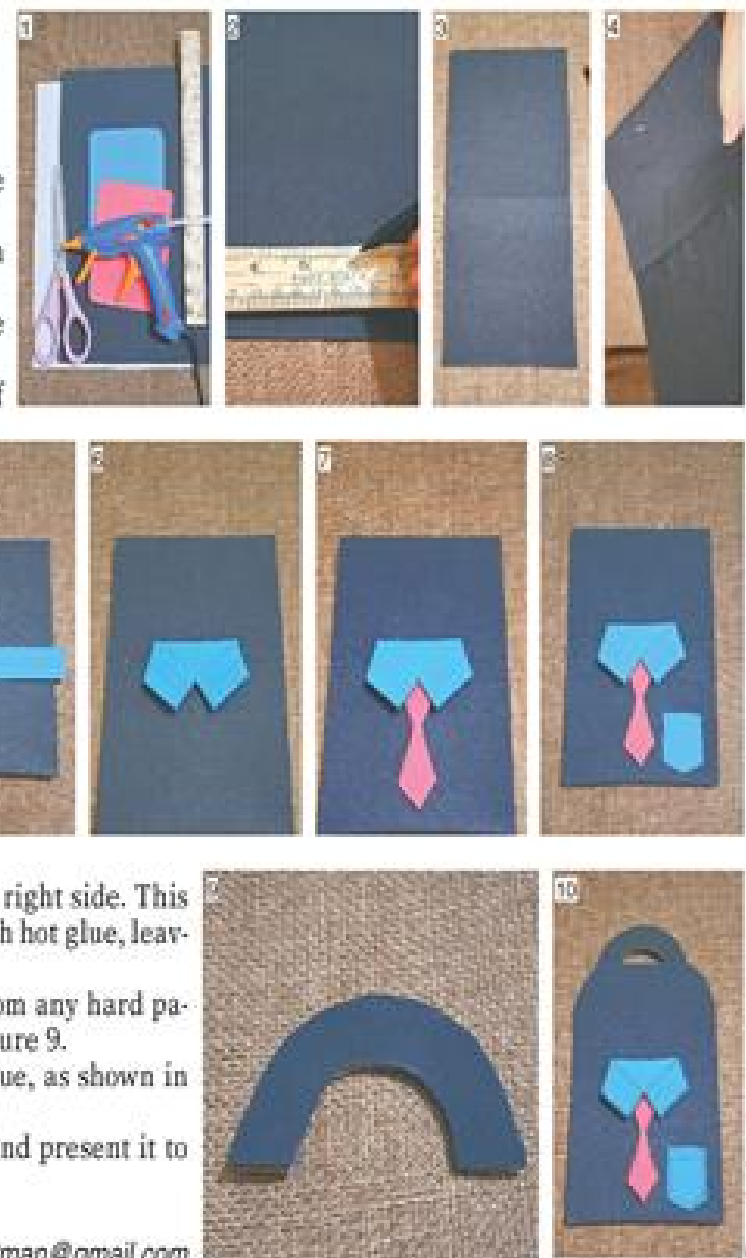
1. Foam sheet: 1 black
2. Pieces of foam sheet: red and blue (you can change the colours).
3. Scissors
4. Hot glue
5. Ruler
6. Marker (black or blue)

Directions:

1. Keep the length of the A4-sized foam sheet the same and mark the width at 6 inches, see picture 2.
2. Cut straight across the A4-sized sheet, as shown in picture 3.
3. Leaving four or five inches from the top, fold the sheet upwards from the bottom edge; see picture 4.
4. Leaving the centre of the fold, secure the sides of the fold with hot glue.
5. Cut a strip from the blue foam sheet, measuring 6 inches in length and 1 cm in width, as shown in picture 5.
6. Place the strip in the middle of the fold and fold it inward diagonally from both sides, forming a collar shape. Secure it with hot glue; see picture 6.
7. Cut a tie from the red foam sheet. If needed, ask for help from a family member. Then, paste it in the middle of the collars, as depicted in picture 7.
8. Cut a small pocket from the blue foam sheet, sized according to the shirt, and paste it on the right side. This pocket serves as a penholder, so secure three sides with hot glue, leaving the centre open, picture 8.
9. To create the handle of the holder, cut an arch from any hard paper and paste black foam of the same shape on it; picture 9.
10. Paste the handle behind the holder using hot glue, as shown in picture 10.

Your heartfelt craft for Dad is all set. Keep it safe and present it to him on the upcoming Father's Day!

The writer can be contacted at thecraftman@gmail.com



Photos by the writer

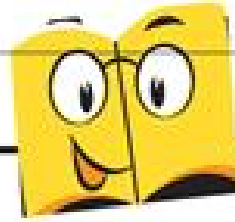


"Mummy," said the baby polar bear, "Am I one hundred percent pure polar bear?"
"Of course, you are, son," said his mummy. "Why do you ask?"
"Because, I am freezing!"

Two fleas were walking out of a cinema when they discovered it was raining hard.
"Shall we walk?" said one flea.
"No," said the other, "let's take a dog."

Story time

By Rabia Hamid



Of sacrifice and mercy

As my two cousins, Hassan and Zaid, my elder brother, Sameer, and I were returning home from the mosque after offering Maghrib prayer, on the way we discussed if the Zilhaj moon which would be sighted that day. Sameer and Hassan were excited to go to the cattle market to buy sacrificial animals.

Just when we reached home, my uncle greeted all of us with the news that the new moon had been sighted. As we hugged and wished each other, dad said, "We will be going to buy animals for sacrifice after dinner."

We were very excited as it meant a lot to us kids, not just as a religious deed, but also because of the love and fun part of having the sacrificial animal with us for the next 10 days. After dinner, I, along with my dad, uncle, my brother and my two



cousins, left for the animal market, or *bakra mandi* as it is called. We got stuck in the traffic for an hour because, like us, many people were heading to buy the animals, thus causing a traffic jam.

Despite the crowd, there was excitement in the air and happiness was evident on everyone's face.

Eventually, when we reached *bakra mandi*, like others, we also rushed in, eager to get the best sacrificial animal. However, the rates of the animals were very high. After a lot of searching and bargaining, we bought two goats, a black and a brown one, and we also bought a white cow. We

didn't waste time in looking around, so as soon as we were done buying, we immediately returned home.

In our neighbourhood, we had a dedicated enclosure where families kept their sacrificial animals during the Eid festivities. This communal space allowed for easier care and supervision of the livestock, while it also made animals comfortable to be closer to their kind.

Once our animals were settled in the enclosure, we spent all our days there and sat till late in the night until mum would call us in. Among us, my cousin Hassan became very attached with the goats. He always took care of them and even took them for rounds of our street in the evening. He always got emotional

when we talked about the day of Eid when our animals would be sacrificed.

During this time, we noticed that our neighbours were not taking care of their cow and would even be unaware that their cow's food had finish. We didn't wait for them to provide her food, and so we always filled her pots as it was our duty to treat all sacrificial animals with care.

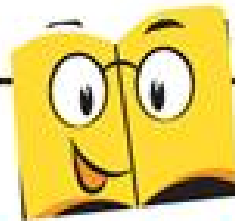
Now, only one day was left until Eid. We gave our animals a shower, cleaned them and took them for a walk. Everyone's joy was now replaced by a little sadness because we knew that tomorrow they would not be here and would be slaughtered.

Finally, it was Eidul Azha. I woke up early and dressed up in new clothes. After offering the Eid prayer at the mosque, we hugged each other and exchanged warm wishes. Then we rushed home and got together at the animal enclosure of our society where there were arrangements to perform the ritual of sacrifice. I hugged my goats and patted the cow one last time.

Then, my father recited the Kalma and performed the sacrifice. My little cousin Hassan had tears in his eyes, but my grandfather told us that the real meaning of sacrifice is to give up precious things and have mercy on all creatures, as Islam teaches us. ■

Story time

By Marziya Abbas



The whispering stone

In a tiny town tucked between towering mountains and winding rivers, lived a young girl named Sarah. She had a bright smile and a deep love for exploring things around her.

One sunny day, while walking through the woods, Sarah stumbled upon a strange stone shining from between the exposed roots of an old tree. It was unlike any stone she had seen before, shining with an extra-terrestrial kind of light.

Interested, Sarah touched the stone and to her surprise, it started talking to her. The stone had feelings, emotions and memories, which it shared with Sarah. Sarah didn't feel scared at all, instead, she felt friendly vibes towards the stone. Sarah started visiting the whispering stone daily and, each day, the stone told her a new tale full of adventures.



As days turned into weeks, Sarah kept going back to the whispering stone, wanting to know all its stories.

With each visit, she heard more about places far from her village that the stone had visited — faraway lands, magical creatures and bold heroes.

"It was a new city where the boy dropped me. I was abandoned and became utterly hopeless, crying for weeks and weeks," the stone narrated one afternoon, "until one day, I saw a

girl. She passed by merrily whistling a song and it changed my perspective."

"Oh, how so?" Sarah asked curiously.

"She was a sweet soul, cute, lovely and lonely, yet enjoying her own company," the stone continued, "I got so fascinated by her joy and contentment that I could not be sad anymore. She taught me how

to be happy even if no one is there to accompany you."

"Then how did you come back

home?" asked Sarah.

"I never did!" the stone whispered gently, "I'm still here in the same city, which I was once unfamiliar with, feeling blessed to be finally found by the girl I was inspired by, to be finally able to talk to her."

Sarah's eyes widened in disbelief. "You mean ... that girl ... that cute and lovely girl ... is me?" she asked softly, her cheeks turning red as she pondered over its words.

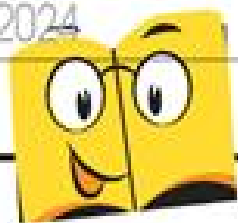
"Of course that's you!" the stone replied, "I am telling this to you so that you can recognise the beauty within you."

That was when Sarah found out that the real magic of the whispering stone wasn't just the tales it told, but how its stories gave lessons to those who listened. It showed her that even a smile can make someone's day, can cheer someone's heart and can kick out the negativity from someone's life.

So, dear reader, hold onto the story of Sarah and the whispering stone. Let it tell you that no matter how small you feel, you can flip the world for the good. If you think someone is lonely or silent, spread joy, pass a smile and be caring just like Sarah and make someone's day. ■

Story time

By Hafsa Shaikh



An important life lesson

Her heart was beating really fast, but she managed to control her nerves and spelled the word correctly. The children applauded and her heart relaxed as she had qualified for the second round of the Spelling Bee.

Abeer was an intelligent girl studying in seventh grade, her only dream was to win the spelling contest and defeat the old champion. The list was a bit difficult and she found it hard to remember all the spellings. Despite all the difficulties she faced, and the tough competition with her fellow mates, Abeer had defeated the old champion and also qualified for the second round too. But she had to compete with tough opponents and defeating them wasn't an easy task.

She was glad and proud of what



she had done. She practiced for hours locked in her room preparing for this event, the day when her dream could come true.

During the break she revised the list for the last time, got supporting comments from her friends and prepared herself for the last and most important round of the Spelling Bee competition. The students gathered again at the auditorium where the competition was to be held and after a short while it began. As Abeer's turn was coming closer, she could feel her nerves getting the better of her. So when the mike was handed to Abeer, she started to tremble. Abeer was able to spell the first word correctly, but sadly she couldn't spell the second word.

The rest of the competi-

tion went terrible for Abeer and her dreams crumbled the moment she heard the results. It was devastating to lose at the last stage. After a long crying session, Abeer suddenly felt encouraged when she remembered her teacher had enrolled her in another spelling competition.

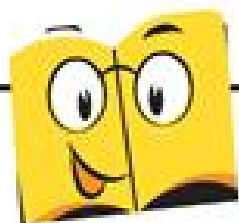
Abeer had a renewed hope to win that competition, although it was not the one she wanted to win. So she started preparing for it and, this time, she got its reward too in the form of the first position. She was delighted when she received the shield and was requested to deliver some words to the audience.

"I'd like to tell you all that if you still have the words winner and loser in your dictionary, then remove them. In every competition, there are only participants. I came here as a participant and I'll remain a participant, whether I won or lost. If you give your best and don't win, don't get disappointed. As it is said, learn from your mistakes and move on, then you'll never be bothered by the results. Thank you," Abeer spoke with confidence.

With her small speech, Abeer inspired all the students and impressed all the teachers. Everyone cheered for her. Abeer had learnt an important life lesson through her experience of losing. ■

Story time

By Mariam M. Arif



Laiba, the lolly maker

It was a scorching day, when Laiba accompanied her mother to the lace shop to procure laces for her aunt's clothes. Living abroad, her aunt was to receive the clothes through a relative who would soon be travelling.

The urgency was palpable as they raced against time to have a number of clothes tailored for her aunt in just a few days. Shopping in extreme weather conditions is always challenging, and the relentless heat caused Laiba's blood pressure to drop suddenly, leading her to faint.

While her mother was engrossed in the shopping, Laiba collapsed, prompting her mother to swiftly attend to her and seat her in a chair provided by the shopkeeper. A compassionate salesman promptly

fetches a bottle of cold juice and a pack of biscuits for her, aiding her recovery.

Upon regaining consciousness, Laiba felt immense gratitude for the kind-hearted man who provided the cold juice that helped alleviate the effects of the heat. Later that evening, she shared her reflection with her mother, expressing her belief that those selling cold treats in such weather are deserving of great reward, as they are essentially aiding people in enduring harsh conditions, irrespective of their profit motives.

Laiba, a sensitive yet practical in-

dividual, aspired to make a positive impact on the world and contribute



and took measures to ensure her own comfort, such as wearing breathable fabrics and sneakers to protect herself from the scorching sun.

Additionally, she attempted to extend this comfort to others by preparing homemade ice lollies for her family upon their return home during the summer. This thoughtful gesture earned her the affection and heartfelt blessings of her family, who affectionately referred to her as 'Laiba — the lolly maker.'

Laiba soon got the idea of distributing her homemade ice lollies to passers-by during hot weather. Laiba entrusted an icebox filled with her ice lollies to the watchman, requesting that he distribute them to anyone passing by.

This act of kindness benefited numerous individuals, bringing her a sense of purpose and fulfilment.

Laiba fulfilled her role and encouraged others to reflect upon the purpose of their lives and consider how they can enrich the lives of others through their acts. ■

Advice

By Mahnoor Rehan

After a couple of months filled to the brim with assignments, work and exams; you might have no motivation or energy to do anything. And the long summer vacation ahead gives you a lot of time on your hands which you might not know how to spend.

That's where a reset routine comes in. A reset routine gives you a comfortable place to land, recover and regain your rhythms quickly, whatever life throws your way. It essentially consists of productive activities for you to recharge and set you up for the next few days or weeks. It can be a monthly reset or a weekly, according to whatever suits you best and gears you up in a more productive way.

Monthly resets

The end of any month is an ideal time to reflect on the past few weeks and make plans for the weeks ahead. It's a time for reflection, growth and setting new goals. You can not only set up new goals for the month, but also reflect upon the previous goals or any yearly resolutions that you've made and tweak them.

This is an opportunity to clear your mind and your space, and get organised for the month ahead.

Weekly resets

Like me, if you also need weekly resets to ensure maximum productivity, then you should also list your priorities by planning out

Reset your routine

how your week is going to look like; what are you going to spend the most time and energy on, etc. I like having Sunday as my reset day. I'm able to not only unwind, but

also freshen up for the next week or so. Here are some activities I like to do to help me stay organised and productive.

Things that might help

A reset routine will look different for everyone. Some of you might need a relaxing, self-care day to recharge, and others might need to deep-clean their space to de-stress.

First things first, de-clutter your surroundings. "Clean space, clean mind," is not just a common, but also a very accurate phrase at that.

A clean environment can lead to an improved mood and a subconsciously relaxed mind.

Deep breathing: you might not know that deep breathing helps us reduce stress and anxiety that we might be building up throughout the day. So deep breathing gives out signals to our brains to calm down and relax.

Organise: Organising your life can help you feel more focused and productive; so start with organising your calendar and making a to-do list, where you plan your deadlines, activities and goals for the week/month.

Lastly, I would like to mention that each goal or aim that you make should be attainable and realistic. Set realistic expectations for yourself to enjoy your life while also working hard. It is important if you want to keep things organised, and everything in your life to be meaningful and purposeful. ■



Illustration by Sumit

1 Sri Lanka currently holds the record for the highest score set by a team in T20 World Cup history. What is the score?

2 T20 World Cup this year is seeing a record number of teams taking part in the tournament. How teams are there?

3 Which team won the T20 World Cup in 2021?

4 Who captained the West Indies to their



T20 World Cup

5 Who was the player of the tournament in the

6 Not counting the current tournament, which player has hit the

most sixes in T20 World Cup history?

7 Who holds the record for the highest individual score in a T20 World Cup match?



—Quiz Master

1. 280 runs for the loss of six wickets. Sri Lanka were playing against Kenya at the Wanderers Stadium, Johannesburg, on 14th September, 2007.
2. Twenty teams. Four groups of five teams will play in the first stage of the tournament.
3. Australia won the T20 World Cup in 2021.
4. Darren Sammy captained the West Indies to their victories in 2012 and 2016.
5. David Warner of Australia was the player of the tournament in 2021.
6. Chris Gayle, of the West Indies, holds the record for the most sixes in T20 World Cup history, with 63 sixes in 33 matches, with a strike rate of 142.75.
7. New Zealand's Brendon McCullum scored 123 runs against Bangladesh in the 2012 T20 World Cup.

ANSWERS

Spotlight

The Hunt for Gollum to arrive in 2026

Warner Bros. will release the first of its new *Lord of the Rings* films, *Lord of the Rings: The Hunt for Gollum*, in 2026.

The movie will be directed by star Andy Serkis, who portrayed Gollum via motion capture technology in the original *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. It's in the early stages of script development, with Fran Walsh and Philippa Boyens to write the screenplay alongside Phoebe Gittins and Arty Papageorgiou.

Peter Jackson, who directed the original *Lord of the Rings* trilogy and *The Hobbit* movies, will produce the film with Walsh and Boyens. Warner Bros. confirmed in February 2023 that it is developing 'multiple' films, based on *Lord of the Rings* fantasy book series by J.R.R. Tolkien. ■



Nintendo to announce Switch successor

Japanese video-game maker Nintendo will make an announcement about a successor to its Switch home console sometime before March 2025.

In reporting its financial results, Nintendo gave no details about the announcement, whether it would launch that successor product during this fiscal year or just announce its plans for it.

Nintendo is also planning a new film for worldwide release in April 2026. It's counting on the openings of *Donkey Kong Country* in Universal Studios Japan, as well as a museum on Nintendo in Kyoto, both scheduled for later this year, to woo more fans to its franchise. ■



Cage to play Noir in live-action series

Nicolas Cage will play Spider-Man Noir in a new Prime Video and MGM+ series. *Noir* is a live-action series based on the Marvel Comics character Spider-Man Noir, an alternate version of Spider-Man living during the Great Depression.

The show "tells the story of an aging and down-on-his-luck private investigator (Cage) in 1930s New York, who is forced to grapple with his past life as the city's one and only superhero," according to a press release.

Cage previously voiced Spider-Man Noir in the animated film *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* (2018) and its sequel, *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse* (2023). *Noir* is produced by Sony Pictures Television and Amazon MGM Studios. ■



The weekly weird

New York and Dublin connect via live stream

The Portal, an installation designed by artist Benediktas Gyls, live streams silent video between New York's Flatiron South Public Plaza and North Earl Street in Dublin. The installation, sponsored by the Flatiron NoMad Partnership, the New York City Department of Transportation's Art Programme and the Simons Foundation, allows people in the two cities to look at each other in real-time across the 3,000-mile distance.

The interactions range from rude to polite. The Portal forms an unprecedented visual bridge between New York and Dublin and will continue to connect the two cities 24 hours a day for the next six months. ■



Five-foot iguana found wandering loose

The Raleigh Police Department, North Carolina, said animal control officers were dispatched on a report of a large lizard on the loose and they arrived to find a five-foot iguana.

Iguanas, native to Central America, South America and some Caribbean islands, established a breeding population in the wild in Florida after being brought over from Cuba in the 1960s, but do not have a wild population in North Carolina.

"The weather may be warm and humid, but this is not Florida," police said on social media.

The iguana was the second to be found wandering loose in Raleigh so far this year. ■

Tokyo battles crop-destroying raccoon invasion

North American raccoons, a wily invasive species, is causing problems in Tokyo. The number of raccoons living in the wild in Tokyo and its surrounding areas has sky-rocketed in recent years, with 1,282 trapped in fiscal 2022, a sharp increase from 259 caught in fiscal 2012.

Raccoons became popular pets in Japan after animated TV series *Rascal the Raccoon* in the 1970s. The animals have established a population in the wild after being bought as pets and either escaping or being abandoned. They caused severe crop damage in recent years in the hills to the west of Tokyo, with an estimated \$2.8 million in crop damage in fiscal 2022.

The highly-adaptive animals seem difficult to deal with, and have started destroying traps set out by officials. ■

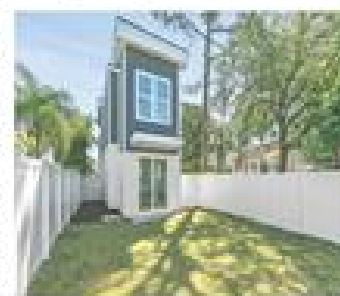
A 10-foot-wide house with a hefty price tag

A tiny 1,547-square-foot home in Florida has caused a stir. Standing at just 10-feet-wide, it's listed for

\$619,000, surprising many with its hefty price tag. Built on a narrow, but deep, lot in South Jacksonville Beach, the property offers unique features and energy efficiency.

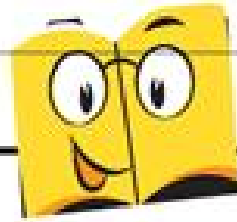
However, its construction was not without controversy. A neighbour, who previously used the lot as a garden, objected to the home's construction. This led to restrictions on the home's size.

The home, although narrow, has two bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, and a garage large enough for one car. Built-in furniture adds convenience, and there's even potential for a backyard pool. ■



Story time

By Ayman Siddiqui



Mystery messages

“Pass me the chips,” Sara, the stalker, said. The three of us were at Sara’s house for a sleepover and everyone had brought something to eat. I brought chips, Amna brought candies and Sara made pasta. We watched a horror movie and then went to sleep.

“Get up, you lazy bones, we are late for school!” Amna shouted, waking us up. As soon as we heard her, an electric current seemed to pass through our spines. We jumped up and got ready while our ‘OCD’ queen Amna, already prepared, was almost running to school.

Finally, we arrived at school. All three of us were very tired, but at least we made it. It was a regular day at school and we had fun together. Little did we know that someone’s jealousy could soon tear our friendship apart.

After attending all our classes, we went home. I was about to take

a nap when I got a text message from an unknown number. Although the number was unknown, the text seemed to be from Amna.

The message said, “You are my bestie. I feel better being with you then with Sara. I want us to sit on

the same bench while she sits somewhere else.” I was confused because Sara and Amna were childhood friends and we wouldn’t talk about close friends like that. I ignored the message and went to sleep as I was exhausted.

The next day, I got another message from another unknown number. I opened it and saw it was from Sara, saying the same thing as Amna had said the day before.

“What’s going on?” I thought, and decided to talk to them.

When I saw Sara in school, I called her name, but she ignored me and went inside the classroom. Then I saw Amna and thought I should talk to her. As I tried to approach Amna, she got up and changed her seat. I was dumbstruck. Before I could ask her anything, the teacher arrived in the classroom.

Throughout the classes, both Sara and Amna completely ignored me. Even at home time, they left early. Feeling sad, I took my bag and went home.

The thought of losing both my best friends was upsetting, so I decided to find out what happened. I opened my phone and checked their numbers and our previous chats.

Then I noticed something unusual: both messages ended with a “*” sign instead of a period or no punctuation. This was the habit of my classmate Ayesha, who had often been told by teachers to stop using a star at the end of her sentences, but she never listened.

The revelation was shocking, yet painful. It was Ayesha who had texted me. So I decided to confront her and learn the truth. I also wanted to clear it up with Sara and Amna that it wasn’t me, but someone we never imagined.

I went to Sara, who lived nearby. She didn’t want to meet me, but I insisted. She came but remained cross with me until I revealed the truth. Sara was astonished and told me she also got the same messages. Then we called Amna and told her; she was shocked and said she had also received similar messages.

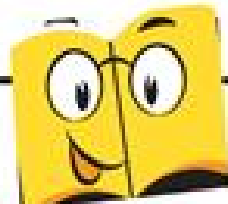
The next day, we confronted Ayesha. At first, Ayesha denied everything. After our constant requests to reveal the truth, she said, “I always wanted to have friends, but I was never lucky in this regard. So whenever I saw you three together all the time, it hurt me. Then this jealousy pushed me to try and break your friendship. I am sorry, girls.”

It was an honest reply, so after much thought, all three of us decided to include Ayesha in our group. From a trio to a quartet, we all became the best buddies for life. ■



Story time

By Mehab ul Haq



The joys of Eidul Azha

A few days before the last Eidul Azha, my father, uncle, cousins and I went to the cattle market to buy a cow for sacrifice. After spending a few hours there and inspecting many animals, we finally bought a cow and brought it home in a truck.

When we arrived home with the cow, not only my family members, but also many people from the neighbourhood came out to see it. The cow was big and somewhat dangerous, and it wouldn’t get down from the truck. When it finally did, it immediately ran away. We, along with many other people, ran after it and, with great difficulty, managed to catch it and bring it home.



Once we had secured the cow inside the house, we provided it with water and food. My cousins and I took care of the cow, protecting it from the sun by installing a temporary shade and playing with it in the afternoon. In the evening, we would take it out for a stroll. We stayed up all night playing games like Ludo and Carrom in our front yard so that we could keep an eye on the cow. We went to sleep after praying Fajr.

A day before Eid, we noticed that our cow was dirty, so we gave it a bath. We also bought garlands and special jewellery designed for cattle, such as anklets and a beautiful crown, which we tied on our cow’s forehead.

That day, Dad said we must book a butcher for the first day of Eid. So we went out and after much

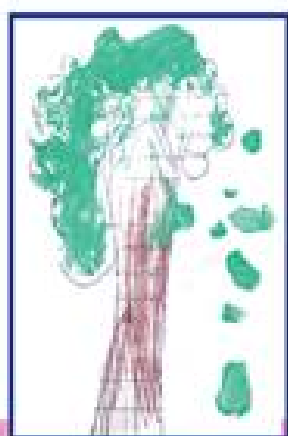
difficulty, found one and booked him immediately. That was our last night with the cow. We were all very sad because our beloved cow was going to be slaughtered. So, we took our cow for a final stroll. There were many other people out with their cows and goats, sharing the same emotions. When we returned, we fed it by our hands and let it rest. We were all crying and petting our cow, treasuring our final moments together.

The next morning, we went to offer the Eidul Azha prayer. On our return, the animals started being slaughtered in the special enclosure set up for this purpose in our street. Finally, when it was our cow’s turn, my eyes were wet because I had become attached to it. Similarly, my younger brother was crying a lot because he loved our cow even more than I did. After the meat was cut and divided into seven equal portions, we shared it with our relatives, neighbours and the needy.

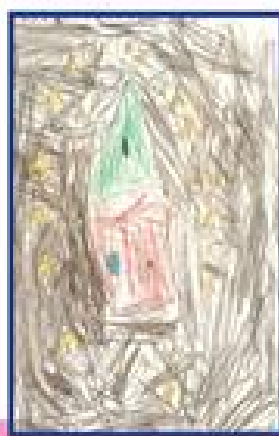
Despite our sadness, we took comfort in knowing that our sacrifice would bring joy to others and fulfil a sacred tradition. ■

art corner

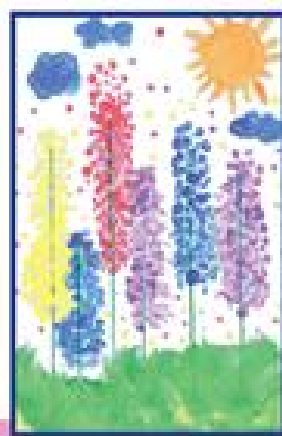
How can I get more people to see my work?



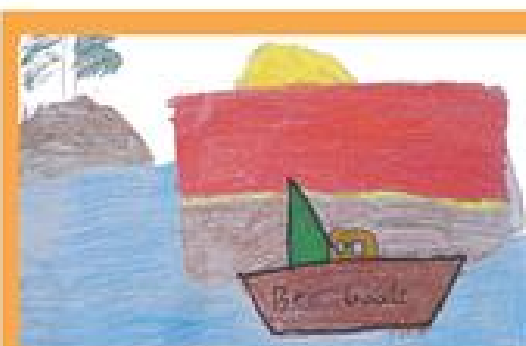
Fatima Fara Latif
5 years, Karachi



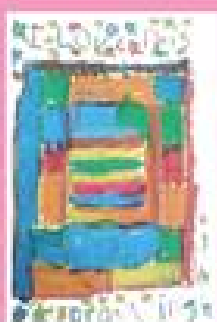
Hasnain Fawwad
5 years, Hyderabad



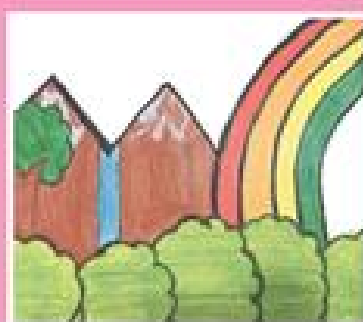
Misbah Raza
8 years, Karachi



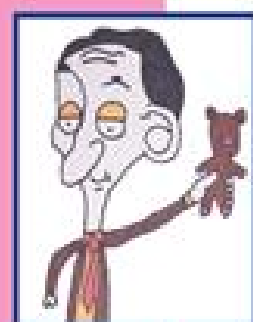
Zunairah Salman
6 years, Karachi



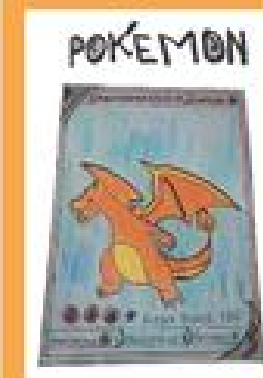
Mohammed Adeel
6 years, Karachi



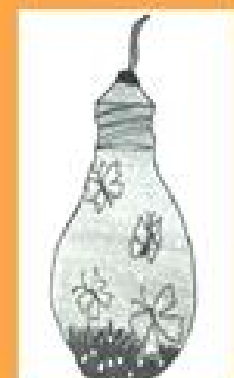
Fatimah Sheikh
9 years, Karachi



Sitara Gachal
9 years, Khairo Dero



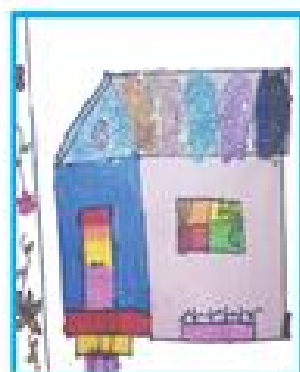
M. Aryan
8 years, Karachi



Ajwa
10 years, Quetta



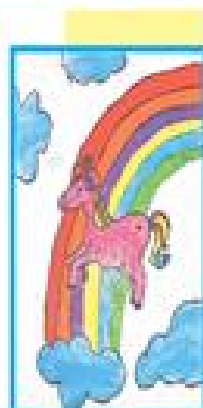
Fatima Zahra
5 years, Karachi



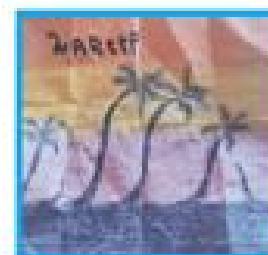
Hadia Hassan
4 years, Karachi



Kumail Hyder
12 years, Khairpur Mirs



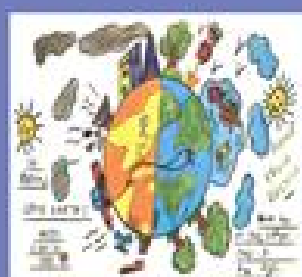
Zari Gul
10 years, Karachi



Zareef
8 years, Hopela



Abdulrehman Ahmed
8 years, Karachi



M. Faiz Siddiqui
8 years, Karachi



Sajjad Abdul Qadir
9 years, Hopela



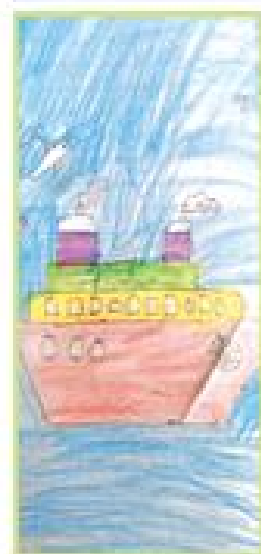
Maryam Khan
9 years, Karachi



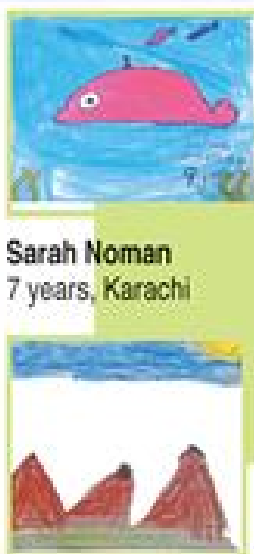
Meerab Shah
10 years, Karachi

Spot the difference

Answers of the pictures
on Page 3



S. M. Zain Zaidi
8 years, Karachi



Sarah Noman
7 years, Karachi



Rida Fatima
11 years, Karachi



Noor Muhammad
9 years, Karachi



When sending your drawings, poems and contributions to us, write your full name, age, class, school, address and telephone number/email address. If you are sending your drawings by post, please write your details on the back side of the drawing.

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Postal address: Young World, Haroon House, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed Road, Karachi, Postal Code 74200. Telephone: +92-21-35613338, +92-21-35613014
Please note that we don't accept drawings that have been traced or made by children over 12 years, of age.

Movie

review

We all love Willy Wonka; we have seen the movies and heard about the classics from our elders. The new Wonka movie is a musical comedy and is the prequel to Roald Dahl's classic novel *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

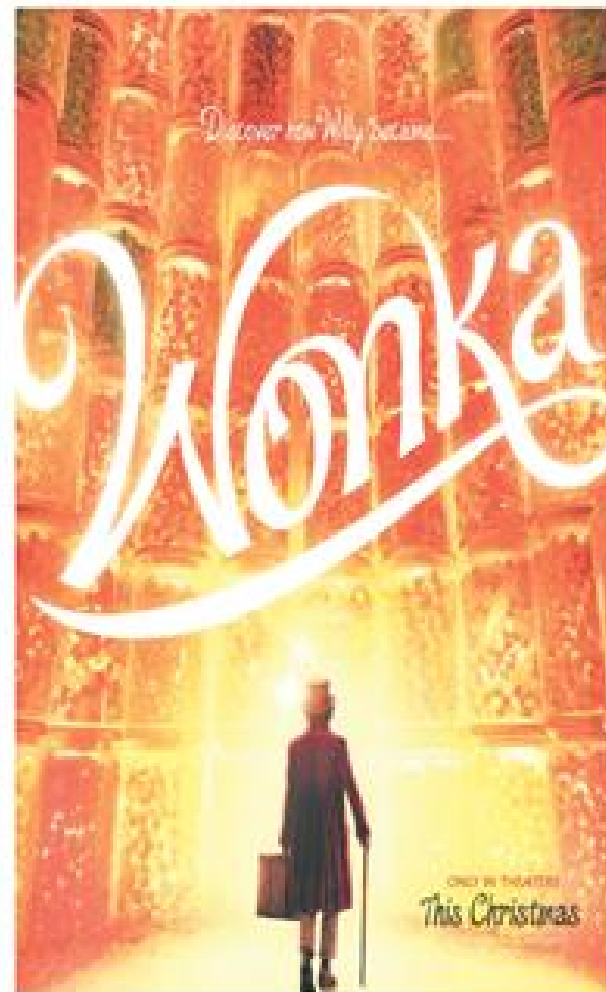
This time, we have the up-and-coming superstar Timothée Chalamet as Willy Wonka, who sang and danced into our hearts. Unlike the previous characters, he is not a maniac but loved by all.

The movie is a prequel to whatever Willy Wonka films we have seen or heard. In the fantasy musical, a young Willy Wonka moves to the big city to open his chocolate shop and become successful. For two hours, he is either smiling, dancing, or singing. He is, in his own words, a magician who loves to make chocolates. Wonka is tricked into trading his dreams and is trapped in a laundry, a place he escapes from by using skills that make him successful.

One can find similar characteristics between oneself and Wonka when the 'will' to rule the world faces hindrance from the already established 'rulers'. With catchy music and elaborate

Wonka

By Muhammad Suhayb



sets, the movie is bound to hold your attention, especially with lyrics like "Put your hand inside your pocket, get yourself some Wonka chocolate!"

There is also the presence of Rowan Atkinson, known for his portrayal of Mr Bean. We meet a short green-haired orange man, Oompa Loompa, played by Hugh Grant. The end marks the beginning of Oompa Loompa and Wonka's collaboration, which we see in future movies.

Chocolate rules everything in the town and is used metaphorically as a currency. Wonka, who has been around the world, prepares chocolates that are loved by all. The Chocolate Cartel wants him out of the way by any means. They have the police in their control and can do whatever they want. Willy Wonka is just the one person they don't need in the city. There are moments of delight when Wonka eventually defeats the bad guys.

Paul King directs the film, who had previously given us films like *Paddington*. The two-hour movie has the vibes of *Mary Poppins* and the performances, songs, costumes, and choreography are impressive too. The main theme of the movie is that friendship makes you learn everything. One has to take the route as advised by parents, rather than trying to get somewhere on one's own. ■



OLPER'S FLAVOURED MILK

Performance Mein Break Na Ho



WORD HUNT

Can you find 10 hidden words in 10 minutes?
You can go up, across or diagonally to find them

G	D	A	I	R	T	L	U	N	Q	D	B	A	X
N	U	T	R	I	T	I	O	N	M	F	U	O	C
F	R	O	S	H	P	R	O	T	E	I	N	Z	A
E	D	E	X	E	R	C	I	S	E	T	H	Y	R
C	E	A	C	E	Y	O	N	U	T	Y	R	F	B
S	V	L	C	Y	G	R	O	W	T	H	J	O	O
G	E	C	I	E	I	S	L	B	I	V	X	H	H
Q	L	I	S	N	C	O	T	M	T	D	J	E	Y
P	O	U	R	E	S	K	X	R	I	H	E	A	D
D	P	M	L	R	O	E	K	F	O	I	I	L	R
W	M	S	L	G	T	Z	F	J	N	H	F	T	A
R	E	W	M	Y	X	I	J	D	U	Y	G	H	T
B	N	R	O	A	T	B	A	S	L	I	O	T	E
Q	T	M	V	I	T	A	M	I	N	S	O	X	S

Word List: Dairy, Development, Protein, Growth, Exercise, Health, Energy, Nutrition, Vitamins, Carbohydrates

RIDDLE CHALLENGE

Solve the following riddles:
Ask your family and friends if they can solve them!

What kind of room has no doors or windows?

Which word becomes shorter when you add 2 letters to it?

What has many rings but no fingers?

I'm tall when I'm young, and I'm short when I'm old. What am I?

Did you know?

Nutrition in milk helps us perform better in physical activities like sports



Riddle Challenge: 1. A room. 2. The word 'short'. 3. A telephone. 4. A candle.