

Parvez Elahi's first public appearance after release

By Wassam Ashraf Butt

GUJRAT: Former Punjab chief minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf President Chaudhry Parvez Elahi has apparently resumed his political activities by meeting different party delegations and local supporters in his hometown here on Saturday.

Flanked by his spouse Qiesara Elahi, sister-in-law and cousin Samaira Elahi and son Faisal Elahi, Parvez Elahi arrived at family's Zahoor Elahi House in the city where a large number of local PTI workers accorded him a rousing reception.

This is his first visit to Gujrat since his release from the jail last month after almost one year detention in different cases.

Former elected representatives from the Elahi camp and officials of party held meetings with him but he did not deliver any speech on the occasion though he spent at least four hours with them. Sources said he acted as an attentive listener for most of the time.

He is expected to hold more meetings with the supporters on Sunday (today) afternoon in the same residence.

They said that the former CM might stay in his son Moones Elahi's Kunjah house near Gujrat for at least four to five more days along with the other family members.

It is learnt that he also hosted a dinner for former PTI lawmakers and ticket-holders from Gujrat district at the Kunjah House on Saturday night where matters pertaining to party affairs and recently held general elections also came under discussion.

Parvez has been keeping quite since his release from the jail and did not even speak to media nor he delivered any speech to party workers who called on him in Lahore.



LAHORE: Passengers throng the Lahore Railway Station to leave for their hometowns to spend Eid holidays. —White Star

Govt intends to imprison Imran for five years, says Ahsan

Minister appears wary of tussle between judiciary and establishment

By Zafqamain Tahir

LAHORE: The PML-N government has spoken out its mind about keeping founder leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan in jail for its five-year term till 2029 for "economic stability".

"People come to us and tell us if Pakistan has to progress then Imran Khan will have to be kept in jail for five years," Federal Planning and Development

Minister and PML-N Secretary General Ahsan Iqbal said while talking to reporters here on Saturday.

He said if Imran Khan came out of jail then there would be again strikes and fight and the country could not afford this.

"There is a voice of the people [that] Imran Khan should remain in jail for five years," he said and added Imran Khan was an "angry man" and it was not known with whom he had a quarrel.

Mr Iqbal said it was a decisive moment for both Pakistan and the PTI. "It is not possible that talks are held with the PTI on the one hand and on the other it runs campaign against the state institutions. If Imran Khan

wants to hold dialogue with the government he will have to show seriousness," he said and added Pakistan at the moment needed continuity of the government policies.

The minister indirectly took on the judiciary saying whenever Mr Khan had a difficult time he used the 'shoulder of the judiciary' to get relief. Imran Khan was facing serious cases in courts, he claimed.

Imran Khan has been in jail since August last year in different cases. The PML-N leader appeared wary of the ongoing tussle between the judiciary and the establishment.

To a question about confrontation between the judiciary and the military establishment, Iqbal said: "Both should think whether

this confrontation is better for the country."

He said in the past politicians would fight with the establishment and vice versa.

"Now we have to go along together for the sake of the country. We cannot afford fighting with each," he said and added the country's sovereignty could have been at stake if "we continued fighting with each other." He said congenial environment was required for investment in the country.

Ahsan Iqbal said the government would take forward the CPEC project. "China has always supported Pakistan in crises," he said and added in the next three years Pakistan would be facing a biggest challenge of debt servicing.

LDA to be vigilant against illegal constructions during Eid holidays

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Lahore Development Authority (LDA) has made special enforcement squads to prevent illegal constructions in various parts of the Punjab capital during Eid holidays.

On the other hand, the demolition and sealing operations in Johar Town and adjacent localities have been geared up to control unauthorised constructions and illegal commercialisation, according to official sources.

An LDA handbook said that people generally try to construct structures without approval of the maps/drawings during public holidays, especially Eid days.

The teams must conduct surveillance to prevent illegal constructions. Besides this, they should also take actions immediately after receiving any information in this regard.

According to the handbook, the teams must enhance monitor in all major localities, including Johar town, falling in territorial jurisdiction of the LDA controlled area.

On the other hand, the LDA enforcement teams demolished unauthorised built structures in various parts of the city. The illegally built structures, according to the LDA town planning Zone-4, were demolished completely or partially in the localities of Ministry Accounts Housing Society, Lahore Avenue, Wapda Town and Johar Town. The properties including 1-R1, 260 E, 84, 85 E, 3-R1, 5, 10, 11 R1, 383, 384, 386 N, 379 N, 52 M, 16 F2, 609, 610 C1, 25 R1, 17 R1 and 18 R1 in Johar town were sealed on account of illegal commercialisation.

Attack on Jinnah House was organised conspiracy, court told

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A state prosecutor on Saturday said in an anti-terrorism court (ATC) that the attack on the Jinnah House, which also serves as the residence of Lahore's corps commander, was carried out as part of an organised conspiracy.

Special Prosecutor Riaz Abdul Jabbar argued that the attack on the Jinnah House on May 9 was a serious crime.

He concluded his arguments against the bail petitions of several leaders and workers of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in the Jinnah House attack case. The petitioners include Senator Ijaz Chaudhry, former governor Ghar Sarfar Chishti, and former provincial minister Mian Mahmoodur Rashid.

He said everyone present during the attack on Jinnah House, those who chanted slogans, created an environment of arson, and assisted in any way were also guilty. He said the leaders who incited arson via phone or social media should be punished.

The prosecutor also drew a comparison to the 9/11 attacks in the US, stating that everyone involved in the planning, execution, and aiding of the World Trade Center attack was punished.

He explained that in a bank robbery, those who assist, provide information, break locks, or help the robbers flee are punished.

He said even a person sitting in the prime minister's house can be part of a conspiracy.

Prosecutor Jabbar asked the court to dismiss the bail petitions of the suspects.

After the prosecutor concluded his arguments, Judge Khalid Arshad postponed the hearing till June 20.

Sarwar Road police had registered a case against leaders and workers of PTI for attacking and vandalising the corps commander house of Lahore on May 9 last year in protest against the arrest of former prime minister Imran Khan.

Dolphins' act leads to removal of SP

By Asif Chaudhry

LAHORE: Inspector General of Police Dr Usman Arwar has transferred Lahore Dolphin Force SP Zohab Zahedi Nasrullah Ranjha allegedly as a punishment when the Dolphin Police intercepted a vehicle near Jati Usra, Raiwind, for having tinted glasses and the man travelling in the car was said to be close to the PML-N's top leadership.

According to some conflicting reports, the Dolphin Force personnel demanded a bribe from the man to let him go while the police personnel denied allegations, saying "they had followed the orders of the Lahore police high-ups to show zero tolerance towards unauthorised persons using tinted glasses".

However, the unidentified car rider complained to the PML-N leadership and his phone call led to the transfer of the SP Dolphin Force, according to highly placed sources.

An official, privy to the development, told Dawn the incident occurred at around 8pm on Friday when the influential man was coming back from the resi-

dence of PML-N supreme Mian Nawaz Sharif. As soon as the man called, the Lahore police faced a job, making the senior officers, including SP Dolphin Force, SP Sakhar, ASPs and DSPs of the relevant station, rush to the site to "manage" the situation.

The source said Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz expressed her annoyance at the police for demanding bribe from the close friend of the PML-N leadership through the Dolphin personnel denied it, saying the car was stopped for having tinted windows. The SP issued an order to inquire into the matter without waiting time.

The police force has kept the identity of the car rider involved in the incident hidden and even the police officers on top posts are unaware of his identity.

The official source said that SP Dolphin Zohab Ranjha was already in hot water due to a sharp surge in street crime. He was facing a tough time from Punjab Safe City Authority Managing Director Ahsan Younis and DNG Operations Faisal Karman for the last many weeks.

The situation turned further hostile for him when Lahore's division-

al SPs and the SDOs also complained many times to the Lahore DNG Operations that the Dolphin Force was not responding to the crime calls effectively, leading to the crime surge in the provincial capital.

Following frequent complaints, the DNG Operations had expressed his strong annoyance, reprimanding Mr Zohab to improve performance or face the music.

The SP defended his position each time, giving counter arguments that the divisional SPs and SDOs were misreading the Lahore police high-ups as the Dolphin Force couldn't fight street crime in isolation but it could do that only with coordination of all wings of police. He berated the high-ups that 279 names of the Dolphin Force were patrolling in the city, alleging that the divisional SPs and SDOs were shifting their 'regardance' to his Dolphin Force to escape departmental actions. He said the Dolphin personnel were doing their best by patrolling extensively in scorching heat by wearing heavy safety jackets and helmets. He also defended his force by showing the record of arrested

hardened criminals after tough charges.

The Lahore police authorities rejected his claims, holding the ineffective patrolling as the major factors behind the crime increase in Lahore.

The official said Friday's night event added further fuel to the fire, providing a golden opportunity to the Lahore police high-ups to punish the SP.

Incidentally, Punjab Safe City Authority MD Ahsan Younis is holding the additional charge of the DNG Headquarters of the Punjab Police, the high-profile post that dealt with the transfer and postings of all officers from the DSP and above.

As Mr Younis was unhappy with the performance of SP Dolphin Zohab Ranjha, he played a decisive role, convincing the IGP to shove Ranjha the door and replace him with any other police officer.

The official said Dr Usman Arwar prepared a summary with the consultation of the DNG Headquarters and moved the same to the CM. She accorded approval and a notification of the transfer of SP Zohab Ranjha was issued later on Saturday.

Maryam orders cut in transport fares

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has ordered reduction in transport fares after cut in petroleum prices.

At a meeting here on Saturday, Ms Nawaz expressed her displeasure on non-reduction in the transport fares despite reduction of Rs35 in the petroleum prices during a month or so.

She directed the transport ministry and police to launch an operation to ensure an immediate reduction in the transport fares.

She also directed the officials to ensure maintaining the prices of roti and other edibles at the official rates.

She ordered timely clearing the animal waste and provision of sheds to protect the animals from sunlight in the cattle markets.

She also directed to ensure availability of doctors, water and other essential facilities in the cattle markets.

OPDs remain shut in protest against doctors' sacking

270 Sahiwal hospital doctors, other staff members resign; three guards arrested for taking bribes

By Shadiq Butt

SAHIWAL: All outpatient departments (OPDs) remained closed on Saturday in protest against the police action against the doctors, paramedical and staff of the Sahiwal Teaching Hospital and sacking and arrest of four senior doctors during Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's visit to the hospital on Friday.

Dawn learnt from sources that 236 home officers and 35 allied health staff, including the heads of departments and senior faculty members, submitted their resignations, saying they would not work under ongoing harassment. They protested sacking of four senior officers, including the medical superintendent of the hospital, by the CM and police action that followed.

The protestors staged a demonstration in front of the Surgical Tower of the hospital.

Later, the Young Doctors Association staged a protest rally and blocked Sahiwal-Faisalabad Road for one hour. The strike call was given by the district chapter of YDA.

Three security guards, including a woman, working on daily wages were also booked and arrested by police. On the other hand, the firefighters of Rescue 1122 received the cash awards that the CM had announced for them for saving the lives of children from the hospital fire.

The chief minister had taken action on the independent reports after multiple inquiries into the death of 11 children in the fire at the paediatric ward of the hospital on June 5.

According to some reports, more than 800 patients suffered because of closure of the OPDs while only the emergency ward was open and patients were being treated there by a limited number of junior doctors.

Dawn learnt from sources that OPDs at Tehsil Headquarters (THQ) Hospital Chichawatni, DHQ of Pakpattan, THQ Arifwala and DHQ Okara also

remained closed.

On the other hand, the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department has not yet issued termination letters for four doctors, namely Sahiwal Teaching Hospital's MS Akhtar Hussain, Deputy MS Dr Usman Azeem, Assistant MS Dr Umar and Sahiwal Medical College Principal Prof Dr Imran Hassan.

Three hospital security guards, including a woman, working on daily wages were arrested by Faisal Town police after they were booked under section of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) and Pakistan Penal Code (PPC).

The guards were identified as Muhammad Imran, Ihsan Ali and Sobha. The case against them was registered on the complaint of a patient, named Hanan Rafique, resident of Barkat Town.

The guards were booked for taking bribes from patients to let them enter the paediatric ward on the night when the fire broke out. Mr Hassan had told the CM the other day that two male security guards demanded Rs2,000 and a female guard Rs200 for giving the patient's attendance entry into the paediatric ward.

The chief minister had issued orders

for the arrest of the security guards and district police had included 7-ATA in the case registered against them.

Interestingly, all the three guards arrested by police were not present on duty when the incident happened.

District Police Officer Faisal Shehzad said investigations were underway to establish whether the security guards were on leave or not.

The YDA condemned the inclusion of the 7-ATA in the case against the daily-wage guards.

The chief minister had announced Rs100,000 cash for five firefighters of the Rescue 1122 for saving the children when the fire broke out in the hospital ward. According to reports, 41 children were rescued by the parents themselves while more than 28 were rescued by the firefighters. The cheques were distributed among the rescuers by Commissioner Shadiq Iqbal on Saturday.

Meanwhile, the commissioner has written a letter to all public officers, heads of educational institutions, research institutions and hospitals to check and update their emergency fire-fighting systems.

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No attempt made to pressurise judiciary, says SHC chief justice

A couple of such efforts turned out to be a misunderstanding

Dawn Report

KARACHI: Amid raging controversy in the country over the establishment's alleged attempts to pressurise the judiciary, South High Court (SHC) Chief Justice Aqeel Ahmed Abbasi on Saturday said he was not pressured in any such way, Dawn.com reported.

Responding to a reporter's question during an event, Justice Abbasi said: "I have been a judge for 15 years and there has been no pressure on me till today or those beside me," pointing to lawyers standing with him.

"I don't think there has been any pressure on them too as they are the ones to tolerate it."

He said there were some "sensitive matters" that he got to know about through social media. However, CJ Abbasi said that even if there was any pressure on any judge, no judge could be dismissed "without any exceptions".

"Speaking for myself, I can say with confidence and without any fear of contradiction that no one has attempted to approach me," he reiterated. "Yes, there are some direct or indirect attempts or some gentleman comes and goes after

saying something but thank God no one has put any pressure on me."

He added, "Once or twice when such things happened, they were curbed then and there and it was later said that it was a misunderstanding."

He said that there was no "direct [attempt]" so far to pressure him for any case or any particular matter by anyone or state agencies.

His comments came a day after Lahore High Court Chief Justice Malik Khairul Alam Khan expressed the hope that "external meddling" in the judiciary would soon come to an end.

He said he had received complaints and letters — many verbally — of interference in judicial matters by "institutions".

He advised the sensitive courts judges not to worry about the temporary problems and urged them to face it with bravery and not to become a target of any of their blackmailing.

"Temporary worries do come but you have to face them eye to eye and not be a target of any of their blackmailing. Do not be hesitant to make any kind of sacrifice."

In late March, six Islamabad High Court judges — out of a total strength of eight — wrote a startling letter to the Supreme Judicial Council members, regarding attempts to pressure judges through the abduction and torture of their relatives as well as secret surveillance inside their homes.

3 FC men hurt in Chaman attack

QUETTA: Three Frontier Corps personnel were injured in an armed attack on their vehicle in the border town of Chaman on Saturday.

According to officials, the personnel were targeted while travelling in a private vehicle from the Roghani area of Chaman to the FC headquarters.

The armed men on motorcycles opened fire with automatic weapons as the vehicle carrying the six FC men passed through the Roghani road area, injuring three personnel.

Police and FC personnel rushed to the scene and shifted the injured soldiers to Chaman District Hospital. Hospital officials said the three FC soldiers, identified as Naik Farooq, Sepoy Rehman Ullah, and Sepoy Tabir Zaman, sustained multiple bullet injuries.

The attackers escaped the site on motorcycles after firing. Security forces have launched a search operation in the area to trace the attackers.

—Correspondent

SC moved against plea dismissal by IHC in Tyrion case

Imran has become ineligible to be elected as lawmaker or hold any public office for allegedly having misled people, says petitioner

By Nasir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court was moved by a private citizen on Saturday against the dismissal of his petition seeking expremier Imran Khan's disqualification for allegedly concealing his daughter Tyrion Khan White in the nomination papers for 2018 general elections.

The petitioner, Mohammad Sajid, through his counsel Saad Munir Hashmi, pleaded that the full bench of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) that dismissed his petition has erred in considering the concurring opinion of two of the three judges as court judgement though it had been reserved and not announced.

The petitioner did not mention the existence of his alleged daughter, Tyrion Khan White, when he filed nomination papers to contest election from Islamabad constituency (NA-95) on June 11, 2018, as he only furnished the details of his spouse, Bushra Bibi, and two sons living

abroad, namely Qasim Khan and Sulaiman Khan, the petitioner argued, adding that since Mr Khan furnished a false affidavit, he was liable to be disqualified as per the principle laid down in the 2018 Hafeez Akram case.

The petitioner pleaded that it was an undeniable fact that Tyrion Khan White, born on June 12, 1992, was the real daughter of Mr Khan after she and her paternity was confirmed by the judicial record in the courts in California, the United States.

Earlier, the petitioner had brought these facts before the IHC in 2022. A single bench hearing the matter decided on Feb 2, 2023 that the case be heard by a full bench comprising three judges. Thereafter, the matter was taken up by IHC Chief Justice Ameer Farooq, Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani and Justice Arshad Mohammad Tabir. After the hearing, they reserved judgement on March 30, 2023. However, before the chief justice could have given his opinion, the concurring opinion of two other judges was uploaded on the IHC's website mentioning that the petition was dismissed by a majority of two to one.

The CJ then ordered an inquiry bench ordering removal of the concurring opinion of the two judges from the website, as it could not have been uploaded before the case was fixed for announcement of judgement. Later on May 10, 2023, the CJ decided to reserve himself from hearing

the case and directed that the "opinion of the two judges be sealed" and ordered that the matter be fixed before a full bench to "decide the case afresh".

The petitioner claimed the petition was fixed before the IHC full bench on May 23, 2024, but the bench rather than hearing the case simply dismissed the petition.

Challenging the dismissal of his petition instead of hearing it afresh, the petitioner argued that the opinion of two judges uploaded on the website did not constitute a judgement in view of the law declared by the Supreme Court in a number of verdicts.

The IHC full bench was not bound by the concurring opinion of two judges given in the earlier context of hearing of the petition, he said.

For all intents and purposes, the opinion of two judges was not a judgement and therefore it had no binding effect, he pointed out, requesting the SC to declare the dismissal of his petition "erroneous and liable to be set aside".

According to the petition, Mr Khan has become ineligible and continues to be disqualified to be elected as member of the parliament or hold any public office for allegedly having misled people through his nomination papers for the 2018 elections, as the act of committing an alleged fraud on the electorate was not diluted by expiration of his term as member of the parliament.

Over Rs800bn Balochistan budget to be presented on 22nd

QUETTA: Balochistan Finance Minister Mir Shauq Ali Shah Naderwani will present over Rs800 billion budget for the next financial year 2024-25 in the provincial assembly on June 22, officials disclosed on Saturday.

Officials in the finance department said Balochistan would receive Rs62.5bn as its share under the NFC Award from the federal government during the year 2024-25, while the province was given over Rs393.78bn under NFC Award in the current financial year.

According to sources, the province would receive Rs20.55bn as account

of oil and gas royalties during the financial year 2024-25.

While presiding over a consultative meeting of the coalition partners and opposition members in connection with budget preparation, Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti discussed government priority to finalise the budget with consensus.

Balochistan Governor Jaffer Khan Mansokhail and Provincial Assembly Speaker Abdul Khaliq Aizhaskani also attended the meeting. It is for the first time in the province that the coalition partners as well as opposition members are being consulted on the

budget proposals.

Officials said that the coalition parties and opposition members reposed their confidence in the chief minister, endorsing the budget formulation and reforms for governance. The participants in the meeting also expressed their satisfaction over the budget proposals.

They said that it was decided in principle to maintain the volume of development projects while ensuring timely implementation without delay. "Health and education are our priorities in the upcoming budget, with a proposal to increase the education

budget by 100 per cent and the health budget by 100pc," CM Bugti told participants in the meeting. He mentioned that to ensure timely implementation of developmental projects, the tendering process would commence in the first month of the upcoming fiscal year, immediately after Eid.

He said responsible officers would be tasked with overseeing the field operations of developmental projects to ensure accountability. He said efforts were in progress to make the anti-corruption establishment effective and CM's Inspection Team active for improved governance. —Kaleem Shabid

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ASI guns down two senior lawyers in Attock

TAXILA: An assistant sub-inspector of elite force of Punjab police gunned down two senior lawyers with his official weapon on Saturday, police and hospital sources confirmed.

Malik Iqbal Ahmed, a seasoned advocate of the high court and former president of the Punjab Bar Council and Zulfiqar Mirza were targeted in their chamber on the district court complex premises.

Soon after the incident, law enforcement officials swiftly apprehended the offender identified as assistant sub-inspector Iqbal Shah, in-charge Quick Response Force (QRF) Red Zone Attock.

According to the police spokesman, the motive behind the murder is personal animosity as Malik Iqbal Ahmed represented the wife of the police official in a local family court in which the court annulled his marriage.

As he was in distress after leaving his wife, so he took revenge from the lawyer and his assistant.

Meanwhile, district police officer (DPO) also visited the crime scene and suspended elite force district in-charge and mobster and ordered registration of criminal cases against them for their alleged negligence.

Attock city police have registered a double murder case against the accused police official under section 302, Pakistan Penal Code, section 7 of Anti-terrorism act (ATA) and section 5 of the lawyers welfare and protection act 2023.

The local community on the call given by Kamran Bashir Mughal Vice chairman Punjab Bar Council observed "black day" on Saturday and announced a complete strike with a decision that no lawyer would appear in any court across the district.

Moreover, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan and Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif took notice of the incident and concluded with the families of the slain advocates.

They directed Inspector General Police Punjab (IGP) Dr Usman Anwar to take immediate action against the culprits and take departmental action against all the cops involved in the negligence which led to the cold blooded murder of two lawyers in the court complex.

Governor Haider has instructed the IG to take steps to enhance security measures in order to ensure protection of people's lives and property. — Correspondent

Travel ban on non-filers to apply only after due notice, FBR chief tells Senate body

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Chairman Anjad Zafar Tawana on Saturday clarified that there had been no immediate travel restrictions on non-filers as proposed in the federal budget presented by the government for the next fiscal year on June 12, stating that a prior notice and inclusion in the Income General Tax Order would be prerequisite for such an action.

This clarification was given by the FBR chairman before the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue which was presided over by Senator Saleem Masud of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), according to an official handout issued by the Senate Secretariat.

This was the fifth session of the committee which had been meeting to meticulously scrutinize the provisions of the Income Tax Ordinance 2001 as outlined in Clause 6 of the Finance Bill 2024.

The FBR chairman clarified that the requirement to link NTN (National Tax Number) with passports for international travel would apply only after due notice and inclusion in the income tax general order, dispelling public concerns regarding immediate travel restrictions. Addressing misconceptions, the FBR chairman clarified that the requirement to link NTN numbers with passports for international travel applies only after due notice and inclusion in the income tax general order, dispelling public concerns regarding immediate travel restrictions.

It may be mentioned that while scrutinizing the federal budget, the government had proposed a series of measures to punish individuals and businesses who do not file income tax returns, including the possibility of being barred from foreign travel. The measures appeared to be another attempt by the government to

convert non-filers into filing their tax returns for the documentation of the economy.

In his speech on the floor of the National Assembly on June 12, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb had said the government aimed to increase the tax base and widen the tax-to-GDP ratio through these measures.

The finance bill has proposed amendments to Section 144B of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001 to stop non-filers from travelling abroad.

The sub-clause 2 of the said section already empowered the FBR to disable mobile phone SIMs and cut electricity and gas connections of non-filers.

"[A] citizen of Pakistan" who is liable to file tax returns but doesn't do so can be stopped from travelling abroad if the proposal is passed by the parliament.

The implementing agencies will be slapped with a penalty of Rs200m, if they defy the orders to take any of the three

positive actions. The penalty will go up by Rs200m for every subsequent defiance.

The committee members were also apprised about the introduction of a new category termed "late filer" under the Income Tax Ordinance, targeting individuals who sporadically file returns without consistent adherence. The committee underscored the need to impose stricter penalties, proposing a 10 per cent tax levy and withdrawal of previous concessions.

Furthermore, the committee members also deliberated on advertising expenses related to brand royalties, expressing reservations on proposed clauses affecting local investors and ownership control thresholds.

In response to queries regarding income tax on imports, the committee members expressed astonishment over proposed methods for determining minimum taxable values, advocating for customs valuations as the standard practice. The committee

gave reservations and deferred the amendments for further review alongside sales tax amendments. Similarly, proposals regarding property tax extensions for ex-Pata and ex-Pata were postponed, pending reconsideration.

The committee also addressed concerns regarding 18 per cent GST (General Sales Tax) levies on packaging items and locally processed milk products, advocating for reductions to alleviate consumer burdens, particularly on essential items such as infant formula.

In a notable exchange, PPP Senator Sherry Rehman emphasized equitable tax distribution among corporations, highlighting tax burdens on consumers for products like formula milk.

The committee meeting was attended by Sherry Rehman, Mohsin Asif, Anusha Rehman, Ahmad Khan, Shahab Hussain, Farooq Naik, Shibli Faraz and Minister Ahmad Kakar.

PTI leaders, activists sent to jail on judicial remand

ISLAMABAD: Anti-terrorism Special Court Islamabad Judge Abdul Hamid Muhammad Zakaerain on Saturday rejected the police request for 10 days physical custody of PTI leaders and activists, arrested on Friday and sent them to jail on judicial remand.

The Kohat police produced the accused in the court of Judge Abdul Hamid Muhammad Zakaerain with request that they watched anti-riot shield kit and tear gas gas, besides, their other belongings and unidentifiable accessories escaped. For the recovery of same and identification of their accessories, 10 days physical custody of the arrested accused was sought.

Earlier, the Kohat police arrested Zia Ullah Khan, Raja Qasir Ghaffar, Tanzeem Hussain, Malik Rafiqan, Umar Shabbah, Usman Khan, Adnan Khan Khattak, Anam Ullah, Nazim Juttani, and Amir Masood in connection with a case registered against them under section 7 of Anti Terrorism Act along with 395, 324, 148, 149, 188, 189, 341, 353 and 506 of Pakistan Penal Code.

According to the court order, an inspector present and through written application made a request for grant of 10-days physical custody and further requested that accused have been arrested from the place of occurrence and their custody are required for the purpose of recovery and investigation. The request for the physical custody appears to be unjustified and law discourages unjustified custody of accused.

In the circumstances, request for 10 days physical custody is made rejected. Accused persons are hereby sent to judicial custody for 14 days and be gain produced before the court on June 29, 2024.

Investigating officer instructed to submit challan within stipulated period.

According to the FIR, about 20 to 40 activists of PTI along with armed guards under the leadership of PTI's office bearers Amir Masood Mughal, Shoaib Shabborn, Ali Bokhari reached street 38 of Sector F-G/1 on vehicles and motorcycles. The participants were insisting to move forward despite barriers were put in place on road.

The police contingent deployed there, made an attempt to stop them.

However, the hit the barriers with car also made an attempt to hit the police with intention to kill them. They also broke the police cordon by using force and physically confronted and misbehaved with the police. They also watched a tear gas gas from Constable Jaffer Arqam, anti-riot shield and bat from Constable Sajad Hashmi, besides, tore the uniform of SI Tanzeem Ahmed.

The armed guards pointed weapons at the police, which spread fear and terror among the residents of adjacent areas. They move forward by clearing daggers and blocked the National Press Club from both side.

As a result the smooth flow of traffic was affected and people face difficulties. SHO and magistrate informed them that section 144 of CrPc had been imposed in capital and there was a ban on all kinds of gathering and their gathering is also illegal. — Munawar Anwar

Medical graduates down on their luck as job market dries up

Doctor claims forced to work as 'ghost general practitioner' due to employment

By Iqram Juraifi

ISLAMABAD: Due to the mushroom growth of medical and dental colleges across the country, a sizeable number of students — after completing MBBS and BDS — have found themselves down on their luck, failing to secure a stable job in their field except for some half-hearted part-time opportunities.

Doctor Abhishek Hassan, who completed MBBS from a medical college in Islamabad a few years ago, is still looking for a job. He told Dawn after many failed attempts, he secured a job with a health-related project using convalescents but after the project was winded up, he was left without a job.

Dr Hassan spent Rs10 million to finance his degree but his career choices are limited due to a sluggish job market. "Now I may go abroad...for specialisation in some field. Otherwise, I might not stand a chance to survive...in the medi-

cal profession," he said.

Another doctor has a similar story to tell. Dr Shah works as a 'ghost general practitioner' at a private clinic in Rawalpindi and brings home a meagre paycheck of Rs30,000.

"One of my friends offered that he could place me in a clinic in Rawalpindi and give me the contact number of the owner... The owner called me for the interview and after realising there I was delighted to see that it was a small hospital having an emergency room, an operation theatre, radiology room... and rooms to keep patients under observation," he said.

"...to my surprise, a majority of persons working there did not have degrees...they were quacks. The owner of the hospital told me that he will pay me Rs10,000 but I will not be allowed to check or treat any patient," he said.

Dr Shah said the hospital only registered his professional licence to show it to the health authority officials who inspect the hospital at regular intervals. Initially, he refused to work there but after he did not find work, he approached the hospital again and got the job.

"A copy of my licence has been pasted on the wall and now I just sit in the clinic eight hours a day and see how those quacks administer unnes-

sary drugs and suggest ultrasound and X-rays without any requirement. It is painful for me...but I have no option as Rs 30,000 means a lot. The owner of the hospital has given me hope that he will place me in another clinic where I will have to sit for another eight hours and then I will be earning Rs 60,000 per month," he said.

Another doctor, wishing not to be quoted, said, "I did unpaid house jobs and even an employed at a small hospital on daily wages, due to which I earn less than a clerk." He said his medical college did not offer him a paid house job because their "hospital did not get many patients".

Health Services Academy Vice Chancellor Dr Shahbaz Ali Khan, while talking to Dawn, said the state of the medical sector had significantly deteriorated due to the situation prevalent in medical colleges and hospitals.

"Most private colleges have 'Safari Faculty' which is called in the colleges during the months of inspections by the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC). I have personally observed professors who were present at private medical colleges at the time of these inspections. After that I learned my faculty members from working in any other medical college or university," he said.

Speaking about 'ghost' doctors, Dr Shahbaz said the practice was common across the country but it could be addressed through rigorous regulatory mechanisms.

"The district health officers, health regulatory authorities, and drug inspectors can address the issue but they need to have a will. They should check if the prescriptions are written by the registered GP and if their handwriting matches the prescription. They should check the medicines being administered to patients and ask the patients about the doctor," he suggested.

Former Punjab health minister Dr Javed Akram termed it a "huge issue" which needed to be effectively addressed. "Fact is that the quality of education is not up to the mark in Pakistan, especially at most private institutions, as well as those countries which do not have English as the medium of instruction," he said.

"The PMDC should have the same yardstick for local and foreign graduates and it should clearly announce about foreign universities whose degrees will be recognized in Pakistan. Unfortunately, tens of thousands of students have studied abroad with the number rising every year [in the absence of relevant framework]," he said, stressing the need to announce a "clear policy".

Illegal housing society's offices razed

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: In compliance with the Divisional Intelligence Committee (DIC) directives, the Joint Task Force of the District Administration, Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) and local police on Saturday razed illegal offices and containers of Century Tower in mosque Begu Sheikhani.

The RDA spokesman said that during the operation, the team demolished three containers of this illegal housing scheme.

Despite previous warnings to cease illegal advertisements, bookings, and development, the owners of the housing schemes continued to

operate booking offices in violation of regulations.

He said that the RDA since or general emphasized that the crackdown on illegal housing societies will persist vigorously to prevent fraud and protect citizens from exploitation.

He highlighted that public complaints regarding illegal land occupation by housing scheme owners are being taken seriously, and strict measures will be enforced against those engaging in forcible land grabbing.

"The RDA regularly informed the public and advised citizens to avoid

investing in illegal housing schemes. Instead, the public is encouraged to visit the RDA

website (www.rda.gov.pk) and only engage with approved housing schemes," he said.



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ISO-9001:2015 Certified

No. & Dated: DD/Proc./JMUET/JAM-119, 13-06-2024 "SAY NO TO CORRUPTION"

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

All the interested Contractors / Firms / Parties / Suppliers, Manufacturers and Sole Distributors meeting eligibility criteria, viz. having registration with Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) for Income Tax, Sales Tax in case of procurement of goods, registration with the Sindh Revenue Board in case of procurement of Works and Services and registration with Pakistan Engineering Council as the case may be and not black listed in any procuring agency or authority, are invited to participate in full / firm rate tender for the following works:

| Sr | Name of Work | Estimated Cost Rs. | Tender Fee | Completion Time | Earnest Money | Date of Purchase | Date of Submission of Bid | Purchase Form |
|----|---|--------------------|------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. | Supplying & Installation of 11 KV Sub-Station to I.T Cable, Testing & Commissioning at MUEE, Jamshoro | 92,592 (M) | 5000/- | 04 Months | 2% | 23-06-2024 To 19-07-2024 | | |
| 2. | Construction of 150 Girls Students Hostel at Mehran University of Engineering & Technology, Jamshoro | 210,999 (M) | 5000/- | 18 Months | 2% | 23-06-2024 To 19-07-2024 | 11-07-2024 upto 11:00 A.M | Executive Engineer (Development) |
| 3. | Construction of 150 Boys Students Hostel at Mehran University of Engineering & Technology, Jamshoro | 250,461 (M) | 5000/- | 18 Months | 2% | 23-06-2024 To 19-07-2024 | | |

The terms and conditions are given as under:

- The tender documents can be had from above office or can be downloaded from PPRAs website i.e. <https://ppra.org.pk> and University website www.muuet.edu.pk/tenders-notices on the payment noted above (non-refundable) on any working day except the day of opening of tenders. The sealed tenders on prescribed proforma along with earnest money mentioned above of total bid in the form of Pay Order in the form of Pay Order in favour of whom tender was purchased will be opened for Sr. No. 1 to 3 on 11-07-2024 @ 11:30 (A.M) in presence of the representatives, who so ever will be present at that time. In case of any unforeseen situation resulting in closure of office on the date of opening or if Government declares Holiday the tenders shall be submitted / opened on the next working day at the same time & venue. Any conditional or un-accompanied of the earnest money, tender will not be considered in the competition.
- The Method of Procurement is: **Single Stage-Two Envelope bidding procedure for works @ Sr. Nos. 1 to 3 (Technical & Financial)**
- The Bidders are required to submit proposals in accordance with the Technical Evaluation Criteria given in the Bidding Documents.
- The Bidders should have at least 05 years' experience of same services in any university or large organization.
- The Bidders should be registered with tax paying agencies which would be verified by concerned agencies.
- The Bidders must have Electrical License of Hyderabad Region for all works @ Sr. 1 to 3.
- The Bidders should not Black Listed in any procuring agency. (Affidavit is required)
- The average Annual Financial Turn-over not less than equivalent estimated cost of the respective works @ Sr. 1, 2 & 3 during last three years. (Attach Annual Turnover Certificate to be issued by the concerned bank).

The Procuring Agency reserves the right to reject any or all bids subject to relevant provisions of PPRAs Rules, 2004, Govt. of Pakistan and may cancel the bidding process at any time prior to the acceptance of a bid or proposal under Rule-33(1) of said Rules.

Deputy Director (Procurement),
Mehran University of Engng & Tech, Jamshoro,
Phone No. 022-2106010 Fax: 022-2771403
Email: nadeem.soomro@admin.muuet.edu.pk

PD/04 / 455/2024



Redefining Primary Healthcare

TENDER NOTICE

Purchase of Bungalow for Office Premises

PPHI SINDH is not for profit organization, registered under section 42 of the Companies Act 2017. Invites sealed bids/Proposals for purchase of bungalow for office premises preferably (Ground + first Floor) from owners/authorized agents/Attorney holders on Single Stage - Two Envelope Bidding Procedure.

| Purpose of Building | Site Location | Plot Covered Area |
|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Office Premises | Clifton Block - 2, Karachi | 600 to 700 Square yards. |

A complete set of bidding document containing basic eligibility, requirements and terms and conditions may be obtained from the Head office of PPHI SINDH Karachi by submitting pay order of an amount Rs. 1,000 in the name of PPHI SINDH (Non-refundable) on submission of application.

| Bid Security | Date & Time for Submission of Bids | Date & Time for Opening of Bids | Address for Receiving of Tender Documents & Submission of Bids. |
|--------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 1% | 09 July, 2024 Tuesday at 2:30 PM | 09 July, 2024 Tuesday at 2:30 PM | Manager Procurement, C-27/1, Block-2, Clifton, Near Umar Sharif Park, Karachi |

- The bidding documents will be issued from 24-6-2024 to 08-7-2024 during working days (10:00 am to 4:00 pm) at the address given above.
- The bid will be opened publicly in the presence of bidders or their authorized representative who choose to present as per schedule given above.
- In case of announcement of Public Holiday or any unfavorable circumstances, the tenders/bids will be submitted and opened on next working day. Other terms & Conditions, venue and time will remain same as mentioned in this Notice.
- All bids shall include applicable Govt. taxes and these will be deducted from the bills /invoice, according to Govt. Rules/Policy.
- Bid Security @ 1% of total value of the bid/contract cost must be submitted by the bidders in shape of Pay Order/Demand Draft and must be enclosed in "Financial Bid" in favor of PPHI SINDH; otherwise, bid will not be considered and will be treated as non-responsive and rejected.

PPHI SINDH HEAD OFFICE
 C-27/1, Block-2, Clifton, Near Umar Sharif Park, Karachi. Phone: 021-35872214/35354045

Impeding access to justice not lawyers' job, says Tarar

Committee formed to supervise probe into lawyers' killing in Attock

By Waqar Ahmad Sheikh

LAHORE: Federal Law Minister Asim Niaz Tarar on Saturday said it was becoming of lawyers to engage in vandalism and participate in lock-downs, creating obstacles in the administration of justice.

Addressing the Punjab Bar Council (PBC), the minister also condemned the killing of two senior lawyers on the premises of Attock district court, saying the government would take it as a test case.

He quoted Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif as saying that the legal fraternity's protection was the government's responsibility and that she ordered police to ensure justice in the case.

He said the provincial government had allocated Rs1 billion for lawyers' associations.

Besides, on the CM's instructions, special measures were being taken to support female lawyers by establishing daycare centres and cafeterias for them at district and tehsil levels.

Referring to recent clashes between protesting lawyers and security personnel, the federal minister said it was distressing to note the treatment meted out to Lahore Bar Association members.

tected the chief minister who declared that lawyers were not terrorists rather custodians of the law, and that protesting for their rights was not terrorism.

Subsequently, all arrested lawyers were released, and it was decided that the CM would instruct relevant departments to stop filing terrorism charges against protesting lawyers, he added.

However, he asserted that lawyers must also practise self-accountability and acknowledge the difficulties they face.

"When you wear the black coat and take an oath to work under the Constitution, it is unbecoming to engage in vandalism or lock-downs and creating obstacles in the way of justice," the minister said.

When a lawyer commits a wrongdoing, the bar association in collaboration with the government should act against him, the minister said, adding that otherwise, this practice would never stop, he believed.

Later, PBC in a statement demanded that the government bring the police officials involved in the killing of lawyers to justice and ensure punishment under the Lawyers' Protection Act.

The statement said CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif had formed a high-level committee of lawyers' representatives, including Pakistan Bar Council's Hassan Raza Padia, Punjab Bar Council's Basharatullah Khan, Lahore High Court Bar Association Rawalpindi President Malik Jawad Khalid and Attock Bar Association President Kirwan Raja.

The statement said the law minister will personally supervise the police investigation into the lawyers' murder.

Elite must make sacrifice for sake of progress: PM

Continued from Page 1

honesty and strictness. We will spend every saved penny on public welfare. We will eliminate red tape. This journey is not only difficult and long but also demands sacrifice from the government authority as well as the elite," the prime minister said in the televised address.

He said the journey of economic stability and prosperity was not an easy while people were looking towards the government for immediate relief.

Due to the government's "pro-people" policies, he said, the influential people would get far their relief in the near future. He advised the nation to get united and play its role in the country's development and prosperity, add-

ing that it should also show a sense of sacrifice and adopt austerity measures in their lifestyles.

Corrupt ministries, departments

Mr Sharif cited the Pakistan Public Works Department (PWD) as an example of a government department plagued by corruption, which had a devastating impact on the country's economy.

He revealed that a staggering 50pc of funds worth over a hundred billion rupees allocated to development projects were lost to corruption within this department.

"I have decided that the ministries and departments that have become a hub of corruption must have to be eliminated," he said, adding that a ministerial committee had also been formed in this

regard. He expressed his commitment to make such decisions in one and a half to two months. "You will see a big change in this regard in less than two months," he added.

Chinese, UAE commitments

Recently, he said, he visited China, where agreements amounting to billions of dollars were signed.

Similarly, he said, the UAE government had committed to investing at least \$10 billion in various sectors.

The prime minister said the government had also checked out a comprehensive strategy to materialise the committed foreign investment in Pakistan's various sectors, including mining and minerals, agriculture, information technology and others under the NDC.

"But before that, we have to create such an environment that we should ensure the domestic investment. We have the best financial experts, businessmen, traders and industrialists who could boost the domestic investment and play a role in the country's development and prosperity," he said. He termed political instability as the country's biggest enemy and its progress.

He noted that efforts were underway to fully digitise the Federal Board of Revenue system to enhance tax collection and reduce corruption. He praised the significant increase in revenue collection, which he said saw a record 30pc rise compared to the previous year.

Police seek to overturn order restricting surveillance

Continued from Page 1

missing persons or child abductions.

In his order, Justice Kattar stated, "It appears from the reports filed by the federal government, PTA and intelligence agencies and arguments of the learned counsel that no authorisation has been granted by the federal government under Section 5 of the Telegraph Act and/or Section 54 of the Telecommunication Act to authorise any individual, entity or agency to intercept calls, messages and to surveil citizens of Pakistan."

He added, "Doing so without authorisation is an offence punishable with a fine and a jail term under the Telegraph Act, the Telecommunication Act, the Fair Trial Act and PECA. Further, the Fair Trial Act provides a detailed mechanism through which surveillance can be undertaken."

"The provisions of the Fair Trial Act provide for due process and supervision along with checks and balances in the form of intra-executive scrutiny [to be undertaken by the

relevant minister, who authorises the surveillance and subsequently by a review committee comprising ministers for law, defence, and interior]."

He noted that "the Fair Trial Act provides for grant of warrants for surveillance by a judge of the high court. No phone tapping or other surveillance can be undertaken except pursuant to a warrant issued for such purpose by a judge of the high court."

Justice Kattar further stated that "it appears prima facie that no official of the executive/federal government, intelligence agency or police is authorised to undertake surveillance of the citizens of Pakistan. To the extent that any employee of the government or investigation or intelligence agency is undertaking surveillance and/or telecom companies and service providers are affording their facilities to facilitate surveillance, all such individuals are liable for offences under provisions of the Telegraph Act, the Telecommunication Act, the Fair Trial Act and PECA."

He subsequently ruled: "Any such unau-

thorised surveillance would also be in breach of fundamental rights of citizens guaranteed by Article 19, 25A, 25 and 25D of the Constitution read with Article 4 and would cause irreparable harm to the liberty, dignity and privacy of the citizens being surveilled."

"On the next date of hearing, the intelligence agencies, including Inter-SIS, the ISI and IB, and police authorities will not surveil any citizens, except in accordance with requirements of the Fair Trial Act and warrants duly issued by a judge of the high court, and neither PTA nor the telecom companies shall authorise the use of their services or equipment for purposes of any surveillance or interception of phone calls or data."

The next hearing in this case is scheduled for June 25.

When contacted, Islamabad Advocate General stated his intention to file a civil injunction application before the same judge before the next hearing, expressing hope that the court would issue an appropriate order in the matter.

SHO remanded in police custody in car 'stealing' case

QUETTA: A police officer and his driver, arrested for allegedly stealing a car, were remanded into police custody for two days on Saturday.

The remand request was accepted by a judicial magistrate after the police officer, Amir Malik, and his driver, Muhammad Hamid, were presented in the court.

Quetta's Civil Lines police had arrested Mr Malik, who was serving on the High Road police station SHO, along with his driver two days back after a car that was reported stolen was found parked in the station's premises.

The car's owner had registered an FIR with the Civil Lines police sta-

tion about his missing car. Initial investigation revealed that the car was allegedly parked by the SHO's driver. The Civil Lines police, after arresting the police officer and his driver, produced them in the court of judicial magistrate Quetta and sought his remand for further interrogation.—Salim Sheikh

Ignoring inflation won't make it go away

Continued from Page 1

which see little change in their prices over the course of a year.

But the aggressive nature of the taxation measures announced in the budget will affect both these baskets.

This is why the central bank's approach of keeping the interest rate at a high level won't deliver the goods, since the recent deceleration in inflation has been due to a series of supply-side improvements, most notably lower prices of wheat flour and fuel.

The high interest rate has already increased the cost of doing business for entrepreneurs and reduced capital supply for industry.

Basket of goods

An appraisal of the budget reveals that there are around 160 items that will be affected by the newly proposed tax measures (directly or indirectly), which will in turn impact the perishable half of the CPI basket.

Food and beverages make up approximately 35pc of the CPI. While seasonal factors can also contribute to fluctuations, input costs are closely tied to changes in fuel prices.

Incidentally, the government has announced a flat increase of Rs20 per litre in the price of petrol and diesel for the next fiscal year in the form of a levy, which in addition to any rise in international prices. There is also a possibility that the GST on petroleum products may be reintroduced. Additionally, fluctuations in fuel prices directly impact

the transportation index of the CPI, as this carries a weightage of approximately six per cent in the CPI basket.

Earlier, following the suspension of food imports from India, Afghanistan and Iran had become significant suppliers of vegetables and fruits to make up for shortages in the domestic market.

Retail prices, however, remained high due to expensive transportation. To counter this, the government has not only eliminated sales tax on imported food products, but has also implemented measures to facilitate their import.

This time around, the government has withdrawn all concessional measures and imposed 18pc sales tax on vegetables and fruits from Afghanistan. It estimates that duty free imports had deprived them of Rs7 billion in potential revenue.

So, as the cost of import of vegetables and fruits rises throughout the next fiscal year, so will food inflation soar once more.

On the non-perishable side, the government has imposed 18pc GST on the healthcare sector, ranging from raw materials to diagnostics and the import of health equipment to supplies for hospitals. The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) expects to raise Rs10bn from these measures, the cost of which will be passed on to consumers through higher treatment costs and medicine prices. The healthcare sector, for reference, accounts for 2.7pc of the total CPI.

Meanwhile, the removal of exemptions from exercise books,

pens, ball pens, markers, pencils, ink, colour sets, geometry boxes, and other items used by the education sector, will affect a broad accounts for around 3.5pc of total CPI weightage. The stationary price rises will also affect offices.

Indirect taxes

The overall increase in sales tax is 30pc in FY25; however, the imposition of indirect taxes, such as customs and excise duties and withholding tax, will also definitely add to inflation.

Withholding tax (WHT) revenue continues to be the leading source of "direct tax" receipts for the FBR, owing to its easier mode of collection through economic agents, and the failure of tax authorities to tap large unaccounted segment of the economy.

More than 70pc of the so-called direct tax revenue comes from the WHT. There are some reports that many businesses treat withholding taxes as expenses, and pass on this burden to the consumers. There is ample proof that withholding agents are not depositing the actual amount they deducted at source from the taxpayers and many such cases have recently been detected by tax authorities.

It doesn't take an economist to realise that higher fuel prices, increased costs of education and healthcare and more indirect taxes on supply chains will result in costs going up, across the board. Perhaps it would be more prudent if the financial planners told us this rather than trying to sugar coat.

Higher Education Undergraduate Studies ADMISSION TEST (USAT)

FOR UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS IN PAKISTANI UNIVERSITIES

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) Via Education Testing Council (ETC) will conduct Undergraduate Studies Admission Test (USAT) for admission at the undergraduate level in universities operating all over Pakistan.

USAT is designed on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) pattern. It is offered on quarterly basis and covers all known disciplines of Engineering, Medicine (Allied Health), IT, Management and Social Sciences at the undergraduate entry level. The students after qualifying respective USAT would stand eligible to all the relevant universities like the SAT, and also for the HEC Undergraduate Scholarships.

Who can Apply for (USAT)?

- Students who have passed the Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) or equivalent/Grade 12 education
- Students who have appeared in the final examination and are awaiting results

Which USAT Versions to Apply for based on Academic Streams?

The USAT test is conducted in the following six categories based on relevant academic streams. The students should register accordingly:

| Test Category | Stream/ Discipline |
|---------------|--------------------|
| USAT - E | Pre Engineering |
| USAT - M | Pre Medical |
| USAT - A | Art & Humanities |
| USAT - CS | Computer Science |
| USAT - GS | General Science |
| USAT - COM | Commerce |

Any score above and equal to 50 will be considered as a qualifying USAT score. The maximum score on USAT would be a perfect score of 100.

Test Breakup/Marks Distribution

The detailed breakup of tests and marks distribution for all the USAT versions is available at: <https://www.hec.gov.pk/english/services/students/etc/Documents/Content%20Weightage%20for%20USAT.pdf>

Proposed Test Schedule

Test is simultaneously held on a quarterly basis in the major cities of Pakistan. More tests can, however, be arranged on need basis. Candidates may register themselves through ETC online registration portal: <http://etc.hec.gov.pk>

Role of Universities

Universities will continue to announce their admission programmes independently. Students applying to universities accepting USAT will submit their respective USAT - (category) ETC score card for inclusion in the weightage-based merit determining formula.

How to Apply

- Visit <http://etc.hec.gov.pk> for online registration.
- In case of difficulty during online registration, visit <https://onlinehelp.hec.gov.pk>
- Only SUBMITTED applications will be considered. Applications in SAVE or INCOMPLETE mode will not be entertained.
- Fee will be submitted through 1Link/188 Invoice payment services with the generated consumer number.
- After depositing the fee through 1Link/188 Invoice, click on Verify Online Payment on ETC Dashboard.
- The test fee is non-refundable and non-transferable.
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After the deluge

As on many previous occasions, Pakistan needed other results going their way, and some divine intervention, to stay in the tournament. That did not happen this time. On cricket's newfound land, at the T20 World Cup in the US, Pakistan's luck ran out. The rains and the accompanying flooding in Florida washed away the last vestiges of hope for Pakistan. The abandonment of the US-Ireland clash, without a ball being bowled on Friday, meant the hosts advanced to the Super Over victory over Babbar Azam's men propelled them into the next round of a World Cup of which they are a part only because they are hosting it alongside the West Indies. Pakistan, on the other hand, are regretting the fact that they did not make the most of their opportunities. This elimination, after playing just three matches, marks their earliest exit from a T20 World Cup and makes their final Group 'W' match against Ireland on Sunday a dead rubber. Astonishingly, the disappointment has come after Pakistan had showed their mettle in the past two editions of the T20 World Cup, where they had finished as semi-finalists and runners-up respectively. This, therefore, is a swift regression and the post-World Cup 'surgery' promised by the Pakistan Cricket Board chairman should aim at revitalising the side.

The problems, however, are manifold. Crises, including several former greats, have pointed out several areas that need to be addressed. Talk of a rift within the team has been doing the rounds, and the PCB's decision to replace Shabazain Shah Afridi with Babbar as captain ahead of the tournament has backfired. The lack of mental fortitude showed in the loss against India, where Pakistan failed to chase a 129-run target, spurring out at 113, despite being well-placed for victory for most of the game. Against the US in their opener, the team lost all control, displaying, instead, a lack of cohesion and synergy. Questions have also been asked about the game's domestic structure and the fact that the team could not perform despite most players having a singular focus on limited-overs cricket.

The World Cup flop alone, however, does not come as a surprise. There was more hope than expectation after Pakistan had failed to inspire in any of the series preceding the tournament. The situation also shows how the standard of PCB's prized asset, the Pakistan Super League, has declined. PSL's top performers called up to the national team have looked out of their depths. The rigorous training camp under the Pakistan Army did not work wonders in improving the players' fitness levels. The question is whether the PCB is making the right decisions. A comprehensive inquiry is needed.

Fugue state

With its founder in jail these days, it seems nearly impossible to figure out what the PTI actually wants. On one day, a leader tells the media that the party is now open to holding a dialogue with its rivals; just days later, two other senior leaders throw a bucket of cold water all over the initiative. Earlier this week, on Tuesday, PTI leader Gohar Ali Khan said former prime minister Imran Khan had given his blessing to a proposal to begin talks with the government. He said the party could even proceed unilaterally on the matter if needed. He had affirmed that the PTI had reached the conclusion that dialogue was the only option. However, on Friday, two other leaders, PTI information secretary Raouf Hassan and NA opposition leader Omar Ayub, dismissed what they described as "a controversy on the media" about the PTI speaking to "mandate usurpers", insisting that PTI is still sticking to its demand that the government eliminate all cases against Mr Imran Khan, Bushra Bibi and its workers as a precondition to any talks.

At the outset, it must be said that the PTI expressing openness to dialogue was far from a 'controversy' for most observers. It is unfortunate that some of the party's own leaders saw it so when, in fact, the move had been cautiously welcomed because a grand dialogue seems like the only way the present sociopolitical crisis can be resolved. That the PTI spoiled the effort before giving it a shot is, therefore, quite frustrating for those who believed it may have finally gotten serious about finding a way out of the morass. The party seems to be sleepwalking, muddling its way through politics while its incredibly mercurial leadership obsessively revises and re-revises its plans. It must, at the very least, figure out what it wants, instead of publicly announcing a major decision and then sheepishly backtracking. Just like in the fable about the boy who cried wolf, the people will stop paying attention to the party if it keeps raising false alarms. As regards the talks, the government, too, will need to demonstrate positive intent by making important concessions, such as releasing all political prisoners. However, it cannot be expected to take the process seriously if the PTI continues to flip-flop on what it wants.

Sindh budget

SINDH'S Rs3,066 billion budget for the upcoming financial year is a combination of populist interventions, attempts to broaden its provincial tax base and efforts to help the millions affected by the floods in 2022 through a big development programme aided by foreign lenders and donors. Flush in cash like Punjab thanks to surging transfers from the federal divisible tax pool under the existing NFC, the new budget launched the Masooli and Haari cards; it plans to distribute free solar home systems to 2.6m off-grid households, and a big Ramadan subsidy package for the working classes. Overall, the subsidy costs will go up to Rs1.96bn next year. In addition, the Murtad Ali Shah government has raised pensions by 15pc and salaries by up to 10pc, beating the federal government.

On taxation, Sindh seems to be doing better than the other provinces. It is broadening its own tax net to rake in additional revenues of Rs76.8bn as it targets provincial tax receipts of Rs661.9bn against Punjab's Rs471.9bn in the next fiscal year. The budget also 'rationalises' the prevailing tax regime by reducing the burden on various sectors. The situation, according to the chief minister, who also holds the finance portfolio in the province, "calls for levying new taxes, rationalising the prevailing regime, assuring relief to poor segments, and capturing the potential revenue from the affluent sections". Sadly, the provincial government stopped short of restructuring the agricultural tax — the ruling PPP, after all, is overwhelmingly dominated by landed aristocracy. Over the years, the PPP has consistently increased its development spending. However, this does not seem to have improved urban infrastructure, uplifted public services delivery or addressed rural poverty. Law and order is also unsatisfactory as is evident from Karachi's rising crime graphs. What qualitative changes next year's 'revised' development allocations of Rs959bn, including foreign project assistance of Rs334bn, will bring to the lives of Sindh's citizens is anybody's guess.

OPINION

BY MUHAMMAD AMIR RANA



No talks with TTP

If the TTP had been abandoned by the Taliban, much of their strength would have evaporated.

THOSE in favour of negotiating with the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan mistakenly believe that the group is a legitimate insurgent movement. The Afghan Taliban see them as a comparable entity, deserving of talks with the Pakistani state, citing their own negotiations with the US as a precedent. Pakistan's approach to talks with the TTP or similar militant groups has been consistent — falling into the category of the same flawed rationale. The TTP does not meet the criteria of a popular insurgent movement that would merit political engagement.

The TTP was an abrupt reaction to the post-9/11 situation, where the military and religiously motivated political parties had left a religious obligation to support the Taliban and Al Qaeda in the context of the US-led invasion of Afghanistan. Tribesmen from former Fata and Feroz regions came forward on the call of the religious political parties. These parties played both sides, to the establishment and militants, leaving the tribesmen trapped. The militant groups that were close to the establishment faced disintegration on the question of jihad, and many joined the Al Qaeda camp of global jihad and later formed an umbrella organisation, the TTP.

The process was not as simple as described, but the TTP was merely a reaction to the situation that evolved in the region after 9/11. It was the state that had mishandled the situation, and Al Qaeda and like-minded militant organisations took full advantage of the situation. The establishment might have more significant designs in mind; usually, sceptical minds argue that the militant infrastructure inside Pakistan had provided an excuse for the presence of the Taliban on its soil.

The mother of all questions is yet to be answered: what has Pakistan achieved by supporting the (Afghan) Taliban resistance in Afghanistan if the purpose was to restrict the Indian role in the region and install a friendly government in Afghanistan, it was the coalition covert war any nation had fought in recent history. Pakistan's war against the TTP failed to achieve its strategic purposes, eroded the social

fabric, destroyed the economy, and brought the country to the verge of becoming a fragile state.

History will determine where the power elites made mistakes, and will evaluate the damage done to state and society. Whatever the case, the reaction to the invasion of Afghanistan was wrong, and it spawned decades of armed resistance by Islamist militants, which was not expected. During these decades, the TTP underwent several transformations, from a terrorist movement to organised armed resistance against the state. The TTP tried out every ideological doctrine, it remained involved in the brutal sectarian killings of members of the Shia community, and targeted marginalised religious communities. It contributed equally to global terrorism campaigns alongside Al Qaeda. Wali Muhammad, the organisation's current head, linked the insurgency with history and gave it a nationalist flavour. He linked the TTP with the anti-British resistance of Mullah Pasindah (1863-1913), Raji Sahib of Turangan (1858-1907), and the Faqir of Ipi (1897-1960) and portrayed the Pakistan military as a custodian of the British legacy. However, reconstructing the organisation's ideological and political views has not helped the TTP much, as it has failed to nurture an attractive narrative.

In fact, the TTP does not qualify as an insurgent movement resistant to negotiate peace with, as it does not enjoy popular support in any part of the country, including its previous headquarters in Waziristan. Insurgency is a politico-military struggle by non-state actors against the state that seeks to replace a central authority. However, in the merged tribal districts, rights movements and political parties are already active, demanding their rights in non-violent ways and within the constitutional framework; their presence denies space to the TTP.

The clergy and organisations will not go against the state to support the TTP even if they have sympathies for them. The merged districts are not ready to have the TTP return to their areas. The Pakistan Taliban Movement offers strong resistance to the TTP. Literacy

and exposure to the outside world that the tribes received during the military operation created strong feelings against the TTP and strengthened demands that the state fulfil its promises of development in the area. The grievances in the merged districts of KP are genuine, but the TTP cannot exploit these to generate public support for itself, as the locals still trust the state institutions.

According to UN and other estimates, TTP fighters in Afghanistan number 4,000 to 5,000. If families and non-combatants of the TTP human resources are counted, the figure would go up to 30,000. The number of fighters, if allowed to use Afghan soil, would pose a considerable challenge.

The TTP resistance cannot be compared with the Baloch resistance, which has roots and support within certain regions in Balochistan, helping it sustain its operations. If the TTP had been abandoned by the Afghan Taliban, much of their strength would have evaporated. This is the reason the state should continue to put pressure on the Afghan Taliban regime to restrict its ties with the TTP terrorists.

Balochistan needs a political dialogue to be held amongst stakeholders to decide on talks with armed groups. The TTP is trying hard to conclude a deal with the Baloch insurgents and continuously shows empathy with missing persons and the Baloch cause. However, the TTP is a different case altogether. It is not an insurgency, nor does it enjoy popular support. If brought back to its native areas, it would create tribal feuds, trigger religious violence, and weaken the state's writ.

The Afghan Taliban need to talk to the TTP mainly to convince them that peace in the region is inevitable for Afghanistan's stability and progress. For Pakistan, a complete surrender of the TTP should be the only option. After the necessary initiatives such as rehabilitation, reintegration, and retraining of TTP members can be launched.

The writer is a security analyst.



BY ABBAS NASIR

PTI strategy — or the lack of it

AS if on cue, a day after PTI chairman Gohar Khan made public the decision of the party and its founder to initiate a dialogue with political rivals currently on the treasury benches in parliament, party leaders Omar Ayub and Raouf Hassan have announced a reversal of the move.

With a budget viewed by many commentators as hitting the urban salaried class in the private sector the hardest given the rise in taxes, one would have expected more coherence from PTI decision-makers to capitalise on the disappointment and anger across the class.

It appears that may not be the case. When the party was in power, it was often criticised for its 'U-turns', but being in the saddle as a partner in a hybrid set-up, it could afford to get away with these because the other part of the governing arrangement had brutally dealt with the opposition and rendered it toothless.

Of course, the boot is now on the other foot and the PTI is on the receiving end of the establishment's wrath. Even then, it has two distinct advantages over the erstwhile opposition. The first is its massive countryside support base.

Imran Khan's supporters are unique as their devotion to him is total and unconditional and he can do no wrong in their books. Few other party leaders have enjoyed such a following. Only Ahsan Ishaq comes to mind when looking for parallels. It is important to point out here that much of the Ahsan Ishaq myth was built via coercion and a tightly run party structure with an elaborate system of reward and punishment in place to ensure loyalty and compliance and to drill into dissenters their fate for straying from the leader's path.

By contrast, Mr Khan's support is ideologically voluntary in nature and his workers blindly follow their leader regardless of any consideration of loss or gain. His supporters are not prepared to see any of his shortcomings, let alone acknowledge them. This is a major challenge for those who wish to destroy him and his politics.

His other major advantage is that unlike the PML-N and PPP in the past, who faced an overly hostile judiciary, today many judges are determined to uphold the rule of law and the

Constitution. His acquittal in a number of cases and approval of bail in others point to this.

In fact, when you gauge the mood of the establishment via the lips of some of the diehard supporters of the current hybrid set-up, you reach the conclusion that the independence of the judiciary and their refusal to be swayed by the state as happened routinely in the past, is a major irritant for the powers that be.

There is no denying that many independent observers, besides the PTI's leaders and supporters, will negate the argument by citing the ECP decision, endorsed by the Supreme Court, to deny the party its 'hat' symbol. Mr Khan's con-

There is a method to the madness of the authorities in keeping Imran Khan physically away from his supporters.

tinued incarceration will add weight to their argument.

Whichever argument makes more sense to you, neither attempt to ignore factoring in the establishment's immense power. The PML-N for the past 25 years and the PPP and nationalist parties for much longer have chipped away at its edifice in the past and paid a heavy price. Perhaps in the bargain they created a little more space for civilian politicians.

In one fell swoop, the PTI has done two things. First it conspired with the establishment in creating a hybrid administration, and in doing so, surrendered the tiny space the other parties may have created for themselves and others of their ilk. So much so that these parties eventually found themselves in the establishment's corner for survival.

At the same time, after falling out with its partner, the party and particularly its charis-

matic leader, have caused an unprecedented headache for the establishment. In the long run, this can only anger with the citizenry. The irony Mr Khan has made in key institutions and the reported support he enjoys within will strengthen his hands no end if he were ever to return to power.

Nonetheless, there is the inescapable caveat. Many fear that in the (unlikely for now) event the PTI succeeds in taking back lost ground from the establishment, what is to keep the party from betraying authoritarian tendencies?

These detractors cite the party leader's complete denial of political accommodation to the opposition when in power. One can hope that one that he has been put through the ring himself, he may display empathy towards others in the same situation as he is at the moment and be more democratic.

Most of this discussion is admittedly speculative in nature even if journalists such as this columnist like to call it analysis. The unfolding scenario may prove us utterly and miserably wrong. That is one of the obvious pitfalls of looking at a fluid and volatile present.

The only thing that can be said with a degree of certainty is that if Imran Khan and his party fail to make something out of the anger against tax rises and the extension of GST to a much broader range of items, then they may have to wait a while before another opportunity presents itself.

There is a method to the madness of the authorities in keeping him behind bars and physically away from his supporters. With charismatic leaders like him at the helm, the leadership tier right under him will always remain in his shadow.

Therefore, the second-tier leaders don't seem to have what it takes to motivate and mobilise supporters and turn the massive support for the party that was evident on Feb 8 this year into street power, which could rock the boat. And that seems to be the PTI's major dilemma.

The writer is a former editor of Dawn. abbas.nasir@hotmail.com

OPINION



BY MOHAMMAD ALI BABAKHEL

The making of HuT

IN January 2024, the British government labelled Hizb ut-Tahrir (HuT) as the 80th proscribed terrorist organisation, raising significant questions about balancing the protection of democratic institutions against subversive ideologies and preserving freedoms of speech, assembly, and association. Since the 1980s, HuT has engaged in radical but peaceful activism in Britain. The key question now is whether this ban will deter its members, make monitoring easier for the authorities, allow for legal challenges from supporters, and impact Britain's democratic credentials.

HuT was founded in 1983 by Sheikh Taquddin Nadhwi — a diaspora Palestinian and graduate of Al Azhar University. He believed that the political decline of Muslims worsened after the abolition of the caliphate and the division of the Middle East into various states. He envisioned a political party grounded in Islamism that would counter these developments and restore Muslim unity and political strength.

Promoting a pan-Islamic narrative, HuT aims to establish an ideological Islamic state. Its reverence for the Ottoman Empire attracted followers who hoped HuT would revive the caliphate, overthrown in 1924, and unite Muslims worldwide as a single nation. HuT attributed the Ottoman Empire's disintegration to a Western conspiracy, which, in their view, deliberately fragmented the Muslim world to weaken it.

Banned in Jordan in 1989, HuT's influence spread to Egypt in the 1970s and Tunisia in the 1980s. After proscription in the Middle East, some leaders moved to Europe, gaining popularity among Muslim students in British universities.

Utilising modern technology, HuT disseminated its propaganda through websites, videos, CDs, and e-mail, translating its literature into multiple languages. Their preferred method was the 'alhamdulillah' (praise be to Allah) newsletter, distributed like newspapers.

Nadhwi envisioned a future Islamic state led by a caliph elected by a shura, a council with centralised authoritarian powers. The caliph would manage the political system, economy, military, and foreign affairs. While HuT advocated jihad to spread its religious message, it claimed not to support violently overthrowing Muslim regimes, a stance that distinguished it from other more militant groups.

For HuT, establishing an Islamic state is a religious duty, with radical politics seen as an act of worship. HuT identified three stages to achieve its goals: secret, open, and jihad. HuT's secretive, decentralised cell structure made it challenging for authorities to penetrate the organisation. Each cell consisted of five to seven men,

with only the head knowing the rest level of the party structure. This secrecy made the organisation prone to factionalism, leading to the emergence of splinter groups like Hizb an-Nasr in 1999.

By 2019, HuT operated in over 50 countries, based in about 20, including Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, China, and Russia. Pakistan banned HuT in 2003. Until recently, HuT remained legal in Britain, but its ban in January 2024 criminalised membership and support, striking its operational space.

Unlike the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, HuT seeks to co-opt successes from non-Muslim societies for its envisioned caliphate. Targeting the urban intelligentsia, especially students and unemployed youth, HuT aimed to influence those who could drive future political and social changes. Facing restrictions in the Middle East, HuT turned to Europe, where it found new opportunities to spread its message and recruit followers. In Uzbekistan, some members sympathetic with IMU's armed struggle, fleeing to Afghanistan to collaborate when restrictions increased in 1998.

Modern stateface challenges, including ideological warfare facilitated by technology. Winning the war of ideas requires understanding opposing narratives to avoid wasting resources and deepening societal divides. Both ideology and the modern state are living realities that must adapt for peaceful coexistence. Efforts to suppress ideology without addressing their underlying causes risk perpetuating cycles of conflict and extremism.

As contemporary societies navigate these complex dynamics, the importance of strategic, informed responses cannot be overstated. This involves not only countering extremist narratives but also promoting inclusive and resilient democratic values that can withstand ideological challenges.

There is a dire need to understand that eliminating extremists alone will not eradicate the ideology, ideological beliefs, deeply rooted and often driven by perceived injustices, can persist and evolve, further dividing societies if not addressed comprehensively. ■

HuT identified three stages to achieve its goals.

The author is the author of *Pakistan: In Between Extremism and Peace*.
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BY AIZAZ AHMAD CHAUDHRY

Upgrading CPEC

PRIME MINISTER Shehbaz Sharif recently visited China to further strengthen the 'Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership'. Besides a three-hour meeting with President Xi Jinping and another one with Premier Li Qiang, dozens of MoUs and agreements were signed. A joint statement described the bilateral relationship 'as unbreakable as a mountain', 'solid as a rock', and 'irrevocable friendship'.

A key takeaway of the visit was a decision to upgrade CPEC by building several new corridors, including green, livelihood, innovation, and green corridors. There is also a commitment to rehabilitate the Karakoram Highway and optimise the use of the Gwadar port. The Chinese side will train 1,000 young Pakistanis in tech and agriculture. Huawei will train 200,000 Pakistani youth annually in IT. This would help towards digitalisation of the economy and promoting e-governance.

Another positive announcement was that CPEC would be made an open and inclusive platform, and third parties would be welcomed to participate in its priority areas of industry, agriculture, ICT, science and technology, and mining. Previously, the two countries had agreed to extend CPEC only to Afghanistan. Now that third parties are being invited, clear modalities would need to be worked out.

These plans are ambitious and an upgrade of CPEC's first decade that focused exclusively on infrastructure development and power generation. However, signing MoUs does not automatically translate into projects. For that, we need to create a congenial business environment, with minimal red tape and fast-track facilitation. The private sector must be facilitated to take the lead. A welcome feature of the PM's visit was that several meetings were held between Pakistani and Chinese businessmen and investors at the Pakistan-China Business Forum in Shenzhen.

The two governments also signed an 'Action Plan for Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation'. The Chinese side committed to encouraging Chinese companies to invest in Pakistan's SIEZs while Pakistan agreed to 'optimise its business environment and policy framework' to facilitate Chinese investments.

Setting up industries is the need of the hour as industry generates employment for our youth. However, the actual situation is not encouraging. Setting up SIEZs has been increasingly delayed. Rashakai has made limited progress while Dabalg is still at the bidding stage. Setting up SIEZs should be a top priority to attract investments from China and other countries. Pakistan's own investors, who have parked their capital

outside because of the lack of business opportunities in the country, should also be incentivised to invest in them.

Another project of significance is upgrading of the ML-1 railway track, to be implemented in a 'phased manner' after agreeing on financing modalities. This project has already been delayed because of which the price tag has gone up. The north-south railway track is 100 years old, and its upgrading is imperative to meet our strategic and socioeconomic needs.

Security of foreign investors and investments has emerged as a serious issue. There have been several terrorist attacks against the Chinese working on CPEC projects in Pakistan. China expects Pakistan to make every effort to hunt down and punish the perpetrators. The joint statement called for a 'zero tolerance' attitude to counter terrorism effectively.

Despite the establishment of a special security division, attacks against the Chinese have continued, mostly by the TTP and BLA. We must find ways to deny spaces to the terrorists through intel operations, the kinetic use of force where required, co-opting the people of on-fits and Balochistan in our counter-terrorism strategies, and coordination with the relevant countries, particularly China, which has considerable influence in Afghanistan.

Although the joint statement did not mention financial liquidity issues, it is well-known that Pakistan often seeks the rollover of loans loaned by China. The Chinese have so far obliged Pakistan. However, they would not readily expect Pakistan to use these loans prudently and generate wealth to pay them off.

In an era of geopolitical instability, Pakistan's close ties with China is a valuable opportunity that must not be squandered. Let us make the best of China's help to modernise agriculture, digitalise the economy, improve electricity transmission, and strengthen mining and industrial cooperation. Having invested billions on building infrastructure and energy generation, let the private sector take the lead in setting up industries to make optimal use of that infrastructure. CPEC in its second phase should become private sector-friendly, export-oriented, the creator of jobs, and a stabiliser of technological value addition. ■

Pakistan must not squander this opportunity.

The author is a former foreign secretary and chairman of Sharada Institute.

FROM THE PAST PAGES OF DAWN

1974 | Fifty years ago

Israeli pull-out

JERUSALEM: King Faisal of Saudi Arabia plainly but emphatically told President Nixon last night [June 14] and today that neither peace in the Middle East nor cooperation between their two countries could be assured unless Israel vacated all Arab lands, including Jerusalem, and restored the rights of Palestinians. Although President Nixon played cool to the Saudi assertions, yet he promised that his country would continue to "strive" for the Middle East "solution".

King Faisal left President Nixon in no doubt about his country's resolve in a forthright speech at a State banquet last night, shortly after the American leader flew in from Egypt. The King also made clear it was the United States responsibility — "As the most powerful nation in the world" — to persuade Israel to quit all Arab lands in the interest of a just and lasting peace. King Faisal told the President, the injustices and aggression which were wrought upon the Arabs of Palestine are unprecedented in history, for not even in the darkest ages had the population of a country been driven out of their homes to be replaced by aliens. "We believe there will never be a real — peace — unless Jerusalem is freed." — News agencies

1949 | Seventy-five years ago

Pakistan-AJK link

KARACHI: Sardar Akbar Raza Nishtar, Communications Minister, Government of Pakistan, told President on Wednesday [June 15] that arrangements for the extension of Pakistan's telegraphic system to Azad Kashmir would shortly be completed. Sardar Nishtar stated that proposals to link up Pakistan with the rest of Azad Kashmir had originally been and also to chart a route for the despatch of mail by surface from Muzaffargarh to Dabalg were discussed by him with the Azad Kashmir Government and the West Punjab postal authorities.

The Communications Minister ... said that the move of sending the Maharaja out of Kashmir and installing his son in his place was only directed by the Indian Government to throw dust in the eyes of the Kashmiris. ... Sardar Nishtar stated that the food situation in Azad Kashmir was improving ... as more supplies were being moved into the state.

On the other hand, he disclosed that the conditions in the Indian-held part of Kashmir were getting worse. ... "The food position is acute and the whole Muslim population is under constant oppression by the Indian military authorities." — Dawn staff correspondent

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@dawn.com

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

Hajj can be more than just a ritual



NOTWITHSTANDING the religious significance of the annual pilgrimage in Islam, Hajj, in the days of yore, was also a forum where pilgrims met to discuss with regards to the aspect of accountability. The era of the Pious Caliphs witnessed Hajj as an event when public office holders were made accountable to the masses.

Although that spirit of unswerving accountability is a thing of foregone times, the opportunity can still be grabbed by the leaders of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The 52-member organisation can use the auspicious occasion of Hajj as a day when leaders of all Muslim states can meet and settle important matters that demand urgent

attention and a collective response of the Muslim Ummah.

For example, the Israeli genocidal assault on Gaza can be revisited with a collective and official ban of Israeli products. The oil-rich Gulf states can put an oil embargo on Israel, like they did in the past, to resist the Israeli war machine. The collective response can put Israel in a position of vulnerability only if economic blockade is put in place by all the OIC member states.

Apart from this, Hajj can be utilised as an event where the OIC states gather and settle the issues plaguing most of the developing and underdeveloped Muslim countries. Leaders, jurists, economists, security analysts, policymakers and social thinkers can use Hajj as the annual congregational event to meet, discuss and find solutions to the major problems faced by the Muslim world today. This will strengthen the sense of unity, and will also provide the opportunity to formulate a collective response of economic, security and foreign policies to better serve the interests of the Muslims across the world.

Saimon Khanwar Ajlakh
Lahore

CBC and court orders

IN 2022-23, Carteret Board of Education (CBC) arbitrarily raised property tax to such exorbitant levels, in some cases over 200 per cent, that a series of petitions were filed in the South High Court (SHC)

by residents of the area against the move. Some petitions challenged the taxation formula, while others questioned whether the CBC was the correct entity to charge property tax at all. The SHC ruled that the CBC did not have the authority to charge property tax and that it was the domain of the provincial government.

The CBC then filed an appeal in the Supreme Court, and the final decision of the court is pending. However, in an interim ruling the apex court noted that the matter of property tax does come under the State government, and appropriate legislation should be formulated by the government in this regard, and to share the legislation with the Supreme Court.

In response, the CBC has reacted rather aggressively against the petitioners by delimiting their properties from the CBC system. About 100 properties have been affected by this move. This is despite the fact that the petitioners have paid in full all the cesses and water charges for the year 2023-24, as well as property tax via challans, as has been ordered by the SHC.

Some petitioners, in fact, went above and beyond, and paid the full amount of property tax as per the original challan that had been issued by the CBC before the case was filed.

By delimiting the properties of the said petitioners, the CBC has stopped utilities, such as water supply, and other services, like complaints resolution regarding faulty streetlights, garbage collection and such other matters.

Moreover, petitioners with delisted

properties are prevented from selling, transferring, renovating or repairing their properties. These high-handed tactics by the CBC are reminiscent of colonial tactics to suppress any dissent. What must be realised is that Pakistani citizens have the right to go to Pakistani courts with their grievances, without having to face such coercive tactics.

The CBC action is truly a form of contempt of court. It should reactivate the accounts of the petitioners immediately, because there is absolutely no justification in arbitrarily blocking or delimiting the said properties, and stopping services that have been paid for in advance. The current CBC attitude is causing moral anguish and monetary loss to the affected people.

Name withheld on request
Karachi

Crime-infested city

THIS is with reference to the report another young man killed by robbers in Gulshan-1 (June 2). Itanga Memon was murdered in cold blood in the Gulshan-1 area of Karachi. It does not seem whether he was an engineer or a gold merchant. What really matters is that he was a son, a brother, a husband. He came here to head with a couple of managers who, with a single bullet, finished him and everything associated with him in no time.

This is not the first time one has the occasion to write on the issue of rising crime in the city. Mugging and snatching are now minor issues. The worrisome part is the case with which the criminals are killing people and getting away with it. Those at the helm of affairs do not seem to be bothered by it at all. Perhaps, the life of a citizen is a secondary issue for them.

Beyond Karachi, we get to watch videos of victims abducted for ransom in katcha areas pleading for their release, but to no avail. A few days ago, a special meeting was held by the president of Pakistan at the Chief Minister House in Sindh to discuss the falling law and order situation in the province.

The meeting gave some hope to the people about things moving in the right direction. However, unfortunately, nothing happened. By the looks of it, the political administration in the province is helpless and has no control over the situation, or they are just not really bothered.

Are we waiting for the sky to fall, and some Bushra Zaidi-like disorder in the city when the army had to be called in to control the law and order situation in Karachi? If that is the case, why should we wait for that "trigger" moment? Call the army and swallow the bitter pill now. After all, it is better late than never.

Muhammad Qudus
Karachi

► **UNITY FIRST:** The federal government is currently in talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a loan to help stabilise the economy. However, the recently proposed budget of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) may hinder these talks. The federal government is upset because the IMF has proposed a budgetary framework that requires coordination between the federal and provincial governments. The KP government should ensure its budget aligns with the IMF's requirements. It should work with the federal government to address the economic crisis. Despite political differences, unity is essential to tackle the economic challenges.

Jawad Zaidi
Kollah

► **KISAN BANK:** It is hard to understand or rationalise the decision of Punjab government to establish a Kisan Bank when the Zarai Taraqeeq Bank Limited (ZTL), formerly known as the Agriculture Development Bank of Pakistan (ADBP), is working absolutely fine. The ZTL has a good network and has been providing financial assistance to the needy. Moreover, the establishment of a bank needs both financial and human resources whereas the country has already been facing acute financial crisis. The provincial government should assign the proposed project of tractor to the ZTL, instead of establishing a new bank for this very purpose alone.

Khanzaib Tajammul Hussain
Karachi

► **CHEATING CULTURE:** The culture of cheating during examinations is deeply entrenched in society, especially in Sindh. The examinations that are currently being held across the province are no different. Students in the past used to resort to cheating discreetly, but now they rely on mobile phones and do so openly. Almost every student carries a mobile phone during examinations, and the authorities appear to be indulgent in this regard. If academic standards continue in this manner, we are bound to end up the rest of the world in terms of ignorance despite degrees.

Jawad Ali
Hyderabad

External Ombudsman

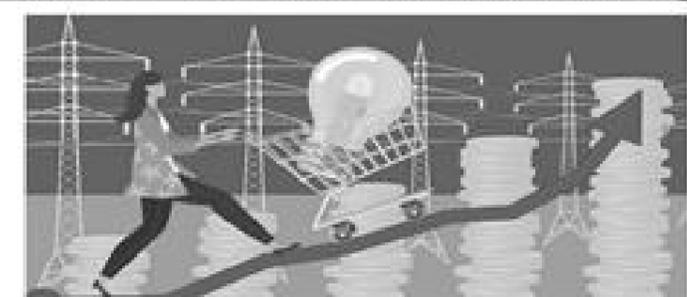
Veteran journalist Muhammad Ali Siddiqi is Dawn's External Ombudsman (EEO). His duty is to attend to our readers' complaints, and to respond to them professionally. EEO is the investigating authority to whom all complaints can be referred, and it is EEO who takes notice of any alleged violations of Dawn's code of ethics, and informs the Editor for appropriate action.
Email: muhammadali@dw.com

Capacity charges are not defensible at all

THIS is with reference to the letter 'Capacity charges' (June 3), which used incorrect information to justify the act of paying high capacity charges. First, hydro-power plants have a life of 25 years, while thermal power plants have a shorter life. The government had entered into contracts with thermal power plants in the 1990s as a stop-gap measure to cover power generation until hydro dams were constructed. However, the contracts of these power plants have been extended multiple times even when the hydro dams have become operational.

The government recently reported the maximum electricity usage of around 24,000MW in Pakistan during the heatwave. In contrast, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has reported an installed capacity of 45,000MW, which has been frequently quoted in the media, like the 'Developing a competent energy market' (B&F, May 20).

That being so, 21,000MW of power is



not utilised even on the hottest of days. A Senate review last year had reported that capacity payments made up 71 per cent of all payments to independent power producers (IPPs).

And, after all the dew calculations, the government is believed to be paying an astounding amount of Rs80 billion per month as capacity charges.

Besides, it has also been reported recently that the electricity circular

debt has increased to Rs135 billion per month. By removing the capacity charges over interest, unproduced electricity, the government can surely reduce the circular debt by as much as 60pc. As such, by doing away with the capacity charges, circular debt is not, indeed, be controlled. This is as simple as that.

Shahpur Khan Banoor
Islamabad

New MTI boards to review legality of decisions taken by their predecessors

KP health dept removes BoCs on directives of chief minister

By Ashfaq Yusufzai

PESHAWAR: The newly appointed Board of Governors of medical teaching institutions (MTIs) will review the decisions taken by their predecessors and will undo the ones taken illegally. "We will review the legality of all decisions and decisions accordingly. We want to run MTIs as per law," Prof Nasiruddin Bakti, the architect of health reforms, told Dawn. He said that they would remove BoCs in MTIs soon after Eidal Acha. He added that they would review all decisions made by the previous BoCs and those taken in accordance with the law would be retained while the unlawful steps would be reversed. Prof Bakti remained chairman of MTI Policy Board as well as chairman of the Board of Lady Reading Hospital (LRH) till he along with other members was removed by the caretaker government in March 2023. However, the present PTI government in the province removed BoCs of MTIs on Friday and appointed him the chairman of BoC of LRH to resume work on the reforms programme in health sector. The notification issued by health

department said that the old BoCs were removed and replaced them with those recommended by search and nomination council on the direction of Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur. Asked if he was coming to resume work on reforms in health sector, Prof Bakti, said that he was awaiting final notification about chairman of BoCs and replacement of Policy Board. Policy Board oversees the performance of all boards to ensure that all MTIs pursue the same policy. He said that notification regarding replacement of Policy Board members was almost to be issued. However, he said that the government was very slow on it. He will recapture his position as chairman of Policy Board after the issuance of the notification. The existing chairman of Policy Board, Prof Zaid Islam, told Dawn that he was ready to work in the new setup to play his role for reforms. However, he said that it depended on Prof Bakti as to how he would select members of Policy Board. The new BoCs want to expedite the reforms process because after nine years, the law is yet to get fully implemented. "Yes, and ensure that MTRAs and regulations are followed in letter and spirit," said Prof Bakti. Currently, most of the 10 MTIs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have been operating under the medical and hospital directors, who are working on ad hoc basis. These are very

important positions and enforce the policy of the government through supervision of BoCs. "We are going to start work as soon as possible and make sure that all the high-ranked posts are filled with permanent people," said Prof Bakti. Other members of the newly announced BoCs said that the previous boards had made appointments, promotions, procurements and issued tenders in violation of rules. The health department had banned these BoCs from making policy decisions, which they ignored. All steps taken in contravention of the law would be recognised as null and void, they added. Earlier, the BoC members nominated their chairmen from among themselves and health department issued notification about it last year an amendment was incorporated to MTRAs, 2015, under which the chief minister will appoint the chairmen of the boards. Therefore, the new BoCs will get chairpersons after Eidal Acha holidays. Prof Bakti said that appointment of boards was a government's matter under the law. It was assumed that BoCs of medical teaching hospitals appointed by the caretaker government would be removed soon after PTI assumed powers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but it took more than three months and that too after pressure from the pro-MTRAs group within the ruling party.

Swabi people block road against power cuts

SWABI: People of Swabi and its surrounding areas blocked the Swabi-Mardan Road here to protest excessive electric loadshedding on Saturday. Announcements were made on mosque loudspeakers about the protest, and people from different areas reached Swabi bus stop, where they blocked the road, declaring that they wouldn't end the blockade till concrete assurance from Peshawar Electric Supply Company officials was given that there wouldn't be excessive power outage in harsh summer. They were chanting slogans against PESCO and elected representatives. The protesters didn't allow any vehicle on the road for about one hour. However, later the police officials reached there and assured the protesters that the outage issue would be taken up with the PESCO officials. After that the protesters dispersed peacefully.—Correspondent

Afghan boy dies by suicide in Kohat

By Our Correspondent

KOHAT: A boy died by suicide in the Chamkhal Afghan refugee camp No 2 here on Saturday as his parents said he always played PUBG game on his mobile phone. Police, who reached the scene after receiving information, said that the boy's body was lying in a washroom, where he killed himself with a firearm. The parents said they heard a gunshot from the washroom and rushed towards it and found Saifullah lying in a pool of blood. They added that he always remained busy in playing PUBG on his mobile phone. The Jangalkehel police shifted his body to the KDA Teaching Hospital for postmortem, and

then handed it over to the relatives. The police registered an FIR of the incident. Meanwhile, the body of a transgender individual was recovered from under a bridge in Tragh Bala area here on Saturday. The body was retrieved from a shallow wellish under the East Bala Bridge on the Rawalpindi highway. Rescue 1122 shifted the body to hospital for autopsy. The police said there were no eye-witnesses to record statements about whether he had jumped himself or was murdered by someone. He said that no identification papers had been found on him, and they were spreading news with pictures to lure his friends or relatives. His body had been placed in the morgue.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

"The Nation's Bank", National Bank of Pakistan aims to support the financial well-being of the Nation along with enabling sustainable growth and inclusive development through its wide local and international network of branches. Being one of the leading and largest banks of Pakistan, National Bank of Pakistan is contributing significantly towards socioeconomic growth in the country with an objective to transform the institution into a future-fit, agile and sustainable Bank.

In line with our strategy, the Bank is looking for talented, dedicated and experienced professionals for the following positions in the area of **Information Technology** based in **Karachi**.

The individuals who fulfil the below basic eligibility criteria may apply for the following positions:

| 01 | Position / Job Title | Team Lead – SAP Operations (AVP) |
|----|--|--|
| | Reporting to | Unit Head – SAP Operations |
| | Educational / Professional Qualification | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum Graduation or equivalent from a local or international university / college / institute recognized by the HEC. Candidates having a Master's degree or equivalent and / or relevant certification(s) will be preferred. |
| | Experience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum 04 years of experience in SAP Financial & Operational Support and / or Financial Systems, preferably in banks. |
| | Other Skills / Expertise / Knowledge Required | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expertise in providing operational and technical 1st level support of SAP financial accounting systems. Expertise in analyzing issues of General Ledger (GL) balancing. Ability to check and verify the posting of all financial transaction files in SAP financial generated daily by Core Banking Systems. Expertise in providing support to business end-users. Good analytical skills to identify the root cause of the issues. Good written & verbal communication skills, ability to work independently and within a team. |
| | Outline of Main Duties / Responsibilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To execute daily operational / technical tasks of SAP GLs. To liaise with relevant stakeholders for investigation and rectification of posting errors and ensure timely availability of daily GL abstract to all branches. To provide required reports / data from SAP for the various groups of the Bank. To prepare files to transfer GLs balances (WHT, FED & Others) from branches to Head Office as per defined frequency. To prepare and post files in SAP for GL balancing on the basis of data received from GL balancing team. To maintain profit center / cost center in SAP and transfer of GL balances for branch mergers. To post interest in all branches in Head Office general account used for inter branch transactions. To perform routine tasks related to monthly, quarterly, and yearly closing as per SOPs. To perform any other assignment as assigned by the supervisor(s). |
| 02 | Position / Job Title | IT Service Desk Analyst (OQ-II / OQ-I) |
| | Reporting to | Senior IT Service Desk Analyst |
| | Educational / Professional Qualification | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum Bachelor's degree in IT / Computer Science / Engineering or equivalent from a local or international university / college / institute recognized by the HEC. Candidates having a Master's degree in IT / Computer Science / Engineering or equivalent and / or relevant certification(s) will be preferred. |
| | Experience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum 03 years of experience in IT Service Desk Operations and / or Service Request Management and / or working as an IT Service Desk Agent and / or in a related role, preferably in banks. |
| | Other Skills / Expertise / Knowledge Required | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good understanding and knowledge base of IT Service Management tools. Good analytical, interpersonal, and problem-solving skills. Good communication skills both written and verbal. Ability to understand end-user's expectations in resolving incidents and fulfillment of requests. Desire to work within a cohesive, high-performing, and close-knit team. Passion to learn, grow, succeed, and be challenged. Ability to work under pressure. |
| | Outline of Main Duties / Responsibilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To manage 24/7 service desk operations and implement IT Service Management applications within the organization and its administration. To ensure that the help desk team delivers seamless customer services in managing incident resolution and service request fulfillment. To answer and respond to inbound calls or electronic requests from end-users. To understand the expectations of end-users for incident resolution and service requests to improve end-users' experience. To lead and direct team members to make sure that Service Level Agreements (SLAs) are in place with relevant support teams. To perform initial assessment, research, and resolution of basic incidents and requests regarding the use of application software products and / or infrastructure components. To supervise team for providing first level support through handling of incoming queries and help requests from end-users, either via e-mail or over the phone. To apply skills and expertise to resolve technical incident tickets reported at the service desk as Level 1 support before referring them to the next level and inform end-users about the progress. To overnight teams to ensure that incidents / requests are timely logged and tracked from identification through resolution stages. To follow-up of reported complex incidents to ensure that they are resolved, requests are filed, and customers' communication is complete. To ensure that all necessary information is obtained from end-users for the resolution of incidents or fulfillment of request accurately. To establish relationships with other support teams through frequent constructive communication. To handle customers' issues or requests with a professional attitude. To ensure efficient utilization of IT Service Management tools within service desk operations. To perform any other assignment as assigned by the supervisor(s). |
| | Assessment Test / Interview(s) | Only shortlisted candidates strictly meeting the above-mentioned basic eligibility criteria will be invited for test and / or panel interview(s). |
| | Employment Type | The employment will be on contractual basis, for three years which may be renewed on discretion of the Management. Selected candidates will be offered compensation package and other benefits as per Bank's policy / rules. |

Interested candidates may visit the website www.sidatlyder.com.pk/careers and apply online within 10 working days from the date of publication of this advertisement as per given instructions. Applications received after due date will not be considered in any case. No TA / DA will be admissible for test / interview. National Bank of Pakistan is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications from all qualified individuals, regardless of gender, religion, or disability.

National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS)
MDCAT (NUMS)-2024
(For Admissions in MBBS/BDS Session 2024-25)

1. NUMS being Admitting University will conduct Entry Test for Admission in MBBS/BDS Program Session 2024-25 in its following Constituent, Affiliated and all Military (Armed Forces) Administered Medical and Dental Colleges:-

| Public Sector Medical Colleges | Public Sector Dental Colleges |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Army Medical College, Rawalpindi Bahria University Medical and Dental College, Karachi QAM Institute of Medical Sciences, Bahawalpur Cantt QAM Khuzdar Medical College, Khuzdar Cantt QAM Lahore Medical College and Institute of Dentistry, Lahore Cantt QAM Multan Institute of Medical Sciences, Multan Cantt Pace Medical College, Islamabad Pace Rustam Pasha Medical College, Karachi Foundation University Medical College, Islamabad HITEC Institute of Medical Sciences, Taxila Cantt Kashti Institute of Medical Sciences, Multan Cantt MUST School of Health Sciences, Islamabad Quetta Institute of Medical Sciences, Swabi Cantt Wah Medical College, Wah Cantt | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Armed Forces Army Medical College, Rawalpindi Bahria University Medical and Dental College, Karachi QAM Dental Section, Multan QAM Lahore Medical College and Institute of Dentistry, Lahore Cantt Yousafian University College of Dentistry, Islamabad HITEC Dental College, Taxila Cantt |

2. MDCAT (NUMS) - 2024 shall be held on **Sunday, 01 September 2024**. Subject test is mandatory for admission in all the above mentioned Medical & Dental Colleges.

| Events | Schedule / Fee |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Online Registration for Entry Test Starts | Thursday, 28 June 2024 |
| Online Registration for Entry Test Ends | Wednesday, 10 July 2024 by 1800 hours |
| Online Registration for Entry Test with Late Fee Ends | Wednesday, 17 July 2024 by 1800 hours |
| MDCAT (NUMS) - 2024 Exam | Sunday, 01 September 2024 10:00 AM* |
| Registration Fee for Exam Centres in Pakistan | Rs. 5, 200/- |
| Late Registration Fee for Exam Centres in Pakistan | Rs. 6, 200/- |
| Registration Fee for International Exam Centres | Rs. 21, 000/- |
| Late Registration Fee for International Exam Centres | Rs. 42, 000/- |

Registration fee is Non-Refundable/Non-transferable in any case.
* The test will be conducted simultaneously at all Local Exam Centres; at 10:00 AM PST. Time for test at International Centres will be indicated on the admit card.

3. **Basic Qualification/Eligibility:-**
A. The candidates having valid citizenship of Pakistan /Overseas Pakistanis/Dual Nationals/Foreign Nationals can appear in MDCAT (NUMS) - 2024.
B. FSc/HSSCIA-Levels/12th Grade and result awaiting candidates can apply for MDCAT (NUMS) - 2024.
C. Only MDCAT (NUMS) - 2024 being held on 01 September 2024 will be valid for admission in MBBS/BDS Session 2024-25.

4. **Entry Test Cities/Stations:-**
MDCAT (NUMS) - 2024 will be conducted at following cities/stations (depending upon the viable number of applicants)

| City | Punjab | Sindh | RPK | AJAK | Balochistan | International |
|-----------|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Islamabad | Bahawalpur, DG Khan, Faisalabad, Gajranwala, Khanpur, Lahore, Multan, Okara, Rawalpindi, Sukkur, Tangochah | Hydrabad, Karachi, Pate Aul | Abbottabad, Dera Khan, Peshawar | Muzaffargarh | Quetta | Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) |

5. **Choice of Test Centre:-**
The candidates **MUST** select any two of the above mentioned cities/stations in order of preference for appearance in the Entry Test. However, based upon seating capacity available in a station, the University reserves the right to shift any candidate to another nearest city. The candidates are advised for their own convenience to choose cities nearest to their residence.

6. **Pattern of MDCAT (NUMS) - 2024:-**
A. MDCAT (NUMS) - 2024 shall comprise of two components:-
(1) **PART 'A' (90% weightage)**
(a) Shall consist of 150 'One Best Option Type' Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) with stipulated time of 150 minutes with the following breakdown:
i. Biology - 35%
ii. Physics - 25%
iii. Chemistry - 25%
iv. English - 10%
(2) **PART 'B' Psychological Test (5% weightage)**
(a) Shall consist of 100 'One Best Option Type' Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) with stipulated time of 30 minutes.
B. There shall be **no negative marking**
C. Additional details and guidelines regarding filling of Answer Sheets will be available at www.nums.gov.pk

7. **Syllabus of MDCAT (NUMS) - 2024:-**
The Test is competitive for which the syllabus will be available on NUMS website: www.nums.gov.pk. The candidates are advised to have a broad based study and not restrict themselves to limited syllabi only.

8. **How to apply:-**
Candidates must visit www.nums.gov.pk for details of MDCAT (NUMS) - 2024.

Registrar For more information, visit NUMS at www.nums.gov.pk.
MDCAT (NUMS) help-cell will operate from 08:00 - 10:00 hrs. (Monday to Friday)
Contact No. +92312274812 & +92312274813. Email: numsinfo@numspak.edu.pk

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Business leaders ask govt to revisit harsh budgetary measures

Say meagre tariff cut not enough for economic revival

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: While appreciating Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's decision to cut the electricity rate by Rs200 per unit for the industrial sector, the trade and industry leaders continued to criticise the budgetary measures announced for the fiscal year 2024-25.

Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) President Atif Iqbal Sheikh acknowledged the government's efforts in formulating a comprehensive budget under challenging economic conditions. He, however, said some specific provisions in the Finance Bill 2024 may negatively impact exporters.

In a letter to the PM, the FPCCI chief said the shift from a fixed one per cent withholding income tax to the standard tax regime for exporters introduces complexity that may deter especially small and medium enterprises (SMEs) due to increased bureaucratic engagements with the Federal Board of Revenue.

The proposed withdrawal of sales tax exemptions on local

supplies to registered exporters could destabilise the supply chain, while the introduction of severe non-billable penalties for suspected tax fraud raises concerns over potential mismanagement and deterring investment, he said.

Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) President Ihtisham Ahmed Sheikh said the power tariff cut would at least provide SMEs with breathing space for survival.

He demanded that gas prices be brought to regionally competitive levels, as the prime minister had promised, to help bring down the cost of doing business and the cost of manufacturing to an

international level.

However, he drew the prime minister's attention to K-Electric's 300pc increase in the fixed charges from Rs469 to Rs2,000, which requires the government's immediate intervention; otherwise, the tariff cut relief would fade away.

Karachi Association of Trade and Industry (KATDI) Jobsat Qandhari said the lower tariff would significantly relieve industrialists and exporters. However, he expressed concern that a Rs1 hike in electricity rates by Nepsa diminishes the overall benefit to just Rs5 per unit.

He highlighted that while the government's initial reduction was estimated to provide Rs2000m in relief to the indus-

trial sector, the subsequent Nepsa adjustment has halved this benefit. He urged the government to implement more comprehensive measures to genuinely reduce production costs, enhancing the competitiveness of Pakistani products in global markets.

KCCI President Ihtisham Ahmed Sheikh said the budget appears to have been prepared using the standard IMF template, disregarding both the business community and the working classes of Pakistan. Obviously, the limited fiscal space and debt obligations left little room for the Finance Ministry and FRB to come up with significant relief for trade and industry in particular and the public in general.

He said the tax rate for salaried individuals remains capped at 35pc, whereas non-salaried individuals, non-corporate sector, SMEs and MSMEs will see an increase from 5pc to 25pc. "This introduces a fiscal inequality, as it places a disproportionate tax burden on non-salaried individuals compared to their salaried counterparts", KCCI chief added.

He said the increase in FBR from Rs2 per kg to Rs2 per kg on cement is likely to impact the growth of the construction industry negatively and may lead to higher construction costs, affecting both commercial and residential development.

Elevating the general sales tax from 15pc to 18pc for Tier-I retailers in the textile and leather sectors could exacerbate the misery of struggling industry, particularly as the textile sector has already seen a contraction of 8.1pc. This could lead to a decline in domestic demand and reduce the profitability of both garment and leather industries, he feared.

Mr Ihtisham urged the government to revisit the budgetary measures announced in the Finance Bill and reverse the escalation and certain harmful measures that are likely to negatively impact the business environment, exports, and GDP growth.

Textile exports surge 18pc in May

By Mubarak Zeb Khan

ISLAMABAD: Textile and clothing exports experienced a significant rebound with double-digit growth in May after a slower growth in the previous two months.

According to data compiled by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), exports increased 18 per cent to \$1.55 billion in May, compared to \$1.32 billion in the same month last year. On a month-on-month basis, exports surged 25.9pc.

However, textile and clothing exports posted a paltry growth of 1.41pc to \$15.26bn in 11MFY24 from \$15.02bn last year.

The increase in growth was attributed to the release of the stock orders from previous months. The government has introduced various measures, including increasing the tax rate on exporters' personal income in 2024-25. The impact of these measures will be visible in the coming months.

The PBS data showed exports of readymade garments rose 10pc by value in May and 42.70pc by quantity, while knitwear grew 24.26pc by value and 36.70pc by quantity. Footwear posted a growth of 33.67pc in value and a growth of 45.67pc in quantity.

Textile exports rose 18.18pc in value and 29.50pc in quantity, whereas cotton cloth went down by 1pc in value but rose 23.75pc in quantity, respectively.

Yarn exports fell by over 35.50pc in May over the same month last year. The exports of made-up articles, excluding towels, increased by 32.54pc, and tents, canvas and tarpaulin went up by 10.85pc in May.

The impact of textile machinery declined by 6.04pc in May, indicating that expansion or modernisation projects were not a priority.

The impact of synthetic fibre declined by 5.98pc, and that of synthetic and artificial silk yarn by 2.41pc. However, other textile items increased by 60.50pc during the month. The impact of raw cotton declined by 46.95pc. However, the import of second-hand clothes posted a growth of 11.07pc.

In the first 11 months of FY24, total exports increased by 108.4pc to \$28.12bn this year against \$25.26bn over the same period last year.

Oil imports

PBS data showed that oil imports dipped by 0.24pc during the first 11 months of FY24 to \$15.34bn from \$15.38bn a year ago.

During July-May, the import of petroleum products fell by 11.60pc in value and 4.70pc in quantity. Crude oil imports increased by 17.84pc in quantity while the value increased by 12.04pc.

Mobile phones

Mobile phone imports surged by 213.97pc to \$1.42bn in 11MFY24 from \$516.48m over the same period last year, representing the largest share of overall machinery import value in the first 11 months of FY24. Other mobile apparatus grew 23.97pc to \$426.19m in 11MFY24 from \$343.79m last year.

PSX hits new peak

KARACHI: Spectacular post-budget rallies helped the benchmark index reach a new peak above the 76,000 level in the outgoing week, ending the seven-session downturn amid fears of high taxes on equity investments.

Arif Habib Ltd (AHL) said that despite a 150-basis-point cut in the SRP policy rate to 20.5 per cent announced on the first day of the week, the market remained jittery due to concerns over a significant increase in taxes on capital gains and dividends.

As the week progressed, market sentiment turned positive when it was revealed that the budgetary proposals for 2024-25 included a lower-than-expected increase in the capital gains tax (CGT) while maintaining the dividend tax.

This change spurred bullish activity, leading to a record day-on-day increase of 1,481 points in the index on Thursday. Consequently, the market reached an all-time intraday high of 77,130 points on Friday.

Additionally, the government raised Rs1,200bn in T-bill auction against a target of \$270bn. However, the cut-off yield on three-month tenor was cut by 85bps, 60bps for six-month and 115bps for 12-month papers.

The State Bank of Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves declined marginally by \$6.2m or 0.02pc to \$9.1bn in the week ending on June 7.

As a result, the KSE-100 index settled at 76,706.77 points after surging by 2,953 points or 4pc week-on-week.

Foreign selling was witnessed during the week, clocking in at \$6.8m compared to a net buy of \$4.4m last week. Significant selling was seen in exploration and production (\$2.7m) and 'all other sectors' (\$3.8m). On the local front, buying was reported by mutual funds (\$1.1m), followed by companies (\$7.9m).

The average trading volume fell 3.1pc to 410m shares, while the average value traded settled down 1.7pc to \$4.6m week-on-week.

With Fitch Aaa falling on June 17, the market will be open for only two days next week, resulting in lower activity.

According to AHL, despite the shortened trading period, investors will be closely monitoring developments related to the new IMF programme.

Mobile tax hike may hinder digital future, warns GSMA

By Kaiba Ali

ISLAMABAD: Julian Gorman, head of Asia Pacific at GSMA, has expressed concerns that Pakistan's recent increase in taxes on mobile phone manufacturing could jeopardise the GSMA's Smartphone for All initiative.

Talking to the media, Mr Gorman highlighted that mobile phone penetration in Pakistan is currently at 40 per cent, a figure that should exceed 70pc given the country's substantial youth population. He noted that less than 50pc of mobile users in Pakistan own smart phones, limiting access to fintech and other essential digital services.

The GSMA has said that Pakistan lacks a vision and direction for digitalisation, which is necessary to achieve the targets of the Digital Pakistan initiative.

Mr Gorman also announced the third GSMA Digital Nation Summit, which will take place in Islamabad in August 2024. This event, the first in Pakistan, will gather stakeholders, including investors, innovators, and regulatory authorities from various countries, to discuss the path towards digital transformation.

"Pakistan has the potential to become a knowledge-based economy where innovation and technology drive economic growth and enhance governance," he said but stressed the need to implement all the regulatory actions taken in this regard.

"It has been observed that in Pakistan, various authorities compete to restrict digitalisation instead of complementing each other," Mr Gorman added.

He said it had been estimated that mobile phones' total economic impact on Pakistan's economy reached more than \$20 billion in 2021. Still, the Average Revenue Per User (ARPU) was less than \$1, which will discourage new investors from entering the Pakistani markets. "Besides, heavy taxation has discouraged investors and innovators from entering Pakistan's market," Mr Gorman said.

"However, the government apparatus and the essential services are not up to the digit of potential available in the country."

SLIC, Daman Investments sign partnership deal

DUBAI: The State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan (SLIC) entered into a strategic partnership with Daman Investments (DI) Dubai, said a press release on Saturday.

During the event, SLIC CEO Shoaib Javed Hussain said, "State Life

Rice exporters reject hybrid taxation

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The chief of Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP) has criticised the government over a budget proposal to convert export trade from Final Tax Regime (FTR) to a hybrid model of National Tax Regime (NTR) and Maritime Tax Regime (MTR) as this combination would prove disastrous for export business.

The government seems to be pleading with international institutions to lend foreign exchange, but at the same time it is pushing the export sector to the brink of closure, Chula Ram

Kowhani told a press conference at the Karachi Press Club (KPC) on Saturday.

The government has proposed a shift from one per cent turnover-based FTR to a standard taxation at 25 per cent of taxable profit. It has also suggested NTR plus 10pc Super Tax with minimum one per cent profit.

This 30pc tax on the profit of exporters would create a disastrous impact on export trade. He said it was "regrettable that FTR has been empowered" to audit the exporters' books of accounts and to assess their profits and losses. This would encourage corruption and harassment, Mr Kowhani said.

He said the tax rate for salaried individuals remains capped at 35pc, whereas non-salaried individuals, non-corporate sector, SMEs and MSMEs will see an increase from 5pc to 25pc. "This introduces a fiscal inequality, as it places a disproportionate tax burden on non-salaried individuals compared to their salaried counterparts", KCCI chief added.

Formula milk industry urges govt to impose 18pc GST in phases

By Azam Shadhat Khan

KARACHI: After a Rs20 per litre hike in the price of loose milk, the cost of locally produced infant formula and fortified nutrition milk is also expected to rise following the imposition of 18 per cent general sales tax (GST).

In his launch speech on Wednesday, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb proposed the commodity to be removed from the list of availed products which are not taxed.

Meanwhile, industry representatives have expressed apprehension that the standard 18pc tax status will have severe implications for businesses and cause significant damage.

Waqar Ahmed Sheikh, an industry representative, said locally produced infant formula and children's fortified nutrition milk have different prices.

He estimated that the price of a one-litre container of tetra-pack milk would rise from Rs 300 to Rs 350-360 after the imposition of GST.

Impact of 25pc taxes

Mr Sheikh explained that 4pc sales tax is charged on the products, while 2.5pc new advance income tax would be applied on retailers not registered with the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

Since 75pc of the traders were not registered and unwilling to comply with the FBR guidelines, consumers will have to bear the cost of this "shadow" tax of approximately 25pc.

This would greatly impact businesses' annual turnover and profitability, leading to a shutdown of operations, he added.

Local manufacturers have requested the federal government to phase out the GST imposition in three stages, starting from 5pc in the first year, followed by 10pc in the



STAKEHOLDERS say 18pc cumulative taxes on infant formula will further burden masses already reeling from high inflation.—Reutersfile

second year and the remaining 1pc in the third year.

Mr Sheikh added that Pakistan is facing a crisis of malnutrition, and under-five mortality rate was 137 for every 1,000 births. "This is very high by international standards."

According to the National Nutrition Survey, 40pc of children in Pakistan are underweight and over half of the children are affected by stunting, he claimed.

Mr Sheikh added that he also highlighted the issue in the meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue, which is currently deliberating on budget proposals.

Senator Raheem Maroofzai, the committee chairman, suggested the FBR head, who was also present in the meeting, to review the imposition of 18pc GST.

He said the GST on locally produced infant nutrition and children-fortified milk should be implemented gradually.

This phased approach to the GST will balance the impact on industry and consumers while generating revenue for the government.

He emphasised the importance of low GST for supporting child nutrition milk to address the issue of malnutrition.

LCCI asks govt to cut expenditures

LABORE: The Labour Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) on Saturday said that laws should be made for those who are not in the tax net rather than for those who are already paying their taxes.

While emphasising the need for expanding the tax base, LCCI President Kashif Arwar pointed out that his organisation had always supported efforts for broadening

the tax net. However, he stressed, the government must reduce its expenditures.

"The government must review the agreements made with the IPPs and bring all sectors, including agriculture, into the tax net," said Mr Arwar while speaking at a post-budget seminar. He also suggested that the facilities provided to the public representatives in assemblies should be discontinued.

The LCCI chief stated that they were not against imposition of taxes on exporters but opposed changing the decades-old tax regime on exports overnight. He mentioned that previously exporters were subjected to a 1 per cent final tax on turnover, which has now been included in the normal tax regime, affecting exports.—Staff Reporter

Contrary to this, "it has come to our notice that Ogra, in total disregard to the Product Review Meeting decision, has allowed GO to import 15,000 tonnes of HSD on the pretext of stock building/hoarding during the current month, which is most disappointing", the letter said.

The chief executives of these refineries said they were already struggling with the free flow of smuggled products, and carrying huge inventories of HSD, which have once again been punished with unauthorised imports in the country. "Kindly appreciate that GO preferred to import HSD instead of utilising the same from the local refineries without any valid reason."

It said Ogra's permission for import may have been valid had any of the refineries unwilling to cater to the needs of GO or any other OMC. "Yet imports over local availability were preferred by Ogra despite the decision taken earlier".

The refineries also challenged Ogra's view regarding offering competitive commercial terms to OMCs to be able to reap the benefit of Rule 35(g) of Pakistan Oil Refining, Blending, Transportation, Storage, and Marketing Rules 2016.

"Unfortunately, linking the enforceability of Rule 35(g) to any commercial arrangement as envisaged by Ogra defeats the essence and purpose of the said rule and gives a blanket approval for imports to any OMCs at the cost of country's precious foreign exchange thus compromising on country's energy security".

The refineries claimed that it was essential to ensure upgradation of local refinery product before allowing any petrol or HSD imports as clearly envisaged under Rule

35(g) of Pakistan Oil Refining, Blending, Transportation, Storage, and Marketing Rules 2016.

The refineries demanded the Ogra to revisit its decision for allowing imports of HSD to GO and direct the OMCs, including GO, to first ensure upgradation of their required PDI product committed quantities from refineries before seeking import permission keeping in view the volatile market conditions and available stocks of petrol and HSD with the Refineries.

An Ogra spokesperson said, "Local production of petrol and diesel is insufficient to cater for the local consumption. Therefore, OMCs are allowed to import both products in Pakistan. The import planning is primarily done in the product review meeting that happens one month before the planning month."

Refineries protest against move to allow diesel import

By Khaleeq Kiari

ISLAMABAD: All five oil refineries have formally lodged protests with the government and the Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) for allowing the import of high-speed diesel (HSD).

The refineries said the move violated the decisions of the Product Review Meeting—a forum comprising the government, Ogra, and the oil industry—which required the procurement of products from local refineries before any imports.

In a joint letter to the Ogra chairman, minister, and secretary of the Petroleum Division, the five refineries—Attock, Parco, National, Pakistan Refinery, and Cymergen—said they had formally expressed concerns regarding challenges in

product off-take, directly resulting from the failure of oil marketing companies (OMCs) to utilize the committed quantities of HSD and petrol, especially during the past two months.

They had also requested Ogra to direct OMCs to utilize the committed quantities of PDI product from refineries, which are essential for smooth refineries' operations, and only the actual deficit volumes to be imported.

It was in this context that Gas & Oil Pakistan's (GOP) request for the import of 15,000 tonnes of HSD during June was opposed given the availability of excessive HSD stocks with refineries and "was not allowed as it is also evident from the import plan of HSD finalised and shared through Product Review Meeting issued by Ogra" on June 11.

Contrary to this, "it has come to our notice that Ogra, in total disregard to the Product Review Meeting decision, has allowed GO to import 15,000 tonnes of HSD on the pretext of stock building/hoarding during the current month, which is most disappointing", the letter said.

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Downloaded from www.pakistan-newspaper-pdf.com

Modi gov't signals prosecution of Arundhati in old Kashmir case

By Our Correspondent

NEW DELHI: Delhi Lieutenant Governor V. K. Saxena on Friday sanctioned the prosecution of novelist Arundhati Roy for allegedly making provocative statements at a 2010 event propagating Kashmir's separation from India.

The order cited Section 13 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), the Hindu newspaper said. It also had already sanctioned prosecution under several sections of the Indian Penal Code last year.

The lieutenant governor (L-G) also sanctioned the prosecution under UAPA of Sheikh Shawkat Hussain, a former professor at the Central University of Kashmir, for his alleged statements at the same event — a conference organised in New Delhi in 2010 under the banner of "Azadi — The Only Way".

A legal number of public intellectuals have been languishing in prison over several years without trial under the draconian law.

Section 13 of the UAPA deals with advocating, abetting or inciting any unlawful activity and is

penalised with imprisonment for up to seven years.

The FIR against Ma Roy and Dr Hussain was registered in Oct 2010, on the basis of a complaint by Sudul Pandit, following orders by the Court of the Metropolitan Magistrate, New Delhi. The other two accused in the case — Sayed Ali Shah Goolani, an anti-India Kashmiri leader, and Naved Akhbar Rahman Goolani, a Delhi University lecturer — have both died over the course of the proceedings.

Last October, the L-G had granted sanction to prosecute the accused under Section 196 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for allegedly committing offences punishable under different Sections of the IPC, including 124-A (provocative statements), 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony), 153-B (incitement), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace), and 505 (statements abetting public mischief).

Kenyan magistrate shot by police officer in court dies

NAIROBI: A magistrate in Kericho who was shot by a police officer as she presided over a court session has died, the country's chief justice, Martha Koome, announced on Saturday.

Maria Kiroti, a magistrate at the Makadara Law Courts in Nairobi, was shot on Thursday after rejecting a bail request for the police officer's wife. The assailant was in turn shot and killed by other police officers.

In a post on the X social media platform, Koome said Kiroti had succumbed to her injuries.

"Maria Kiroti, Principal Magistrate, Makadara Law Courts, has lost the fight against the extensive injuries sustained during an open gun attack in court," Koome said. "The judiciary family mourns in solidarity during this deeply traumatic time and calls for sensitivity and compassion as we share in grief." —Reuters



PARIS: Demonstrators take part in an anti far-right rally on Saturday after the French president called legislative elections following far-right parties' significant gains in European Parliament elections last week. —AFP

Thousands take to streets in France against assertive far right

PARIS: Thousands marched in Paris and cities across France on Saturday to protest against the far-right National Rally (RN) ahead of upcoming elections to the French parliament.

Following the RN's surge in last Sunday's European elections, police said 350,000 people were expected to march and 21,000 officers had been mobilised after labour unions, student groups and rights groups called for rallies to oppose the anti-immigration, eurosceptic party. At least 150 marches were expected in cities including Marseille, Toulouse, Lyon and Lille. In Paris, where police said 75,000 people turned out, a march set off at 1200 GMT from Place de la Republique, in the east, going through the Bastille square to Nation.

According to the CGT union, cited by BFM TV, 250,000 marched in Paris and 640,000 in total across the country. Police said they had arrested seven people in Paris. The police said there had been 17,000 demonstrators across France.

Speaking at Place de la Republique, hard-left CGT union leader Sophie Binot told reporters: "We are marching because we are extremely worried that (the RN's head) Jordan Bardella could become the next Prime Minister... We want to prevent this disaster."

Carol Ann Justin, a 22-year-old student taking part in the Paris march, said it was the first time she had taken part in a protest.

Hollande surprise candidate

Former French Socialist president Francois Hollande on Saturday said he is standing again for parliament in legislative elections — a political comeback that took even his allies on the left by surprise.

Hollande, France's president from 2012-2017, left office with record levels of unpopularity and is detested by some within the radical left while even the Socialist leadership regard him with suspicion. But he has had a relatively high media profile in the weeks leading up to President Emmanuel Macron's dramatic calling of snap elections to combat the rise of the far right. —Agencies

South African foes unite in uneasy coalition

JOHANNESBURG: For the first time since Nelson Mandela negotiated an end to white minority rule, former sworn enemies are coming together in South Africa under a pledge to overcome ideological differences for the good of the nation.

President Cyril Ramaphosa has said the seismic political shift is a response to voters' demands for solutions to deepening woes — from sky-high unemployment and economic turmoil to corruption and failing infrastructure.

But the prospect of the African National Congress — the liberation movement that freed the country from apartheid — governing alongside the white-led Democratic Alliance (DA), does not sit well with many Black South Africans.

"The ANC is siding with the enemy of progress," said 25-year-old ANC voter Nathi Mbitshwa, who swears his party risked compromising its values in a partnership with the DA.

In a disastrous showing in elections last month, angry voters dismantled the ANC's 30-year-old majority. With little choice but to share power, Ramaphosa announced he would form a government of national unity open to parties across South Africa's

diverse political landscape.

But the electoral maths dictated the ANC would need to bring in at least one of its biggest rivals — the business-friendly DA, the radical left Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) or populist uMkhonto we Sizwe. The latter two refused to participate in a government that included the DA.

Following Ramaphosa's re-election by lawmakers on Friday, EFF leader Julius Malema said his allotted time for congratulations is instead spent on the tie-up with the DA.

"History will judge you and judge you harshly," he said. "This is not a government of national unity. This is a grand coalition between the ANC and white monopoly capital." The DA, which wants to abolish some ANC Black empowerment policies, rejects any accusations it represents the country's wealthy whites, saying its economic reforms would benefit all South Africans.

For the love of the people

After three decades working to break the ANC's unchallenged grip on power, the DA — South Africa's second largest party — emerged from the coalition talks in triumphant mood.

"The DA takes this historic step forward out of our deep and abiding love for the people of this country," its leader John Steenhuisen said in a televised address, pledging to scale up the successes it recorded in its strongholds.

In contrast to the rest of the country, Western Cape province, which the DA has controlled since 2009, has done measurably better, with lower unemployment, less severe power cuts and higher investment. Convincing sceptics, however, won't be easy.

In a country with a painful racial history where white South Africans make up just 7 per cent of the population, the DA has struggled to prove it reflects the aspirations of all. The predominantly white composition of its national leadership has not helped.

"The inclusivity quotient of the DA leader is the least significant aspect of this historic agreement," Helen Zille, one senior DA official, wrote on X on Friday, criticising a focus by international media on Steenhuisen's race. But the DA's free-market, small government ideology also worries many in South Africa, where 24 million — more than a third of the population — survive off welfare. —Reuters

US court allows sale of conspiracy theorist's assets

HOUSTON: A US judge on Friday approved the liquidation of conspiracy theorist Alex Jones' personal assets, setting the stage for the repayment of a fraction of the nearly \$1.5 billion in damages he owes families whose loved ones were killed in a school shooting.

But the bankruptcy judge in Houston spared Jones from liquidating the parent company of his far-right website InfoWars — long notorious for peddling misinformation — in a reprieve that will allow it to remain in business.

The serial provocateur had been ordered to pay the damages for calling a 2012 mass shooting at Sandy Hook elementary school in the state of Connecticut — which left 20 first graders and six adults dead — a "hoax." But Jones subsequently declared personal bankruptcy in Texas, his home state, in 2022, saying his liabilities far exceeded his private assets that the latest court filings show are worth around \$9 million. —AFP

New rules allow detention of foreigners in South China Sea

SHANGHAI: New Chinese coast guard rules took effect on Saturday, under which it can detain foreigners for trespassing in the disputed South China Sea, where neighbours and the US have accused Beijing of intimidation and coercion.

Beijing claims almost the entirety of the South China Sea, brushing aside competing claims from several Southeast Asian nations including the Philippines and an international ruling that its status has no legal basis.

China deploys coast guard and other boats to patrol the waters and has turned several reefs into militarised artificial islands. Chinese and Philippine vessels have had a series of confrontations in disputed areas.

From Saturday, China's coast guard can detain foreigners "suspected of violating management of border entry and exit", according to the new regulations published online. Detention is allowed up to 60 days in "complicated cases", they say.

"Foreign ships that have illegally entered China's territorial waters and the adjacent waters may be detained," Manila has accused the Chinese coast guard of "barbaric and inhumane behaviour" against

Philippine vessels, and President Ferdinand Marcos last month called the new rules a "very serious" escalation.

China Coast Guard vessels have used water cannons against Philippine boats multiple times in the contested waters. There have also been collisions that injured Philippine troops.

Philippine military chief General Romeo Braganza told reporters on Friday that authorities in Manila were "discussing a number of steps to be undertaken in order for us to protect our fishermen".

Philippine fishermen were told

"not to be afraid, but just to go ahead with their normal activities to fish there in our Exclusive Economic Zone", Braganza said.

The Group of Seven bloc on Friday criticised what it called "dangerous" incursions by China in the waterway. "We oppose China's militarisation, and coercive and intimidation activities in the South China Sea," read a G7 statement at the end of a summit on Friday.

G7 criticism

The South China Sea is a vital waterway, where Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei also have overlapping

claims in some parts. Most recently, however, confrontations between China and the Philippines have raised fears of a wider conflict over the sea that could involve the United States and other allies.

Tribbons of dollars in disputed trade passes through the South China Sea annually, and huge oil and gas deposits are believed to lie under its seabed, though estimates vary greatly. The sea is also important as a source of fish for growing populations.

China has defended its new coast guard rules. A foreign ministry spokesman said last month that

they were intended to "better uphold order at sea". And the Chinese defence ministry warned this month that there were "limits" to Beijing's restraint in the South China Sea.

China has also been angered in the past by US and other Western warships sailing through the South China Sea. The US Navy and others undertake such voyages to assert the freedom of navigation in international waters, but Beijing accuses them of violations of its sovereignty. Chinese and US forces have had a series of close encounters in the South China Sea. —AFP



DENPASAR: Women carrying offerings perform during a parade at an art festival on Indonesia's resort island of Bali, on Saturday. —AFP



QAMISHLI: A man examines a sheep at a livestock market ahead of Eidul Adha in Syria's predominantly Kurdish Hasakah province, on Saturday. —AFP

NEWSMAKERS

Princess of Wales makes first public appearance since cancer diagnosis

LONDON: Catherine, Princess of Wales, on Saturday tentatively returned to UK public life for the first time since being diagnosed with cancer, attending a military parade in London to mark King Charles III's official birthday.

Kate, as she is widely known, travelled in a state carriage alongside her three children at the outset of the annual event before watching the ceremonial proceedings from a viewing point.

The 42-year-old future queen then appeared on the Buckingham Palace balcony, to cheers from the crowds below who had braved torrential rain to turn out for the pageantry.

It comes nearly three months after the princess revealed she was receiving chemotherapy treatment. She had not been seen at a public engagement since a Christmas Day service last year.

In a Friday evening statement Kate said she was "making good progress" with her treatment, which is set to last for several more months, but was "not out of the woods yet". "I'm looking forward to attending the King's Birthday Parade this weekend with my family and hope to join a few public engagements over the summer," the princess added.

Kate's cancer announcement came just weeks after it was disclosed that her father-in-law and British head of state Charles had also been diagnosed with the condition. Neither has revealed what type of cancer they have.

Charles, 75, was given the green light to resume public duties in April, after doctors said they were "very encouraged" by his progress. His first engagement was meeting staff and patients at a London cancer treatment centre. Earlier this month, he attended commemorative events in northern France for the 80th anniversary of D-Day.

However, unlike previous years when he inspected troops on horseback at Trooping the Colour, Charles participated this year from a carriage, in full military



PRINCESS Catherine arrives with Princess Charlotte and Prince George at "Trooping the Colour" ceremony. —AFP

regalia alongside Queen Camilla. His elder son and heir William, 41, rode on horseback, also in military uniform. Kate, wearing a white dress and hat, was seen arriving by car at the palace with William and their children — Prince George, aged 10, Princess Charlotte, nine, and six-year-old Prince Louis — ahead of the parade.

Proceedings then culminated several hours later in a flypast by the Royal Air Force, featuring various aircraft including its aerobatic Red Arrows display team trailing red, white and blue vapours. —AFP



BRATISLAVA (Slovakia): Outgoing Slovak President Zuzana Caputova (right) and Ivan Ficsan (second right), who heads the country's constitutional court, took on as president-elect Peter Pellegrini (left) takes oath, on Saturday. Peter Pellegrini won the presidential election in the EU and Nato member of 5.4 million people in April, after divisions over the Ukraine war dominated the vote. —AFP



IVYTLANA Bilous, a 34-year-old civic activist and the wife of a Ukrainian soldier missing in action, shows a picture of her wedding rings on a mobile phone. —Reuters

Haj sermon

Continued from Page 1

model for every Muslim. "O Allah, forgive Muslim men and women, and protect them from all evil. Preserve for them their religion, their safety, their lives, their wealth, their minds, and their honour," he said in soul-stirring words.

Earlier, more than 1.5 million Muslims traveled extreme heat to reach Mount Arafat for the high point of Haj, praying for hours, especially for Palestinians in Gaza.

Clad in white, worshippers began arriving at dawn for the most grueling day of the rites, ascending the rocky, 70-metre hill where the Holy Prophet (PBUH) gave his last sermon.

"Most important day"

"This is the most important day," said 46-year-old Egyptian Mohammed Assou, who came prepared with a list of prayers. "I pray also for the Palestinians. May God help them."

This year's Haj unfolded in the shadow of the conflict in Gaza, where Israel's military offensive has killed 17,266 Palestinians since Oct 7.

Saudi Arabia's minister in charge of religious affairs, Tawfiq Al Rabiah, warned last week that "no political activity" would be tolerated during the Haj.

But that did not stop at least one pilgrim from chanting in support of the Palestinians who have endured more than eight months of incessant bombardment.

"Pray for our brothers in Palestine, in Gaza... may God give victory to Muslims," he shouted.

In a message to Haj pilgrims, Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said "the inviolable resistance of Palestine and the patient, oppressed people of Gaza... must be fully supported in every way".

Some 2,000 Palestinians are performing the Haj at the special invitation of Saudi King Salman, official media said.

"Scary" heat

The Haj, one of the world's biggest religious gatherings, is increasingly affected by climate change, according to a Saudi study published last month that said regional temperatures were rising 0.4 degrees Celsius every decade.

The rites, which take five days to complete and are mostly outdoors, are "not easy because it is very hot", said Abraham Hama, 26, from Ghana.

"We have sun... but it is not as hot. But I will pray to Allah at Arafat, because I need His support," she added.

The temperature hit 43 degrees Celsius on Saturday, creating challenges for pilgrims who arrived at Mount Arafat after spending the night in a giant tented city in Mina, a valley outside Makkah.

Saudi authorities urged pilgrims to drink plenty of water and protect themselves from the sun. Sixty men are prohibited from wearing hats, many carry umbrellas.

Muhammad, an Algerian pilgrim, clung to his umbrella which was handed out by Haj organisers, saying, "It's what saves you here."

Another man, an Egyptian who preferred to remain anonymous, said he was drinking "a lot of juice and water" and had twice stopped to rest on the roadside.

More than 10,000 heat-related illnesses were recorded last year, 10 per cent of them heat stroke.

After sunset, the pilgrims left Arafat for Muzdalifah, where they will end their golden to carry out the "staring of the devil" ritual in Mina on Sunday.—Agencies



MADRID: People lie on the ground during a protest by the Freedom for Palestine Platform in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza, on Saturday.—Reuters

US sub, Canadian ship arrive in Cuba on heels of Russian warships

HAVANA: A Canadian navy patrol ship sailed into Havana on Friday, just hours after the United States announced a fast-attack submarine had docked at its Guantanamo naval base in Cuba, both vessels on the heels of Russian warships that arrived on the island earlier this week.

The conference of Russian, Canadian and US vessels in Cuba — a Commonwealth island nation just 145 km south of Florida — was a reminder of old Cold War tensions and fraught ties between Russia and Western

nations over the Ukraine war.

However, both the US and Cuba have said the Russian warships pose no threat to the region. Russia has also characterized the arrival of its warships in allied Cuba as routine.

The Admiral Gorshkov frigate and the nuclear-powered submarine Krasn, half submerged with its crew on deck, sailed into Havana harbor on Wednesday after conducting "high-precision missile weapons" training in the Atlantic Ocean, Russia's defence ministry said.

Canada's Margaret Brooke patrol vessel began maneuvers early on Friday to enter Havana harbor, part of what the Canadian Joint Operations Command called "a port visit" — in recognition of the long-standing bilateral relationship between Canada and Cuba. Hours earlier, the US Southern Command said the fast-attack submarine Helms had arrived on a routine port visit to Guantanamo Bay, a US naval base on the tip of the island around 850 km southeast of Havana.

"The vessel's location and transit were previously planned," Southern Command said on X. Cuba's foreign ministry said it had been informed of the arrival of the US submarine but was not happy about it.

"Naval visits to a country are usually the result of an invitation, and this was not the case," said Vice Foreign Minister Carlos Fernández de Cossío. "Obviously we do not like the presence in our territory (of a submarine) belonging to a power that maintains an official and practical policy that is hostile against Cuba." A Canadian diplomat char-

acterized the Margaret Brooke's arrival as "routine and part of long-standing cooperation between our two countries", adding it was "unrelated to the presence of the Russian ships."

Russia and Cuba were close allies under the former Soviet Union, and tensions with Washington over communism in its "backyard" peaked with the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. Moscow has maintained ties with Havana.

When asked what message Moscow was sending, Russian Foreign Ministry

spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Thursday the West never appeared to take notice when Russia sent signals through diplomatic channels.

"As soon as it comes to exercises or sea voyages, we immediately bear operations and a desire to know what these messages are about," Zakharova said. "Why do only signals related only to our army and navy reach the West?" The Russian warships are expected to remain in Havana harbor until Monday.—Reuters

Climber's body found

Continued from Page 1

they are searching for the other climber," he said while referring to Atsushi Taguchi, who couldn't be located.

The deputy commissioner said that the rescue operation had been suspended, and the team returned to base camp on Saturday evening.

Earlier in the day, the team descended 300 metres deep in a crevice to rescue the missing climbers where they were feared to have fallen.

It has not been decided yet to bring down the body from the peak, Mr Falahi said, adding that the decision will be made after consultation with the family and Japanese embassy officials.

"Rescue teams are doing everything possible to support the search operation and ensure a swift and safe conclusion," said a spokesperson for the Shigeru IC's office.

"We understand the difficulty of the situation and are working closely with the Japanese authorities to ensure a successful outcome."

The Japanese Embassy in Islamabad and consulate in Karachi have been informed of the developments and Pakistani authorities are working closely with them to ensure a swift and safe conclusion to the search operation, according to the Shigeru IC.

Makhsam Karim, the CEO of Adventure Tours Pakistan, who was the training climber's tour operator, confirmed that one body had been found.

The climber apparently slipped from a slope and fell down 300 metres in a crevice, Mr Karim said and added that survival in such conditions was very difficult.

The two mountaineers were climbing the peak in Alpine style — without porters — and had reached Camp 2, situated at an altitude of 5,300m, on Monday.

When another seven-member Japanese expedition team reached the camp the next day, they were not there.

Ground rescuers were unable to trace them in an initial attempt on Wednesday, however, they were located by Pakistan Army helicopters on Thursday during an aerial search operation.

Earlier, DC Falahi said due to the challenging terrain and weather conditions, the helicopters were unable to land or hover in the area to rescue them.

A ground team comprising four Japanese and six local high-altitude mountaineers started the operation from the ground on Friday morning.

Singapore oil slick closes beaches on resort island

SINGAPORE: Beaches on Singapore's Sentosa island were closed on Saturday after an oil spill spread from a nearby shipping terminal to the tourist haven south of the city-state.

An advisory on the Sentosa website said the waters of Tanjung, Palawan and Siloso beaches were closed for cleaning and swimming and sea activities were not allowed.

The oil spill had spread from Pasir Panjang Terminal, less than 10 km (six miles) from the island popular with tourists and locals, after a Netherlands-flagged dredger struck a stationary Singapore-flagged tanker vessel on Friday afternoon.—Agencies

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MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY
(PROCUREMENT & CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION SECTION)

CORRIGENDUM-IV
TENDER NO. 2(542)

PROPOSALS FOR PREQUALIFICATION
QUALIFICATION OF KARAR - WADH SECTION (83-KM) & KUCHLAK - CHAMAN SECTION (104-KM) OF NATIONAL HIGHWAY (N-25) (LENGTH: 187-KM)

Reference:
1. PQ Notice for the subject Project Published in National Dailies on April 25, 2024 vide PIDs No. PID(5) 4437/23 and also uploaded on NHA website as well PPR website vide PPR No. T5538018E
2. Corrigendum-I Notice for the subject Project Published in National Dailies on May 05, 2024 vide PIDs No. PID(5) 6675/23 and also uploaded on NHA website as well PPR website vide PPR No. T5538018E
3. Corrigendum-II Notice for the subject Project Published in National Dailies on May 19, 2024 vide PIDs No. PID(5) 7084/23 and also uploaded on NHA website as well PPR website vide PPR No. T5538018E
4. Corrigendum-III Notice for the subject Project Published in National Dailies on June 02, 2024 vide PIDs No. PID(5) 7478/23 and also uploaded on NHA website as well PPR website vide PPR No. T5538018E

1. With Reference to the above referred PQ Notice, Corrigendum-I, Corrigendum-II & Corrigendum-III notices, it is to inform to all concerned that Deadline for the submission of Prequalification Proposals/Applications is hereby extended up to July 16, 2024, until 1400 hours. Proposals will be opened at 1430 Hours on the same day.
2. All other terms and conditions shall remain the same.
3. This Corrigendum-IV Notice is also available on PPR website at www.ppr.org.pk.

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Invitation for Bids (IFB)
Tender for Hiring of Consultant for ICFR

HBFC invites sealed bids from well reputed firms for implementation and updating of internal control over financial statements as required by State Bank of Pakistan.

Bids will be evaluated separately in terms of Rule 36 (b) of Public Procurement Rules-2004 i.e., "Single stage-two envelope procedure". Bidding documents containing detailed Scope of Work and Selection Criteria etc. can be downloaded Free of Cost from HBFC website i.e., www.hbfc.com.pk. This IFB is also available at PPR website www.ppr.org.pk.

Bids prepared in accordance with the instructions in the bidding documents must reach at address given below on or before July 09, 2024 at 11:00 am. Technical Proposals will be opened on same day at 11:30 am in the presence of bidders, representatives (who choose to attend) at the address given below. Bidders will be required to submit 02% Bid Security along with their bid in shape of Pay Order / Demand Draft in favor of HBFC. Later / incomplete / conditional bids will not be entertained.

HBFC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids in accordance with relevant clause of Public Procurement Rules (PPR-2004).

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Eight Israeli soldiers dead in ambush as strikes pound Gaza

• 19 Palestinians killed as fears of broader ME conflict grow
• Islamic Jihad links prisoners' release to troops' withdrawal

JERUSALEM Eight Israeli soldiers were killed in the southern Gaza Strip on Saturday, the military said, as forces continued to push in and around the southern city of Rafah and strikes hit several areas of Gaza, killing at least 19 Palestinians.

Earlier, the armed wing of Hamas said fighters had ambushed an armoured personnel carrier, killing and wounding a number of Israeli soldiers, in the west of Rafah, where Israeli forces have been advancing for weeks.



RELATIVES carry a picture of Batty Saadi during her funeral in Deir Karoun. She was killed in an Israeli strike on the Lebanese village of Jannata, on Friday.—AFP

Israeli tanks advanced in Tel Al-Sultan and shells landed in the coastal area, where thousands of Palestinians, many of them displaced several times already, have sought refuge.

In Israeli air strikes on two houses in Gaza City suburbs, residents said at least 15 people were killed. Four others were killed in separate attacks in the north, media said.

The Israeli military on Saturday said its forces in Rafah, the southernmost city in Gaza, close to the border with Egypt, had captured large quantities of weapons, both above ground and concealed in the extensive tunnel network both by Hamas.

The Islamic Jihad armed wing, Al-Quds Brigades, said on Saturday Israel could only regain its prisoners in Gaza if it ended the war and pulled out forces from the enclave. A spokesman for Al-Quds

Brigades made the remarks in a video posted on Telegram.

Broader ME conflict

Since the war began after Hamas's unprecedented Oct 7 attack, Israeli forces have killed at least 37,266 people in Gaza, mostly civilians.

The influx from the war brought a resurgence of tensions to the Lebanon border and Yemen. Fears of a broader Middle East conflict have surged again, with Lebanon-based Hezbollah fighters, who are backed by Iran and allied with Hamas, launching waves of rockets and drones against Israeli military targets.

Hezbollah said it was on strike since Wednesday over retaliation for Israel's killing of one of its commanders.

Israeli forces responded

with shelling, the military said, also announcing air strikes on Hezbollah infrastructure across the border.

Two women were killed in a strike on Jannata in southern Lebanon, village official Hassan Sheer said, the latest deaths in near-daily exchanges of fire between Hezbollah and the Israeli military since the Gaza war began. On Friday planes of media still followed over the village.

World Food Programme deputy executive director Carl Sauer said that "with landmines inside the Strip, and active conflict", it has become "close to impossible to deliver the level of aid that meets the growing demands on the ground".

"More than anything, people want this war to end," he said after a two-day visit to Gaza.—Agencies

Iran, Sweden exchange prisoners

STOCKHOLM Sweden and Iran carried out a prisoner exchange on Saturday, officials said, with Sweden freeing a former Iranian official convicted for his role in a mass execution in the 1980s while Iran released two Swedes being held there.

The prisoner swap was mediated by Oman, the country's foreign ministry said in a statement. "Intense efforts resulted in the two sides agreeing on a mutual release, as those released were transferred from Tehran and Stockholm," it said.

Sweden had freed former Iranian official Hassan Noory, Iran's top human rights official said in X, Noory, who had been convicted for his part in a mass execution of political prisoners in Iran in 1988, would be back in Iran shortly, the official added.

Separately, Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said in a statement that Swedish citizens Johan Ederius and Saeed Azmi who had been detained in Iran were on a plane back to Sweden.

"Iran used them both as pawns in a cynical negotiations game with the purpose of getting the Iranian citizen Hassan Noory released from prison in Sweden."

Noory, 63, was arrested at a Stockholm airport in 2019 and later sentenced to life in prison for war crimes for the mass execution and torture of political prisoners of the Colebardi prison in Kerak, Iran, in 1988. He denied the charges. Lawyer Kenneth Lennin, who represented a dozen plaintiffs in the Noory case in Sweden, said his clients were not consulted and were "appalled and devastated" over Noory's release.—Reuters

Leaders join peace summit in test of Kyiv's diplomatic clout

BIRCHENSTOCK Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Saturday he would present Moscow a proposal for ending the war when it had been agreed upon by the international community.

Zelenskyy made those remarks during a summit at a Swiss mountain resort where world leaders gathered to try to build support for Ukraine's peace proposals.

"We must decide together what a just peace means for the world and how it can be achieved in a lasting way," Zelenskyy said at the summit attended by representatives of more than 90 countries.

But China's absence has dimmed hopes the summit would show Russia as globally isolated, while recent military reverses have put Kyiv on the back foot.

"We must decide together what a just peace means for the world and how it can be achieved in a lasting way," Zelenskyy said.

He has trumpeted the summit's wide attendance as a success and predicted "history being made", adding that agreements stemming from it will be part of the peace-making process.

"Ukraine never wanted this war. It's a criminal and absolutely unprovoked aggression by Russia," he said alongside Swiss President Viola Amherd, who said the conflict had brought "civilizational suffering" and violated international law.

Some 100 countries and global institutions, including the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan, are convening at the Swiss luxury mountain-side resort for the talks.

The heads of some non-European countries, like Chile, Ghana and Kenya, are also attending.

Russia's BRICS partners Brazil and South Africa are only sending an envoy, and India will be represented at the ministerial level.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz called the gathering an important step to discuss peace and security questions, while

Swiss Foreign Minister Paulin Haas said any credible process towards peace will need Russia's participation. US Vice President Kamala Harris announced more than \$1.5 billion in energy and humanitarian aid for Ukraine, where infrastructure has been pounded by Russian strikes since the 2022 invasion.

"This war remains an utter failure for [Russian President Vladimir] Putin," Harris said during a meeting with Zelenskyy.

A military helicopter hovered over the luxury Bazenstock resort overlooking Lake Lucerne on Saturday as leaders arrived by helicopter on a patch of grassland fenced off with razor wire while some grazed nearby.

On the eve of the summit, Putin said Russia would end the war only if Kyiv agreed to drop its NATO ambitions and hand over four provinces claimed by Moscow — demands Kyiv emphatically rejected as tantamount to surrender.—Agencies

E-office to ensure transparency in governance: PM Shehbaz

SAYS THE SYSTEM WILL HELP SAVE BILLIONS OF RUPEES

ISLAMABAD Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said the main objective behind the usage of e-office system in federal ministries and departments was to provide better services to the public, besides ensuring transparency in governance.

The prime minister stated this while chairing a review

meeting on shifting of the federal ministries and departments on e-office. The meeting was attended by Minister for Economic Affairs Ahsan Khan Qureshi, Minister of State for Information Technology Shauqat Hussain, PM's coordinator Raza Abbas Ahsan and other relevant senior officials, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

During the meeting, the prime minister observed that with this system, billions of rupees in the national exchequer could be saved and lesser use of paper would also cut

positive effects on environment. He ordered simplification and security of the e-office system.

He also directed expediting work on matters related to a cooperation agreement with Huawei, a Chinese company.

The meeting was apprised of progress made on the e-office system, its implementation and reforms. For the evaluation of success of this system, key performance indicators were being arranged, besides overhauling National Information Technology Board, the meeting told.—AFP



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Arshad set for Diamond League events after Schengen visa granted

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem has been granted a long-term multiple entry visa for the Schengen region which will enable the star athlete to participate in a number of Diamond League events in Europe.

The visa, which the 27-year-old has been granted due to the efforts made by the Athletics Federation of Pakistan (AFP), will allow Arshad to compete in prestigious Diamond League events in Finland and France, paving the way for his journey to the Olympics, said an AFP press release issued on Saturday.

With this visa, Arshad, who started his javelin throwing career in 2015, will have the opportunity to train abroad, feature in European competitions, including the Olympics.

The AFP, in collaboration with retired Maj Gen Akram Saha, the vice-president of the Asian Athletics Federation, played a crucial role in facilitating the issuance of the visa.

Arshad, the silver medalist of the 2023 World Athletics Championship held in Budapest, set a new national and Commonwealth Games record with a throw of 96.18 metres at the 2022 extravaganza in Birmingham. The Miss Channa-born player in the process became the first-ever South Asian athlete to cross the 90m mark.

Earlier in 2024, he reached the javelin throw final of the Tokyo Olympics to become the first Pakistani to qualify for the final of any track and field event in the Olympic history. In the final, he finished fifth with a throw of 84.62m.

Yasir earns silver in South Korea

By Our Sports Reporter

LAHORE: Mohammad Yasir, Pakistan's No. 2 javelin thrower, earned silver medal in the Asian Throwing Championship in Mokpo, South Korea on Saturday.

The 26-year-old Yasir, who claimed bronze medal with a 79.93 metre throw at last year's Asian Championship in Bangkok, threw the javelin to a distance of 78.10 metres, which was below the 85.50m target, which could help him to qualify for the Paris Olympics.

Romesh Tharanga of Sri Lanka set a new national record with an 85.45m throw to earn gold at the continental championship. The throw is also a new record for the championship. Tharanga's compatriot Nemotha Ranasinghe (77.57m) clinched bronze.



MUNICH: Germany's Nicolas Fullkrug (second L) scores during the Euro 2024 Group W match against Scotland at the Allianz Arena.—Reuters

Germany's new generation give hope to the nation with blistering Euros start

MUNICH: Germany's young attackers sent a clear message that they are ready to lead the team into a new era, with 21-year-old Florian Wirtz and Jamal Musiala putting on a sparkling display in their country's opening 5-1 Euro 2024 win over Scotland on Friday.

The two wingers scored the opening goals in the Group W victory, while Kai Havertz, 25, converted a penalty and substitute Nicolas Fullkrug and Erkan Saner scored in the second half against the reeling 10-man Scots.

But it was Wirtz and Musiala who drew the eyes of the expectant, yet anxious, home fans who had been chastened by Germany's underperformance in the past decade — with the team going out of successive World Cups (2018, 2022) in the group stage and losing in the last 16 at Euro 2020.

Wirtz underlined his status as one of European football's most exciting young talents with his goal, having already tested goalkeeper Angus Gunn in the opening minutes of the match.

His 10th-minute strike was a perfect example of his play this year, with 11 goals and 12 assists for Bundesliga champions

Bayer Leverkusen, ghosting in at the edge of the area to power the ball home, despite Gunn getting a hand on it.

It wasn't Wirtz who became the youngest scorer for Germany at a Euro at 21 years and 42 days old, beating the previous record of Havertz who was 22 when he scored at Euro 2020.

Musiala, who grew up in England and played for their youth team but then opted to represent the nation of his birth, got a much cleaner strike when he smashed the ball high into the net nine minutes later having been teed up by Havertz in the box.

The forward, given the prestigious No. 10 shirt by Julian Nagelsmann, is only 57 days older than Wirtz and ran Scotland's defence ragged with his left footwork while travelling with the ball, which has earned him the nickname "Bambol".

With five different players scoring goals, Germany delivered their best showing so far under Nagelsmann — and one of their most convincing team performances in some time.

"I'm pretty far away from being a killer," Nagelsmann said, adding "it doesn't make much sense to step on the brakes now."

Nagelsmann, who at 36 is the youngest coach in Euros history, has turned around a side which was just three of 11 games in 2023.

Germany impressed across the park against the Scots and Thomas Muller, one of three 2014 World Cup winners in the side alongside Toni Kroos and Manuel Neuer, said "it was a perfect evening for us."

"We want to keep going like this," he added. "This was one game on the way to much, much more that we want to achieve."

With a month to go until the July 14 final in Berlin, Nagelsmann could have found the perfect balance between youth and experience to take his country to glory and an elated Fullkrug, who scored Germany's fourth with a powerful strike and had another chuffed off for offside, said things were falling into place for the hosts.

"When you look at the past few years, that was very important for us. Hopefully it continues like that and we'll score a few more goals. We've also had good quality in the past few years, but we couldn't put it all together. Now, we've got a team on the field."

Switzerland made level with Germany on three points, making a flying start to their campaign on Saturday as Kwadwo Duah and Michel Aubucher scored their first international goals in a 3-1 victory over tournament dark horse Hungary in Cologne.

Striker Duah put Marco Yakin's Swiss ahead in the 18th minute from Aubucher's defence-splitting pass — the goal initially ruled offside but allowed after a VAR check.

Aubucher then opened his own international account with a superb curler on the stroke of half-time to put his side firmly in control.

Hungary, who qualified impressively under Italian coach Marco Rossi, were a different proposition after the break and got a lifeline in the 66th minute when Barnabas Varga stepped to head in Dominik Szoboszlai's invigorating cross.

The Swiss resisted late Hungarian pressure and Breel Embolo scored on a defensive error in stoppage time to seal the points.

"I think football to chess and today we got our tactics right," Swiss coach Yakin said. "We focused on making the most of our strength and we made our opponents' lives very hard."

Switzerland face Scotland in their second game on Wednesday, while Hungary play Germany the same day.

"The first half was very bad... we were too passive," Hungary coach Marco Rossi said, lamenting his side's errors at the back. "I am not looking to point fingers, I am the coach, so I take responsibility."

"It's hard to correct the kind of mistakes that we made. Our players do not make mistakes like this every day. We play Germany in four days. I dare anybody to bet on Hungarian to win on."



COLOGNE | Hungary's Atilla Fiola (L) vies for the ball with Fabian Varga of Switzerland during their Euro 2024 Group W match at the Cologne Stadium on Saturday.—AFP

As of today that looks impossible."

Spain thrashed sorry Croatia

Late on Saturday, first-half goals from Alvaro Morata, Fabian Ruiz and Dani Carvajal set Spain on course for a comprehensive 3-0 win over Croatia giving the 2008 and 2012 champions the perfect start to their campaign.

Morata broke the deadlock in the 26th minute in Berlin as the Croatians lost the ball up front and Fabian split the defence with a perfect pass for the Spanish captain to surge through and slot the ball past Dominik Livakovic.

Fabian added the second himself three minutes later and defender Carvajal added a third just before the break as Levante Yarnal, the youngest player ever to appear in the Euros, picked him out to score and effectively end the game as a contest.

Croatia had a goal ruled out when Bruno Petkovic's missed penalty was played back into his path for him to score, but the strike was chuffed off due to Croatian players encroaching during his original penalty kick as they slumped to a bitter defeat.—Agencies

IOC issues list of Russians, Belarusians eligible for Olympics

LAUSANNE: A total of 14 Russian and 31 Belarusian athletes were included on Saturday by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on an initial list of "Individual Neutral Athletes" (AINs) eligible to compete in the Paris Games.

The athletes had to qualify for the Games and pass a double check, first by the international sports federations and then by the IOC, to prove they did not actively support the war in Ukraine or have any links with their countries' armies.

The athletes named on Saturday will compete in four disciplines.

Sixteen are swimmers. The IOC has also approved two triathletes, three trampolines gymnasts and four road cyclists, including Aleksandr Vlasov, who was fourth in the 2023 Giro.

"Our cyclists passed the 'test'," Vyacheslav Ekimov, the President of the Russian Cycling Federation told Russia's state-run TASS news agency.

"The IOC allowed us to the Olympics, although I did not expect a different development. As for Vlasov, despite all his past statements, I think he will participate in the Olympics. And with great pleasure," Ekimov said.

The president of the Russian Triathlon Federation, Nikolai Makarov told TASS he was not entirely happy.

"The fact that the IOC has decided to admit Anna Ledneva to the Olympics is very good news," he said.

"But I don't understand why another one of our contenders for the only ticket, Yana Lobodova, is not on the list. I hope that her name will be on the next list."

Saturday's IOC statement also listed trackswomen, but that section included no names.

"It is absolutely true, none of our trackswomen will perform at the Olympic Games in Paris," Vadim Ivanov, Russia's trackswomen head coach told the state-run RIA Novosti news agency.

After initially banning the two countries' athletes from world sports following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the IOC adjusted their regulations to allow their participation, under a neutral banner, subject to strict conditions and excluding team events.

Last March, the IOC said it was expecting 36 Russians and 27 Belarusians at the Paris Games "according to the most probable scenario", and a "maximum" of 55 and 28 respectively.

That would be far fewer than the 330 Russians and 104 Belarusians that took part in the last Games in Tokyo in 2021.

The IOC will update its list as the final qualifying results come in.

There will be no track and field athletes. World Athletics has banned all Russians and Belarusians. Other sports have reinstated them so late that their presence is uncertain.

On Friday, Yuliya Idunova, who has three Olympic bronze-medal medals, became the first Russian swimmer to be granted neutral status for the Games although she has not yet won a qualifying time. She also said she did not yet have a visa to travel to France.

The neutral athletes will neither take part in the opening ceremony on the Seine nor appear in the official medal table.—AFP



LANDOVER (Maryland): Argentina's Lionel Messi attempts a free-kick during the international friendly against Guatemala at Commanders Field on Friday. Doubles from Messi and Lautaro Martinez earned Argentina a come-from-behind 4-1 victory in their final Copa America warm-up. Argentina launch the defence of their Copa America crown against Canada in Atlanta next Thursday. Lionel Scaloni's side also face Chile on June 26 and Peru four days later in Group W.—AFP

Former Arsenal and Everton striker Campbell dies at 54

LONDON: Former Arsenal, Everton and Nottingham Forest striker and football commentator Kevin Campbell has died at the age of 54, his former club announced on Saturday.

Campbell, who had been in hospital for two weeks before his death after a short illness, holds the record for most Premier League goals, 81, by a player never to win an international cap.

The London-born Campbell, who also played for Leicester City, Leyton Orient, Tranmere, West Bromwich Albion and Cardiff City, made his senior debut at Arsenal in 1988 and spent seven years at the club including two loan spells.—Agencies

Swede Aberg grinds to one-stroke US Open lead as Scheffler struggles

PINEHURST: Swedish sensation Ludwig Aberg held the outright second-round lead at the US Open on Friday at Pinehurst Resort in North Carolina where Bryson DeChambeau was part of a group one shot back at Scottie Scheffler and other favorites in rugged and Tiger Woods missed the cut.

Masters runner-up Aberg, looking to become the first US Open champion to win in his debut since Francis Ouimet in 1913, shot a new-under-par 69 to finish 36 holes on five-under 125 on a parishing Pinehurst No. 2 layout.

That left Aberg one shot clear of DeChambeau (69), overnight co-leader Patrick Cantlay (71) and Belgian Thomas Detry (67) while Rory McIlroy (72), Tony Finau (69) and Frenchman Matthieu Pavon were all a further shot back. Japan's Hideki Matsuyama, the 2021 Masters champion, was eighth on 118 after a bogey-free 66.

"A US Open is supposed to be hard. It's supposed to be tricky, and it's supposed to challenge any aspect of your game. And I feel like it's really doing that," said Aberg. "But super fortunate with the way that things have turned out over the last couple days, and hopefully we'll be able to keep it up."

Aberg was once again most attentive finding fairways. That allowed him to avoid the danger on every corner at Pinehurst No. 2 and delivered a round that included three birdies and two bogeys.

The Swede is now the first non-American to hold the outright 36-hole lead in the U.S. Open since Germany's Martin Kaymer in 2014 at Pinehurst.

Pavon, who kicked off his day from the back nine with two consecutive birdies, was level with Aberg with two holes to play but bogeyed both to slip back.

DeChambeau, who finished runner-up at last month's PGA Championship, had a roller coaster start but got into the mix with

back-to-back birdies at 12 and 13 before a bogey at 15 where his tee shot found a bunker.

The 2020 U.S. Open champion, one of 12 LIV Golf players in the 156-player field, capped his round in style as he tapped in for birdie after his approach leaving his approach shot 15 inches from the cup.

Detry mastered Pinehurst No. 2's notoriously tricky dome-shaped greens as he made nine one-putts on the day, the last at his 12th hole where he rolled in a 22-footer.

Cantlay shared the 18-hole lead with McIlroy after a 65.

"Was a lot firmer than yesterday," Cantlay said. "It's going to be a challenge the rest of the week end."

McIlroy, seeking an elusive fifth major, was unable to build on his bogey-free opening round as he returned an adventurous 72 that featured near-misses and stunning parsaves, including at the par three 17th where he chipped in for

par after putting off the greens.

The four-time major winner from Northern Ireland played alongside Scheffler and second-

ranked Xander Schauffele, who was last month's PGA Championship.

Schauffele was four off the lead



LUDWIG Aberg of Sweden hits a tee shot on the eighth hole during the second round of the US Open at Pinehurst Resort.—AFP

after shooting 69 to stand on 125.

Pre-tournament favorite Scheffler made the cut on the number at 69-over 145 after shooting 74 in the first birdie-less major round of his career.

The two-time Masters champion was undone by bogeys at the par-3 15th and 17th and a double bogey at the par-5 11th.

Woods, a 15-time major winner, missed the cut on 147 after a 73 on Friday.

Among the other players who missed the cut were world number five Viktor Hovland, 10th-ranked Max Homa, 2023 US Open champion Dustin Johnson and Phil Mickelson, who this week was looking to complete the career Grand Slam of golf's four majors.

Former British Open champion Francesco Molinari looked about set to head home until he became the first player in U.S. Open history with an ace on his 36th hole to make the cut right on the number.—Agencies

METRO South



Slick Germany off to blistering Euros start

Page 19 SPORT

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 Maximum 34°C
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SALE of refrigerators, straw mats, chopping blocks, knives and business of sharpening of tools increase in the metropolis ahead of Eidul Azha. —PPF

DSP, son remanded in police custody in robbery case

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A judicial magistrate on Saturday remanded a DSP and his son in police custody for three days in a robbery case. The investigating officer (IO) of the case produced DSP Zafar Javed and his son, Iqbal, in court and informed the magistrate that the DSP's son was using his father's police mobile to commit crimes, and one of his accomplices was still at large and needed to be arrested. He requested the court to grant their 14-day remand in police custody for investigation. The court, however, remanded them in police custody for three days and directed the IO to produce DSP Zafar and his son in court along with a progress report on the next date. The DSP and his son were arrested by the police on Friday and an FIR under Section 302 (Theft after preparation made for causing death, hurt or restraint in order to the committing of the theft) and 34 (common intention) of the Pakistan Penal Code was registered against them on the complaint of the owner of a palm cabin in Gulshan-e-Iqbal who said that they, along with some other people, looted cash and valuables from his shop in their mobile van. After examining the CCTV footage of the incident, the police found that the police mobile van allotted to the DSP-legal was used in committing the robbery.

IQP suspends DSP

Inspector General of Police Ghulam Nabi Memon on Saturday ordered suspension of DSP-legal Zafar with immediate effect and pending an inquiry into his conduct. The IQP also appointed DIG-CA Muquddus Haider as an inquiry officer to conduct a regular departmental inquiry against the suspended DSP on the allegations of misconduct. The DIG was directed to furnish his findings within 15 days, said a press release issued here on Saturday.

Two-month ban on swimming in sea imposed

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The city administration on Saturday imposed a ban on swimming in the sea for two months in view of high tide season.

A notification issued here stated that Commissioner Syed Hassan Naeqi imposed the ban on "swimming, bathing, diving and wading in the sea at Karupp beach, Sunnah beach and Mubarak village within the territorial limits of Karachi for a period of two months with immediate effect".

The ban will remain in place till Aug 13. The commissioner has taken the decision on the recommendation of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation that the sea becomes hazardous due to high tides and turbulent waves, posing a potential significant risk to swimmers and bathers.

Police have been directed to register complaints under Section 108 of the Pakistan Penal Code against those found violating the ban imposed under Section 144 of the criminal procedure code.

Experts ask citizens to handle animals with caution amid Congo fever threat

- CCHF virus can transmit to people by tick bite or through contact with infected animal blood, doctors say
- Children advised to stay away from sacrificial animals

By Faiza Ilyas

KARACHI: Health experts have warned citizens of the tick-borne Congo fever threat ahead of Eidul Azha, advising them to observe caution in purchase, care, handling and slaughter of sacrificial animals.

The Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) causes severe viral hemorrhagic fever outbreaks and its mortality rate could be as high as 80 to 90 per cent. There is no vaccine available for the disease.

According to experts, the CCHF virus is primarily transmitted to people either by tick bites or through contact with infected animal blood or tissues during and immediately after slaughter.

Human-to-human transmission can occur resulting from close contact with the blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids of infected persons.

"Animal handling is the most important risk factor. Often, people including butchers don't even notice a tick's bite and get worried only after they fall sick within four to seven days of the infection and develop high fever," said Dr Rafiq Khanani, the president of the Infectious Diseases Society of Pakistan.

He said that initial symptoms include muscle ache, headache, headache, abdominal pain and diarrhoea. According to him, the illness can damage the walls of tiny blood vessels, making them leak, and even hamper the blood's ability to clot.

"Its clinical signs include internal bleeding, especially of the gums that may cause skin discoloration. Patients should report to hospital as soon as possible," he said, adding that health-care providers work at high risk and they must follow the protocol for patient examination and management.

Recalling the history of the CCHF in Pakistan, Dr Khanani said the first case in Pakistan was reported in 1975 when a surgeon along with three healthcare providers died following an infection from a patient. "Last year, a major CCHF outbreak occurred at a Quetta hospital, killing at least three people including a doctor and making more than a dozen ill. This incident urged us to strictly enforce infection control practices at hospitals," he said.

In addition, he emphasised, special measures needed to be in place at the time of Eidul Azha when trade and

movement of animals increased manifold.

Every year, Dr Khanani said, several CCHF cases were reported in the country during this time of the year, resulting in loss of precious lives. Many deaths occurred in remote areas and remained undocumented.

"These lives could have been saved if we develop a protocol for keeping and transporting animals and managing livestock markets, handling of animals and their slaughter. And, at the same time, create awareness on the disease and sources of transmission," he added.

The experts advise people to wear protective light-coloured clothing (long sleeves, long trousers) while handling animals and use approved repellent on the skin and clothing. Children should not be allowed close contact with animals.

New diagnostic facilities

The experts requested that despite being a CCHF-endemic country, Pakistan has limited diagnostic facilities for the viral infection.

No government hospital in South, at least, is equipped with these facilities, they added.

"Only one private hospital in Karachi has the facility for CCHF test. It's costly and not everyone can afford it. The other option is to send the blood sample to the

Continued on Page 14

Sindh in ruins despite 'massive budgets' during 15 years of PPP rule, claims PTI leader

Haleem says despair in the province is proof of 'PPP corruption', demands Rs500bn for Karachi uplift

Dawn Report

KARACHI: Presenting a 'charge sheet' against the Pakistan Peoples Party government in Sindh, the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has said that during its over 15-year rule in the province, the PPP governments have received a total of Rs12,633 billion in budgets, yet there has been no development in Sindh and the people

are still lacking basic amenities in the province.

Speaking a press conference, PTI Sindh president Haleem Akhbar Sheikh alleged that corruption amounting to Rs1,500bn had been recorded through various sources over the past 15 years, including over Rs500bn corruption in the developmental budget.

He proposed that Rs500bn should be set aside for Karachi's mega projects in the Sindh budget.

He said the Sindh government's domestic and foreign debt had reached Rs1,340bn with a 26 per cent increase during 2023-24 and an addition of Rs255bn in new loans.

Mr Sheikh criticised the state of Sindh's forests, which have been destroyed, with 2.8 million acres under

encroachment, and no projects to plant trees.

"While the world is saving forests, the Sindh government is cutting them down," he added.

Regarding education, Mr Sheikh said that Rs4,920bn had been allocated over 15 years, with Rs450bn allocated for 2024-25. Despite this, six million children were still out of school, with no books or uniforms, and over 12,000 schools were closed.

More than 28,000 schools lack drinking water, 19,000 schools have no toilets, 32,000 schools are without electricity, 23,900 schools lack boundary walls, 26,000 schools have no playgrounds, and 47,000 schools have no laboratories, he said.

He also pointed out the issue of ghost

teachers and schools turned into cattle pens or grass lands.

Scholarships for deserving children and free textbook distribution have been marred by corruption, he said.

Sindh education standards are the worst in Pakistan while the education department is embedded in a Rajiv wazirial involving school desk.

He said from 2008 to 2024, education department projects remain incomplete, including Education City, boarding school schemes, cadet school projects, public school projects, engineering colleges, divisional level girls' public schools, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Law College in Lyari, Azeemul Haque Institute of Electronics, Mirpurkhas and Hala

Continued on Page 14

Murad demands new NFC award for fund distribution to provinces

Says Sindh's development budget percentage is much higher than Punjab, KP's

By Imran Ayub

KARACHI: Claiming that the development budget of Sindh is much higher than other provinces, Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that he has conveyed his reservations to Islamabad over the Centre's failure to give a new National Finance Commission (NFC) award for distribution of funds among provinces despite passing more than a decade.

At the post-budget press conference, the chief minister spoke about his telephonic contact with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif after his budget speech at the Sindh Assembly on Friday evening.

He asked the federal government to con-

sider the NFC, but at the same time was not very hopeful that such initiative would be taken by the PME-N-led federal government. The chief minister claimed that only the PPP government in the Centre would be able to take such initiative.

"The Constitution demands NFC after every five years. It was the PPP government which had announced the last NFC in 2010. Both respective governments of PML-N from 2013 to 2018 and then PTI government from 2018 to 2022 remained unmoved on this subject," he said, adding, "The next NFC is due in 2025 and I can only demand and hope that PM Shehbaz Sharif takes notice of this and issues the NFC. But I think that it would be only the PPP government which would do that when it comes into power in the Centre."

"Rs500bn set aside for Sindh uplift is unprecedented"

"We have set aside Rs500 billion for the development expenses which is unpre-

cedented," the chief minister said. "I have gone through the numbers of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa budgets and I can say that our development budget



SINDH: CM Murad Ali Shah speaks at the post-budget press conference on Saturday.—PPF

percentage is much higher than that of other provinces. Despite all challenges and minimum resources, we have put all efforts to make it a people-friendly budget and people will see the results of all these efforts."

"Have you ever seen an airport built by a provincial government in any small city or rural town," he said. "We have built an airport in Thar. The 3,500 megawatts of electricity produced in Sindh is being supplied to Islamabad. We have seen NHA build even inter-district roads in Punjab. But here in Sindh they do not build Hyderabad-Sukkur, motorway. We are doing it on our own. You can drive from Nawabshah to Sanghar and from Sanghar to Mirpurkhas and then Mirpurkhas to Umerkot, you will see tangible development."

Responding to a question, the CM was visibly aggressive when he denied the impression of slow development of road networks in Sindh compared to other provinces and slow pace development of infrastructure.

He referred to a number of projects initiated by the Sindh government "as its

own" over the years which had enhanced the city-to-city connectivity.

Claims Karachi is not neglected in budget

The CM also ruled out that the PPP-led Sindh government had not announced any new mega-development scheme for Karachi in its budget for the financial year 2024-25. He referred to the allocation of Rs10bn for the Karachi development schemes from the total funding of Rs70bn which would be received from the Centre.

"We haven't included any new scheme in provincial AWP as a principle. But this is not true that we haven't planned any mega scheme or development project for Karachi. Out of Rs70bn we would receive from the federal government, Rs10bn has been allocated for Karachi projects which will be executed by the Sindh government," he replied to a query.

He also denied the impression about the

Continued on Page 14

Five of a family die, 11 hurt as truck runs over loader-rickshaw

By Our Correspondent

DADU: Five persons were killed and 11 of the same extended family were injured when a truck ran over a loader-rickshaw on Khaipur Nathian Shah village, about 60 kilometres from here, on Saturday.

A total of 36 men and women of Khoos tribe were returning to Pir Lakhi village in Shaikpur taluka onboard the three-wheeler after attending urs of Mian Naseer Mohammad Kalhoro in Khaipur Nathian Shah village when they met the accident.

Muhammad Ali son of Mahmood Khoos, Bahram son of Allah Wasayo, Mi Haseena wife of Ali Mohammad, Ms Sharofan wife of Khan Mohammad died instantly and Ms Hawa wife of Bahram Khoos breathed her last when she was being transferred to Larkana from Khaipur Nathian Shah taluka hospital due to her serious condition.

The injured were identified as Ms Sahar Khatoon, Ms Zarina, Ms Moor Zadi, Ms Seeman, Ms Samia, Akbar, Khari Mohammad, Murood, Abdul Sattar, Elvir and Bashir Khoos.

Khaipur Nathian Shah SHO Mohammad Soomro said that the truck driver escaped after the accident.

Philanthropist gives Rs2m aid for each dead of Paretabad blast tragedy

Cheques distributed by Governor Kamran Tessori; JDC's Zafar Abbas had played key role in arranging donation

By Our Staff Correspondent

HYDERABAD: Heirs of the 27 men, women and children who had lost their lives in the May 30 Paretabad cylinder blast and five incidents were given cheques of Rs2m each at a ceremony organised by JDC Welfare Foundation in a local banquet on Saturday.

The compensation amount, arranged by Syed Zafar Abbas Jafri of the JDC a few days after the incident, has been donated by Ali Shaikhani, an overseas Pakistani philanthropist. The cheques were distributed by Governor Kamran Khan Tessori, along with Minister Ghazni Movement Pakistan Chairman Khalid Maghsood Siddiqui, Ali Shaikhani, Syed Zafar Abbas Jafri and National Welfare Trust chief Bashir Farooqui.

Other MQM-P leaders, including Dr Farooq Sattar, were also present at the programme largely attended by members of the families affected by the tragedy as well as residents of Paretabad.

Speaking at the ceremony, Governor Tessori paid tributes to Ali Shaikhani for his donation, and observed that overseas Pakistanis loved their country, and this donation from Mr Shaikhani proved this. He remarked that the job being done today by overseas Pakistanis should have been done by government.

He said that LPG in cylinders was supplied the world over under certain safeguards. A survey or inquiry should be conducted to ascertain as to how such incidents took place and who were responsible for them.

National Welfare Trust chief Bashir Farooqui also appreciated Ali Shaikhani's generosity. He said standard operating procedures (SOP) should be introduced to control LPG cylinder blasts. JDC's Zafar Abbas also spoke at the ceremony.

MQM-P Chairman Dr Khalid Maghsood Siddiqui apologised to the



GOVERNOR Kamran Khan Tessori hands over a cheque for Rs2m to one of the bereaved families at a ceremony held in Hyderabad on Saturday. Organisers have acknowledged the typographical error in the figure of the amount, saying it is Rs2,000,000 and not Rs200,000 — Dawn

increased families for offering his condolences so late. He said he would have come earlier but was engaged in matters relating to a big cause — establishment of a university in Hyderabad. He regretted that the second biggest city of Sindh could not get a university in the last 75 years.

"Hyderabad mayor doesn't enjoy even 5pc mandate of the city which is an irony. Hyderabad is still the second largest city if its population is correctly counted," he said.

Dr Siddiqui said that 5pc taxes were paid by one class while another class consumes the entire tax amount. "This formula is not viable for running a country,

what to talk of a province," he said. He said he was waiting for the day when it would prove that a system based on infidelity might survive but a system based on justice could not.

The MQM-P leader said that it appeared that those who had changed the country's capital from Karachi to Islamabad could only shift "a body as its seat stays back". "Even today, Karachi along with other urban centres connected to it, is the economic, industrial and ideological capital of the country.

The urban population contributed 57pc of revenues to the country but got nothing in return, he said, and sarcastically remarked: "In fact, since don't pay

taxes but jirpa (a tax typically levied by conquerors of a territory on its people) is being recovered from their residents".

Dr Farooq Sattar offered condolences to the bereaved family members and thanked Ali Shaikhani, Zafar Abbas and Bashir Farooqui for helping victims of Paretabad tragedy.

He said government had failed to control price-like and joblessness. Rulers should end their insensitivity and resolve poor lot's problems, he added.

He observed that Governor Tessori was working on bringing an end to unemployment by helping youth to become IT experts.

Man kills sister-in-law, young niece over family dispute

SUKKUR: A man shot dead his sister-in-law and her young daughter over a running dispute between brothers in Ali Wahan village near old Tod Plaza, Rohri taluka, on Saturday.

Sources said the brothers Sheer Ali Bakhram and Faiz Ali Bakhram had a dispute over some issues due to which Faiz Ali had left the family home and moved into the house of his father-in-law along with his wife and children.

On Saturday, Sheer Ali suddenly appeared at the door of his brother's in-laws and shot dead his sister-in-law, Noor Khatoon, and her eight-year-old daughter Zahida, and managed to escape by firing into the air, said police officials at Jhangro police station.

They said that they rushed to the crime scene and shifted the dead body to taluka hospital for post mortem examination. The bodies were handed over to heirs after completion of medico-legal formalities, they said. — Correspondent

Luari Sharif tense after Section 144 imposed for five days

By Our Correspondent

BADIN: A curfew-like situation prevailed in Luari Sharif town of Badin taluka on Saturday as disciples of revered Sufi saint Hazrat Khwaja Mohammad Zaman started gathering at his shrine to celebrate his urs.

For many years until 2023, the shrine and its surroundings had remained a centre of disturbances involving two rival groups of disciples wrangling for its control. The shrine had to be sealed off for several

years to prevent an escalation.

In 2021, ulama belonging to different schools of thought held a gathering to declare that any sort of rituals resembling Manasik-e-Haj on the 7th to 10th of Zilhaj, when the urs is celebrated, were un-Islamic and must be avoided/forbidden.

This year, the district administration advised that the rival groups of disciples were proposing to celebrate the urs near the shrine and challenge each other. It feared that such gatherings might disturb peace in the area.

On the recommendation of the Badin deputy commissioner, Hyderabad Commissioner Ahsan Ali Qureshi imposed Section 144 Cr.PC within the radius of five kilometres around the shrine for five days, i.e. from 7th to 11th of Zilhaj, to maintain law and order.

Carrying or displaying arms, batons, lathis or any other weapons have been banned.

The disciples have reacted angrily to the district administration's step of imposing Section 144 Cr.PC, saying that it was aimed at stopping them from celebrating

the urs. Leaders of both the groups have appealed to the higher authorities concerned to allow them to celebrate the urs.

No upward incident was reported till late Saturday evening after police were deployed to prevent any suspicious person from entering the cordoned off area around the shrine.

Luari Sharif town had been witnessing violent incidents involving the rival groups over the last few decades.

Several people had lost their lives in the disturbances.

NOTICE FOR LOST ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS OF VEHICLE

It is submitted that due to retirements & transfer of concern officers the Original documents of Following motor bikes are missing / lost since long.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. KR-7830 Engine # 2KD-6T59564 Model: 2011 Asset # 65547 | 3. CT-8538 Engine # FKT218948 Model: 2012 Asset # 72271 |
| 2. CT-7882 Engine # FKT207951 Model: 2011 Asset # 68172 | 4. CU-8571 Engine # FKT244381 Model: 2014 Asset # 158243 |

Aziz Khan
Regional Head, Distribution East Region

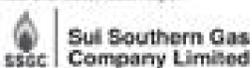


PHOTO BY DAWN

Four youths held after 'encounter'

DADU: Kori SITE police reportedly picked up four youths in late night raids on their homes in the wake of a protest by

members of Lughari community against arrest of their teenage relative after a 'staged' encounter. Police had registered a

case against 28 protesters under relevant sections of Terrorism Act. They had staged a demonstration on the National Highway against police a day ago after CIA police detained 18-year-old Amir Lughari on charge of being an extortionist and then handed him over to Kori SITE police.

Kori police said that they had arrested Amir after he fell injured in an encounter but the suspect's relatives disputed the claim. Police then raided houses of Lughari community late in the night and picked up the four youths but they had not yet revealed their arrest, said Amir's relatives.

They said that CIA police had detained the youth three days ago and then handed him over to Kori SITE police, who demanded half million bribe for his release. When they refused to pay, they injured him in a staged encounter, they said, adding police had not yet produced any criminal record of the youth.

They said that they would file a petition against police in Sindh High Court. Police were holding terror-motivated the four youths, Adam Lughari, Ajib Lughari, Rashid Lughari and Sajjad Lughari, and they feared for lives, their lives were in danger, they said.

The case was filed against 28 identified men and 10 unidentified men and five identified women. They were charged with disturbing general public, pelting vehicles with stones, damaging police vehicle and insulting police-men. — Correspondent

إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

With deep sorrow and grief we announce the passing away of **IQBAL CHUNDRIGAR** son of late I.I. Chundrigar

Dua will be held on Sunday 16th June 2024 between 5:00-7:00 p.m. at 15/1/1, 17th Street, Khayaban-e-Tauheed, Phase 5, DHA, Karachi.

Salma Chundrigar
Fayeeza and Arif Naqvi
Nadia Hanif
Naima and Abubakar Chundrigar and Loving Family Members

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Bahria University invites applications from suitable candidates for the appointment of Research Track Faculty at Bahria University Islamabad and Karachi Campus.

| S. NO | Name of Post (s) | Qualification | Specials | EXPERIENCE | CAMPUS |
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| 1. | Assistant Professor (Research Track Faculty) | PhD from HEC recognized University / Institution | Artificial Intelligence / Cyber Security | a. Hold a terminal degree (PhD) b. At least 5 years post PhD experience with minimum H-index of 10. c. Acquired / executed research projects worth of Rs. 5 million in the last 5 years as Principal Investigator (PI). d. Demonstrated competency in a scientific discipline and commitment to collaborative and / or independent research. | Islamabad Campus |
| 2. | Assistant Professor (Research Track Faculty) | PhD from HEC recognized University / Institution | Molecular Biology | a. Hold a terminal degree (PhD) b. At least 5 years post PhD experience with minimum H-index of 10. c. Acquired / executed research projects worth of Rs. 5 million in the last 5 years as Principal Investigator (PI). d. Demonstrated competency in a scientific discipline and commitment to collaborative and / or independent research. | Karachi Campus |

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- Candidates having PhD Degree from HEC recognized National / International Universities are eligible to apply
- All degrees must be attested from HEC.
- Please visit our website www.bahria.edu.pk/jobs to download job application form (Faculty)
- Brief CV, Publication Details & Research Project Details along with application form (Hard Copy), are to reach HR Directorate, Bahria University Head Office Islamabad through Courier by 2 July 2024.
- Only short-listed candidates meeting the requirements of the post shall be called for an interview.

DIRECTORATE OF HUMAN RESOURCE
Bahria University, Shangrila Road, Islamabad
Tel: 051-9263176/ 051-9260002 (Ext: 1716)

PH 29 No.7818/23

بلدیہ عظمیٰ کراچی کے زیر انتظام

نماز عید الاضحیٰ

گلشن جناح (پولو گراؤنڈ) میں

آٹھ بجے صبح (8:00 am)

ادا کی جائے گی

نماز کے لیے آنے والے افراد کے لیے وضو کا بھی انتظام ہے۔

ملی حسن ساہو
پبلک ریلیشنز
021-99215134
0333-2130552

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CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

"The Nation's Bank", National Bank of Pakistan aims to support the financial well-being of the Nation along with enabling sustainable growth and inclusive development through its wide local and international network of branches. Being one of the leading and largest banks of Pakistan, National Bank of Pakistan is contributing significantly towards socioeconomic growth in the country with an objective to transform the institution into a future-fit, agile and sustainable Bank.

In line with our strategy, the Bank is looking for talented, dedicated and experienced professional(s) for the following positions in the area of Digital Banking based at Karachi.

The individuals who fulfil the below basic-eligibility criteria may apply for the following positions:

| 01 | Position / Job Title | Wing Head – Budgeting, Cost Control & Performance (VP / SVP) |
|----|---|--|
| | Reporting to | Divisional Head – Digital Governance |
| | Educational / Professional Qualification | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum Graduation or equivalent from a local or international university / college / institute recognized by the HEC Candidates having Master's Degree in Business Administration and / or Computer Science and / or Information Technology and / or Data Science / or relevant certification will be preferred |
| | Experience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum 10 years of experience in Accounting and / or Finance, however candidates with prior experience in Accounting and / or Finance in Digital Banking will be given preference |
| | Other Skills / Expertise / Knowledge Required | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong knowledge of financial planning, budgeting, and bookkeeping Sound knowledge of accounting fundamentals and IFRS 9 In-depth understanding of cash flow management, bank reconciliation, and bookkeeping Excellent knowledge of data analysis and forecasting models Strong analytical, conceptual, and problem-solving abilities Ability to work in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment that demands high quality, creative and consistent work Ability to challenge the status quo and inspire others to look for improvement opportunities |
| | Outline of Main Duties / Responsibilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To devise strategy for Digital Financial Planning and ensure effective planning during the transformation of the organization To be responsible for end-to-end management of budgeting, revenues and channel planning for optimal utilization of resources, and driving business objectives To be responsible for overseeing and directing channel usage, client conversion, transaction migration, and revenue generation from digital products to meet business targets To build the financial structure in order to deliver exceptional financial services to the organization with a clear focus on continuous improvement, problem-solving, and development To act as a strategic financial adviser to the Leadership and Senior Management Team, providing sound advice, guidance and information on organizational performance, risks, and opportunities To take overall responsibility for the preparation of management reporting, annual accounts, and audit matters to ensure compliance with statutory requirements and governance structures To provide timely and accurate financial information, analysis and insight across the organization including income, expenditure, balance sheet, cash flow and budget information To deliver efficient and effective financial processes and controls, including income processing, general ledger, fixed assets, payroll and multi-currency cash management To review all control accounts, reconciliations, provisions, suspense accounts and respective entries to ensure all transactions are being booked accurately and disputes or differences are being settled timely To close tracking of ongoing project progress and budget / cost performance reporting for internal stakeholders on all initiatives assigned and where required for external stakeholders for any deviation in the budgets To ensure timely escalation of project incidents and activities. Reports that impact the project timeline, budgets and cost factors and mitigation of the lagging factors To perform any other assignment as assigned by the supervisor(s) |
| 02 | Position / Job Title | Wing Head – Digital Audit (VP / SVP) |
| | Reporting to | Divisional Head – Digital Governance |
| | Educational / Professional Qualification | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum Graduation or equivalent from a local or international university / college / institute recognized by the HEC Candidates having Master's Degree and / or any other relevant professional certification(s) will be preferred |
| | Experience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum 10 years of banking experience with a minimum of 07 years' experience in Digital and / or Technology Audits |
| | Other Skills / Expertise / Knowledge Required | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent communication skill In-depth analytical and problem solving skills Adaptability to evolving project need Tech Savvy including proficient in MS Office and related software |
| | Outline of Main Duties / Responsibilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To drive technology self-audit framework and planning to mitigate risk by keeping a pulse on the technology risks relevant to the business and collaborate with technology partners in the industry To manage all digital projects by determining scope and objectives, develop self-audit plans, partner with stakeholders and process owners for the execution of plans and to ensure all observations are well resolved before any internal or external reviews To review and validate self-audit planning, memos, reports, ensuring timely delivery and successful completion of projects To perform internal assurance / advisory reviews to assess the adequacy, effectiveness and efficiency of the established internal controls and procedures To drive efficiencies in the digital process by recognizing automation and integration opportunities, creating common audit methodologies, respond to critical business situations and participate in cross-functional teams To be a remediation Stewart by liaison with the business, work closely with the other stakeholders to ensure appropriate action plans are provided to mitigate the risks highlighted during self-audit activity To promote and support bank policies, procedures, mission, values, standards of ethics, integrity by training, providing direction to others in their use/application and ensure compliance with them To establish and maintain business relationships with digital project teams to ensure that Digital Audit is aware of changes in business activities and objectives, and a necessary self-audit response is developed To participate in activities related to systems development, new products, mergers, acquisitions and analyze new policies to ensure that control considerations are evaluated in the early stages of these activities To provide control consulting services to management to assist in redesign efforts that improve the control environment To act as the primary point of contact with key internal and external stakeholders such as internal audit, controllership, quality assurance and external auditor To work closely with relevant stakeholders of digital function, to rectify all reported discrepancies in order to ensure the readiness of the unit for the review and audit by internal / external bodies To perform any other assignment as assigned by the supervisor(s) |
| 03 | Position / Job Title | Unit Head – Debit Cards (AVP / VP) |
| | Reporting to | Wing Head – Digital Cards |
| | Educational / Professional Qualification | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum Graduation or equivalent from a local or international university / college / institute recognized by the HEC Candidates having Master's Degree in Business Administration and / or Computer Science and / or Information Technology and / or Data Science / or relevant certification will be preferred |
| | Experience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum 08 year of working experience in Digital Banking and / or Card Business and / or Information Technology and / or E-commerce and / or Fintech and / or relevant field |
| | Other Skills / Expertise / Knowledge Required | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good communication skills Good team player Good stakeholder management Good analytical and problem solving skills Adaptability to evolving project need Tech Savvy including proficient in MS Office and related software |
| | Outline of Main Duties / Responsibilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop and execute the overall strategy for the bank's debit card business, aligning it with the bank's broader business objectives To drive initiatives in order to increase the usage and penetration of debit cards among existing customers and attract new customers to acquire debit cards To identify opportunities for new debit card products and features. Work with product teams to develop and launch innovative debit card offerings To develop strategies for enhancing revenue from debit card transactions, interchange fees and value-added services To explore and establish strategic partnerships and alliances to expand the bank's debit card ecosystem and customer base To ensure a seamless and secure debit card experience for customers through continuous monitoring and improvement of card processes To implement robust risk management measures to safeguard against debit card fraud and unauthorized transactions To collaborate with marketing teams to design and execute marketing campaigns to promote debit card usage and benefits To monitor key performance indicators (KPIs) related to debit card usage, customer acquisition and profitability. Analyse data to inform decision-making To ensure compliance with relevant banking regulations, payment industry standards and data protection laws To stay informed about industry trends, market changes and competitor offerings in the debit card space. Leverage insights to maintain the bank's competitive edge To perform any other assignment as assigned by the supervisor(s) |
| | Assessment interview(s) | Only shortlisted candidates strictly meeting the above-mentioned basic eligibility criteria will be invited for panel interviews. |
| | Employment Type | The employment will be on contractual basis for three years which may be renewed on discretion of the Management. Selected candidates will be offered compensation package and other benefits as per Bank's Policy / rules. |

Interested candidates may visit the website www.nbk.com.pk/careers and apply online within 10 working days from the date of publication of this advertisement as per given instructions. Applications received after due date will not be considered in any case. No TA / DA will be admissible for interview. National Bank of Pakistan is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications from all qualified individuals, regardless of gender, religion, or disability.

DISPOSE OF OFFAL AND TRASH PROPERLY THIS EID TO PREVENT BIRD ACTIVITY NEAR AIRPORTS AND MAINTAIN SAFE AIR TRAVEL

ATTENTION PLEASE!

During Eidul Azha, it's important to maintain cleanliness around the airport to ensure the safety of flight operations. Leaving offal and trash outside can attract birds, increasing the risk of bird strikes and jeopardizing flight safety. Please dispose of animal remains properly in designated bins or bury them. Let's work together to keep our surroundings clean, protect our environment and make air travel even more safer.

Director General, Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority
www.cagpakistan.com.pk

PAKISTAN COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTS & TOWN PLANNERS (PCATP)

Green & Affordable Housing Design Competition

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Punjab Affordable Housing Program

The Pakistan Council of Architects and Town Planners (PCATP) have been commissioned by the Punjab Affordable Housing Program (PAHP), Government of the Punjab to conduct a Green and Affordable Housing Design Competition open to all PCATP registered Architecture/Town Planning Firms. International firms may participate in joint venture with national firm registered with PCATP.

The Design Competition, 2024 will be held according to the brief and conditions available at the following websites:
<https://pahp.gop.pk/> and <https://pcatp.org.pk/>

Jury:

1. Advisor: Chairman PCATP Ar. Arif Chagdeli
2. Nominees (Architect/Planner) of The World Bank
3. Architect Naveem Pasha
4. Architect/Planner Dr Noman Ahmed
5. Chief Executive Officer, The Urban Unit
6. Director General, PHATA
7. Program Director, PAHP

Participating teams must complete the Declaration Forms and Profoms (also available on the websites) and submit these by email not later than August 9, 2024, to:

Acting Registrar Ar. Muhammad Irfan Tariq
Office Nos. 7-12, Usman Center, D-12 Markaz, Islamabad.
Ph. 051-6155552-4, Email: registrar@pcatp.org.pk

The PAHP is supporting the Government of the Punjab in strengthening its housing institutions and systems, and enhancing the quality and quantity of affordable housing supply. The program is funded by the World Bank and being co-implemented by the Urban Unit, Punjab Housing & Town Planning Agency (PHATA) through the Program Management and Implementation Unit (PMIU). The details of program are available on <https://pahp.gop.pk/>

THE WORLD BANK

"SAY NO TO CORRUPTION"

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY
(PROCUREMENT & CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION SECTION)

CORRIGENDUM-IV
TENDER NO. 2(583)

PROPOSALS FOR PREQUALIFICATION
DUALIZATION & REHABILITATION OF
KARACHI - QUETTA - CHAMAN ROAD (N-25)
FROM KARACHI - KAFURD (232 KM) &
WADH - KHUZDAR (41 KM) (TOTAL LENGTH OF 273 KM)

Reference:

- 1) PG Notice for the subject Project Published in National Dailies on April 25, 2024 vide POND/PID/16436/23 and also uploaded on websites of NHA & PPPA vide PPRP NO. 15538017E
- 2) Corrigendum-I Notice for the subject Project Published in National Dailies on May 05, 2024 vide POND/PID/16436/23 and also uploaded on websites of NHA & PPPA vide PPRP NO. 15538017E
- 3) Corrigendum-II Notice for the subject Project Published in National Dailies on May 19, 2024 vide POND/PID/17985/23 and also uploaded on websites of NHA & PPPA vide PPRP NO. 15538017E
- 4) Corrigendum-III Notice for the subject Project Published in National Dailies on June 02, 2024 vide POND/PID/17479/23 and also uploaded on websites of NHA & PPPA vide PPRP NO. 15538017E

1. With Reference to the above Referred PG Notice, Corrigendum-I, Corrigendum-II & Corrigendum-III Notices, it is to inform to all concerned that Deadline for the submission of Prequalification Proposals/Applications is hereby extended up to July 10, 2024, until 1800 Hours. Proposals will be opened at 1800 Hours on the same day.

2. All other terms and conditions shall remain the same.

3. This Corrigendum-IV Notice is also available on PPPA website at www.pppa.org.pk.

GENERAL MANAGER (P&CA)
National Highway Authority
26-Meera Area, Sector G-9/1, P.O. Box No. 1205, Islamabad
Phone: 051-9032727 & Email: gm@nha.gov.pk
Website: www.etcdding.nha.gov.pk

METRO

North



Slick Germany off to blistering Euros start

Page 25 SPORT

ISLAMABAD
Sunset 07:22pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 04:54am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 27°C
Maximum 43°C
Outlook Mostly Sunny



PARTICIPANTS dance at an event to celebrate Africa Day at a local hotel in Islamabad on Saturday. — Online

ASI guns down two senior lawyers in Attock

TATLA: An assistant sub inspector of elite force of Punjab police gunned down two senior lawyers with his official weapon on Saturday, police and hospital sources confirmed.

Malik Iqbal Ahmed, a seasoned advocate of the high court and former president of the Punjab Bar Council and Zulfiqar Meza were targeted in their chamber on the district court complex premises.

Soon after the incident, law enforcement official swiftly apprehended the officer identified as assistant sub inspector Shah, in-charge Quick Response Force (QRF) Road Zone Attock.

According to the police spokesperson, the motive behind the murder is personal animosity as Malik Iqbal Ahmed represented the ex-wife of the police officer in a local family court in which the court ruled in his marriage.

As he was in distress after leaving his wife, so he took revenge from the lawyer and his assistant.

Meanwhile, district police officer (DPO) also visited the crime scene and suspended elite force district in-charge and mafiosi and ordered registration of criminal cases against them for their alleged negligence.

Attock city police have registered a double murder case against the accused police official under section 302, Pakistan Penal Code, section 7 of Anti terrorism act (ATA) and section 3 of the lawyers welfare and protection act 2003.

The legal community on the call given by Kamran Ishaque Mughal Vice chairman Punjab Bar Council observed "black day" on Saturday and announced a complete strike with a decision that no lawyer would appear in any court across the district.

Moreover, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan and Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sherif took notice of the incident and condoled with the families of the slain advocates.

They directed Inspector General Police Punjab (IGP) Dr Usman Anwar to take immediate action against the culprits and take departmental action against all the cops involved in the negligence which led to the cold blooded murder of two lawyers in the court complex.

Governor Haider has instructed the IG to take steps to enhance security measures in order to ensure protection of people's lives and property. — Correspondent

Capital's air quality continues to plummet without mitigation measures

Vehicles, industrialisation emissions largely responsible; waterways contaminated as well

By Jamal Shahid



A Pak-EPA worker collects water samples from a stream in Islamabad on Saturday. — Dawn

ISLAMABAD: In the absence of mitigation measures and a rise in unregulated construction projects in the federal capital, the air quality in Islamabad has continued to deteriorate mostly on the back of vehicular emissions and rapid industrialisation, significantly adding to the concentration of particulate matter in the air.

Not only this, the waterways in and around the capital territory face contamination from various sources, including industrial discharges, agricultural runoff, and domestic waste. The deteriorating quality of water threatens both public health and aquatic life.

Quite recently, a report in this paper mentioned that the Rawal lake - which provides water to Rawalpindi - has been receiving untreated discharge from polluted streams, primarily Korang Nullah, which flow into it.

According to the environmental monitoring team of the Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA), air pollution poses serious health risks, including respiratory illnesses, cardiovascular diseases, and other chronic conditions.

In order to gauge the magnitude of the problem, the EPA launched two projects to study serious challenges related to air pollution, predominantly from industrial emissions and vehicular traffic and water pollution. These pollutants posed serious risks to human health and the ecosystem, necessitating immediate and effective action, according to the EPA.

The project focused on air pollution and saw the EPA's environmental monitoring team diligently collect 24-hour samples of airborne total suspended particulate (TSP) matter from diverse locations across Islamabad. The samples were collected from industrial areas of I-9 and I-10, G-11 Malik, and the rural vicinity of Tarzari Chowk.

According to the EPA, this study aimed to map pollution hotspots and provide critical insights into the health risks associated with TSP exposure. The data would inform future policies and interventions aimed at reducing particulate emissions and improving air quality in the capital city.

Water pollution

The second project titled 'Analysis of Surface and Reservoir Water Quality' is being conducted for extensive analysis of surface and reservoir water quality.

"Composite samples had been collected from key water bodies, including the Korang River, Anjorei Dam, Chatrar Park, Rumi, Jinnah Nullah, Chars Kahs Nullah, and Shalabara," the EPA said, adding that Rawal Dam and Sandy Dam were also included in the sampling list to evaluate water quality comprehensively.

According to the authority, these samples are under analysis to detect contaminants and assess water quality parameters.

The objective is to identify pollution sources, evaluate the extent of contamination, and provide recommendations for optimising water quality to ensure safe and clean water for Islamabad's residents.

The outcomes of this study are crucial for developing effective water management strategies and protecting aquatic ecosystems.

In a statement, the EPA said its measures to analyse and address air and water pollution would likely yield significant benefits for the environment and public health.

By identifying pollution sources and quantifying the impact of airborne particulates, the air quality study would help formulate policies to reduce emissions and a reduction in pollution-related health issues. "The water quality analysis will play a pivotal role in safeguarding Islamabad's water resources, ensuring access to clean water, and protecting aquatic habitats."

Illegal housing society's offices razed

RAWALPINDI: In compliance with the Divisional Intelligence Committee the directives, the Joint Task Force of the District Administration, Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) and local police on Saturday razed illegal offices and containers of Century Town in mouza Bagga Shaikh.

The RDA spokesman said that during the operation, the team demolished three containers of this illegal housing scheme.

Despite previous warnings to cease illegal advertisements, bookings, and development, the owners of the housing schemes continued to operate booking offices in violation of regulations.

He said that the RDA director general emphasised that the crackdown on illegal housing societies will persist vigorously to prevent fraud and protect citizens from exploitation.

He highlighted that public complaints regarding illegal land occupation by housing scheme owners are being taken seriously, and strict measures will be enforced against those engaging in forceful land grabbing.

"The RDA regularly informed the public and advised citizens to avoid investing in illegal housing schemes. Instead, the public is encouraged to visit the RDA website (www.rda.gov.pk) and only engage with approved housing schemes," he said. — Staff Reporter

Medical graduates down on their luck as job market dries up

Doctor claims forced to work as 'ghost general practitioner' due to employment

By Ikram Junaidi

ISLAMABAD: Due to the mushroom growth of medical and dental colleges across the country, a sizeable number of students - after completing MBBS and BDS - have found themselves down on their luck, failing to secure a stable job in their field except for some half-decent part-time opportunities.

Doctor Abidhameed Hassan, who completed MBBS from a medical college in Islamabad a few years ago, is still looking for a job. He told Dawn after many failed attempts,

he secured a job with a health-related project using connections but after the project was winded up, he was left without a job.

Dr Hassan spent Rs10 million to finance his degree but his career choices are limited due to a sluggish job market. "Now I'm going ahead for specialisation in some field. Otherwise, I might not stand a chance to survive...in the medical profession," he said.

Another doctor has a similar story to tell. Dr Shah works as a 'ghost general practitioner' at a private clinic in Rawalpindi and brings home a monthly paycheck of Rs30,000.

"One of my friends offered that he could place me in a clinic in Rawalpindi and gave me the contact number of the owner... The owner called me for the interview and after reaching there I was delighted to see that it was a small hospital

having an emergency room, an operation theatre, radiology room...and rooms to keep patients under observation," he said.

"...to my surprise, a majority of persons working there did not have degrees...they were quacks. The owner of the hospital told me that he will pay me Rs30,000 but I will not be allowed to check or treat any patients," he said.

Dr Shah said the hospital only required his professional licence to show it to the health authority officials who inspect the hospital at regular intervals. Initially, he refused to work there but after he did not find work, he approached the hospital again and got the job.

"A copy of my licence has been pasted on the wall and now I just sit in the clinic eight hours a day and see how those quacks administer unnecessary drips and suggest unnecessary and Nexys without any

prescription. It is painful for me...but I have no option as Rs 30,000 means a lot. The owner of the hospital has given me hope that he will place me in another clinic where I will have to sit for another eight hours and then I will be earning Rs 60,000 per month," he said.

Another doctor, wishing not to be quoted, said, "I did unpaid home jobs and now am employed at a small hospital on daily wages, due to which I earn less than a clerk." He said his medical college did not offer him a paid home job because those "hospital did not get many patients".

Health Services Academy Vice Chancellor Dr Shabaz Ali Khan, while talking to Dawn, said the state of the medical sector had significantly deteriorated due to the situation prevalent in medical colleges and hospitals.

"Most private colleges have 'Safari Faculty' which is called in the colleges during the months of inspection by the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC). I have personally observed professors who were present at private medical colleges at the time of these inspections. After that I learned my faculty members from working in any other medical college or university," he said.

Speaking about 'ghost' doctors, Dr Shabaz said the practice was common across the country but it could be addressed through rigorous regulatory mechanisms.

"The district health officers, health regulatory authorities, and drug inspectors can address the issue but they need to have a will. They should check if the prescriptions are written by the registered GP and if their handwriting matches the prescription. They should check

the medicines being administered to patients and ask the patients about the doctor," he suggested.

Former Punjab health minister Dr Javed Akram termed it a "huge issue" which needed to be effectively addressed. "First is that the quality of education is not up to the mark in Pakistan, especially at most private institutions, as well as those countries which do not have English as the medium of instruction," he said.

"The PMDC should have the same yardstick for local and foreign graduates and it should clearly announce about foreign universities whose degrees will be recognised in Pakistan. Unfortunately, tens of thousands of students have studied abroad with the number rising every year [in the absence of relevant framework]," he said, stressing the need to announce a "clear policy".

Special polio vaccination initiative launched

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: As Eid festivities have begun across the country, the Pakistan Polio Programme has launched a special initiative to vaccinate children against the paralyzing poliovirus over the Eidul Adha holidays and curb virus spread.

Under the "Eid Mubarak Vaccination Initiative", polio teams have been deployed at 187 special stalls in key locations such as malls and areas of more than 20 districts to vaccinate children. They will continue administering polio vaccine till June 20.

The aim of the initiative is to create awareness of the importance of the polio vaccine, engage parents directly in the fight against the terrible disease and foster community ownership and engagement. It also gives parents the opportunity to become polio eradicators themselves.

According to spokesperson of health ministry, parents can visit these stalls where trained polio workers will explain the importance of the vaccine and guide them on how to vaccinate their children to keep them protected from the paralyzing disease.

"The Eid Mubarak Vaccination Initiative is a great opportunity to engage with communities and make them an active part of polio eradication efforts," said Coordinator of the National Emergency Operations Center for Polio Eradication, Captain (Retd) Muhammad Arshad Haq.

"Parents are our key allies in the fight against polio and by involving them in the vaccination process, we are not only creating awareness about the importance of polio vaccine but also creating vaccination advocates within families and communities," he said.

Polio is a highly infectious disease caused by poliovirus mainly affecting children under the age of five years. It invades the nervous system and can cause paralysis or even death. While there is no cure for polio, vaccination is the most effective way to protect children from this crippling disease. Each time a child under the age of five is vaccinated, their protection against the virus is increased. Repeated immunisations have protected millions of children from polio, allowing almost all countries in the world to become polio-free, except for the two endemic countries of Pakistan and Afghanistan.



AS Eidul Adha a day away, a blacksmith sharpens a chopper knife at his workplace in Punana Gila in Rawalpindi on Saturday. — Photo by Mohammad Asim

Travel ban on non-filers to apply only after due notice, FBR chief tells Senate body

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Chairman Anwar Zuberi on Saturday clarified that there had been no immediate or travel restrictions on non-filers as proposed in the federal budget presented by the government for the next fiscal year on June 12, stating that a prior notice and inclusion in the Income General Tax Order would be pre-requisite for such an action.

This clarification was given by the FBR chairman before the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue which was presided over by Senator Saleem Mandiwala of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), according to an official handout issued by the Senate Secretariat.

This was the 16th session of the committee which had been meeting to meticulously scrutinize the provisions of the Income Tax Ordinance 2001 as notified in Clause 5 of the Finance Bill 2024.

The FBR chairman clarified that the requirement to link NTN (National Tax Number) with passports for international travel would apply only after due notice and inclusion in the income tax general order, dispelling public concerns regarding immediate travel restrictions. Addressing misconceptions, the FBR chairman clarified that the requirement to link NTN members with passports for international travel applies only after due notice and inclusion in the income tax general order, dispelling public concerns regarding immediate travel restrictions.

It may be mentioned that

while announcing the federal budget, the government had proposed a series of measures to penalise individuals and businesses who do not file income tax returns, including the possibility of being barred from foreign travel. The measures appeared to be another attempt by the government to coerce non-filers into filing their tax returns for the de-stabilisation of the economy.

In his speech on the floor of the National Assembly on June 12, Finance Minister Muhammad Azeemul Haq had said the government aimed to increase the tax base and widen the tax-to-GDP ratio through these measures.

The finance bill has proposed amendments to Section 114B of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001 to stop non-filers from travelling abroad.

The sub clause 2 of the said section already empowered the FBR to disable mobile phone SIMs and cut electricity and gas connections of non-filers.

"[A] citizen of Pakistan" who is liable to file tax returns, but doesn't do so can be stopped from travelling abroad if the proposal is passed by the parliament.

The implementing agencies will be stopped with a penalty of Rs200m, if they

defy the orders to take any of the three punitive actions. The penalty will go up by Rs200m for every subsequent defiance.

The committee members were also appressed about the introduction of a new category termed "late filer" under the Income Tax Ordinance, targeting individuals who sporadically file returns without consistent adherence. The committee underscored the need to impose stricter penalties, proposing a 50 per cent tax levy and withdrawal of previous concessions.

Furthermore, the committee members also deliberated on advertising expenses related to brand royalties, expressing reservations on proposed

classes affecting local investors and ownership control thresholds.

In response to queries regarding income tax on imports, the committee members expressed reservations over proposed methods for determining minimum taxable values, advocating for customs evaluation as the standard practice. The committee gave reservations and deferred the amendments for further review alongside sales tax amendments. Similarly, proposals regarding property tax extensions for ex-Fata and ex-Pata were postponed, pending reconsideration.

The committee also addressed concerns regarding

18 per cent GST (General Sales Tax) levies on packaging items and locally processed milk products, advocating for reductions to alleviate consumer burdens, particularly on essential items such as infant formula.

In a notable exchange, PPP Senator Sherry Rehman emphasised equitable tax distribution among corporations, advocating against shifting tax burdens onto consumers for products like formula milk.

The committee meeting was attended by Sherry Rehman, Molten Aziz, Anamul Haqman, Ahmad Khan, Shahzad Durrani, Farooq Naik, Shibli Faraz and Muzamir Ahmad Kakar.

Wasa makes smooth water supply plan for Eid

RAWALPINDI: Water and Sanitation Agency (Wasa) made up for smooth supply of water during Eidul Adha and keep the sewerage system of the city neat and clean in the wake of prediction of rains. Besides, the vacation of the operational staff has been cancelled.

It was informed that Wasa Managing Director Saleem Ashraf in a meeting held to review the arrangements for Eid days and in the wake of heavy rains.

Wasa officials gave a detailed briefing to the managing director and informed him that the city is divided in four zones and complaint cells have been set up to provide water to the residential areas without any hurdle.

Staff had been deployed in the complaint cells round the clock in two shifts.

During the meeting, it was decided that all the drains should be effectively checked to eliminate the chances of overflowing. Areas within the jurisdiction of Wasa should be surveyed and visited frequently to ensure that sewers do not overflow.

The managing director directed the official concerned to check all water supply if a waterline was found damaged it should be repaired immediately before then. He said that all field offices should keep their area under vigilance watch and any complaint of sewer blockage should be attended promptly.

He said that water hoses should be kept in ready conditions to meet requirements in water shortage areas. He said that all the deputy directors would personally ensure immediate redressal of complaints of tube well water supply and sewerage system.

He asked the WASA staff to pay attention to and around the mosques where sewer blockage was found. He said that the mosques and public areas would be cleaned before the prayers.

He said that the operations of tube wells should be closely monitored and round the clock service should be ensured. He said that the complaints should be attended promptly. He said that the lorry hydrants, fire hydrants must be fully functional to meet the water demand in case of emergency.

He said that no water complaints would have remained in coming days of Eid as people would perform their religious rituals. He said that no negligence would be tolerated and the action would be taken against those tube well operators who failed to report the faulty machinery before the Eid. — Staff Reporter

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

OBITUARY

Say, surely my prayers and my sacrifice, and my life, and my death are for Allah, the Lord of the worlds. Our Dearest, most beloved, most perfect Father, Asam Hamid S/o Col. (Retd.) Hamid Ullah Khan (late), passed away on Thursday, June 13, 2024. May Allah have mercy on his soul.

DUA / Qul will be held on
Sunday, 16 June 2024
Quran khawani/Dua after Zuhr Prayers.
at 291 Peshawar Road, Rawalpindi

Bereaved family:
Nasir Hamid: 0300-8568815
Yasir Hamid: 0302-8444220
Mr & Mrs Zainab Ali Saeed
Hajira Hamid

(058-6)

عید کی خوشیوں میں رکھیں دھیان صفائی بھی ہے نصف ایمان

عید الاضحیٰ کے موقع پر شہر میں صفائی ستھرائی یقینی بنانے کیلئے

تیار ہے RWMC

شہریوں سے التماس ہے

قربانی کے جانوروں کی آرائش کھلے عام ہرگز نہ چھینکیں بلکہ ویسٹ بیگز میں بند کر کے کوڑے دان میں ڈالیں یا عمل صفائی کے حوالے کریں۔

For Complaints in Rawalpindi

| Sr. # | Officer Names | Contact Numbers | Uc's |
|-------|---------------|-----------------|--|
| 1 | Anwar Hussain | 0315-2007892 | 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9 |
| 2 | Haris Mustafa | 0315-1039903 | 10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20 |
| 3 | Kamran Farooq | 0315-1039920 | 21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29 |
| 4 | Usair Usman | 0315-1039934 | 30,31,32,33,34,35,36,37,38,39,40,41,42 |
| 5 | Waseed Abbasi | 0315-1039942 | 33,34,35,36,37,38,39,40,41,42 |
| 6 | Ali Hassan | 0315-1039964 | 74,75,76,77,78,79,80,81 |
| 7 | Ali Munir | 0315-1039920 | 82,84,85,86,87,88,90,118 |

For Complaints in Tehsils

| Sr. # | Officers & Contact Numbers | Tehsil names |
|-------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Bilal Bukhari (0303-5111010) | Taxila |
| 2 | Ahmad (0301-5050042) | Kallar Syedan |
| 3 | Malik Bagli (0315-7252445) | Gujar Khan |
| 4 | Khuram Sherazad (0348-2055371) | Kheloo |
| 5 | Taha Mir (0315-2008278) | Muzaff |

اہم اقدامات

کوڑا کرکٹ آرائش کرنے کے لیے

عملہ صفائی بر وقت حرکت

مساجد و عیدگاہوں کی خصوصی صفائی

اہم اقدامات

جانور ویسٹ دہشت بیکڑی صفائی قرابانی

راولپنڈی شہر اور اس کی تحصیلوں میں

8 گھنٹوں کا قیام

(058-6)

CEO RWMC 0321-8400149 SM Operations 0315-1039962 Mgr. Operations 0315-1039930

51-9291108 | 0316-4801718 | مرکزی کنٹرول روم کا قیام | 1139 | راولپنڈی ویسٹ مینجمنٹ کمپنی

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Slick Germany off to blistering Euros start

Page 25 SPORT

LAHORE

Sunset 07:11 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 04:55 am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum 32.0°C
Maximum 45.0°C
Outlook Sunny

AQI

Maximum (Yesterday) 164

METRO

Central



PASSENGERS throng the Lahore Railway Station to leave for their hometowns to spend Eid holidays. — White Star

PDMA issues alert as rains likely during Eid days

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The city braced for heavy rain as temperatures soared on Saturday while the meteorological department has expected rain after Eidul Adha.

In response to the escalating temperatures, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Punjab has issued an alert to the administration regarding the weather situation.

According to the PDMA spokesperson, the weather will remain extremely hot and dry in most parts of Punjab from June 16 to 18. From June 18 to 22, there are chances of gusty winds and then drizzle/rain in most of the districts of the province. Rains are predicted in south Punjab during June 20 to 22.

PDMA DG Irfan Ali Karthia issued instructions to the administration to remain alert and said that citizens must keep the weather situation in mind while preparing for Eidul Adha. He said to get weather updates for tourism purposes during the Eid holidays. Carry the necessary equipment before traveling to mountainous areas.

Rescue organisations and district administration remain on alert even during the Eid holidays. Instructions have been issued to provide all possible facilities to the tourists. DG Mr Karthia further said that citizens should stay in safe places to avoid lightning.

Do not go to open places during lightning and stormy conditions. In case

Continued on Page 15

Govt intends to imprison Imran for five years, says Ahsan

Minister appears wary of tussle between judiciary and establishment

By Zubqain Tahir

LAHORE: The PML-N government has spoken out in mixed tones about keeping former leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan in jail for his five-year term till 2029 for "economic stability."

"People come to us and tell us if Pakistan has to progress then Imran Khan will have to be kept in jail for five years," Federal Planning and Development

Minister and PML-N Secretary General Ahsan Iqbal said while talking to reporters here on Saturday.

He said if Imran Khan came out of jail then there would be again strikes and fight and the country could not afford this.

"There is a voice of the people [that] Imran Khan should remain in jail for five years," he said and added Imran Khan was an "angry man" and it was not known with whom he had a quarrel.

Mr Iqbal said it was a decisive moment for both Pakistan and the PTI. "It is not possible that talks are held with the PTI on the one hand and on the other it runs campaign against the state institutions. If Imran Khan

wants to hold dialogue with the government he will have to show seriousness," he said and added Pakistan at the moment needed continuity of the government policies.

The minister indirectly took on the judiciary saying wherever Mr Khan had a difficult time he used the "shoulder of the judiciary" to get relief. Imran Khan was facing serious cases in courts, he claimed.

Imran Khan has been in jail since August last year in different cases. The PML-N leader appeared wary of the ongoing tussle between the judiciary and the establishment.

To a question about confrontation between the judiciary and the military establishment, Iqbal said "Both should think whether

this confrontation is better for the country."

He said in the past politicians would fight with the establishment and vice versa.

"Now we have to go along together for the sake of the country. We cannot afford fighting with each other," he said and added the country's sovereignty could have been at stake if "we continued fighting with each other." He said congenial environment was required for investment in the country.

Ahsan Iqbal said the government would take forward the CPEC project. "China has always supported Pakistan in crisis," he said and added in the next three years Pakistan would be facing a biggest challenge of debt servicing.

Dolphins' act leads to removal of SP

By Asif Chaudhry

LAHORE: Inspector General of Police Dr Usman Arwan has transferred Lahore Dolphin Force SP Zubair Nawazullah Raza to a post in a police station near Jati Umera, Rawalpindi, for having stirred citizens and the mob travelling in the car was said to be close to the PML-N's top leadership.

According to some conflicting reports, the Dolphin Force personnel demanded a bribe from the man to let him go while the police personnel denied allegations, saying "they had followed the orders of the Lahore police high-ups to show zero tolerance towards unauthorised persons using windows time".

However, the unidentified car rider complained to the PML-N leadership and his phone call led to the transfer of the SP Dolphins Force, according to highly placed sources.

An official, privy to the development, told Dawn the incident occurred at around 8pm on Friday when the influential man was coming back from the residence of PML-N supreme Minster Nawaz Sharif. As soon as the man called, the Lahore police faced a job, making the senior officers, including SP Dolphins Force, SP Sackian, ASPs and DSPs of the relevant circles, rush to the site to "manage" the situation.

The source said Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz expressed her annoyance at the police for demanding bribe from the close friend of the PML-N leadership though the Dolphin personnel denied it, saying the car was stopped for having stirred windows. The SP issued an order to inquire into the matter without waiting time.

The police force has kept the identity of the car rider involved in the incident hidden and even the police officers on top posts are unaware of his identity. The official source said that SP

Dolphin Zubair Raza was already in hot water due to a sharp surge in street crime. He was facing a tough time from Punjab Safe City Authority Managing Director Ahsan Yousaf and DIO Operations Faisal Khatun for the last many weeks. The situation turned further hostile for him when Lahore's divisional SPs and the SIDs also complained many times to the Lahore DIO Operations that the Dolphin Force was not responding to the crime calls effectively, leading to the crime surge in the provincial capital.

Following frequent complaints, the DIO Operations had expressed his strong annoyance, expressing Mr Zubair's need to improve performance or face the music.

The SP defended his position each time, giving counter arguments that the divisional SPs and SIDs were meddling in the Lahore police high-ups as the Dolphin Force couldn't fight street crime in isolation but it

could do that only with coordination of all wings of police. He listed the highways that 279 teams of the Dolphin Force were patrolling in the city, alleging that the divisional SPs and SIDs were shifting their "negligence" to his Dolphin Force to escape departmental action. He said the Dolphin personnel were doing their best by patrolling extensively in scorching heat by wearing heavy safety jackets and helmets. He also defended his force by showing the record of arrested hardened criminals after tough clashes.

The Lahore police authorities rejected his claims, holding the ineffective patrolling as the major factors behind the crime increase in Lahore. The official said Friday's night event added further fuel to the fire, providing a golden opportunity to the Lahore police high-ups to punish the SP.

Interestingly, Punjab Safe City

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Parvez Elahi's first public appearance after release

By Wassim Ashraf Butt

GUJRAT: Former Punjab chief minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf President Chaudhry Parvez Elahi has apparently resumed his political activities by meeting different party delegations and local supporters in his hometown here on Saturday.

Flanked by his spouse Qaisara Elahi, sister-in-law and cousin Sameera Elahi and son Raashid Elahi, Parvez Elahi arrived at family's Zafar Elahi House in the city where a large number of local PTI workers accorded him a rousing reception.

This has been his first visit to Gujrat since his release from the jail last month after almost one year detention in different camps.

Former elected representatives from the Elahi camp and officials of party held meetings with him but he did not deliver any speech on the occasion though he spent at least four hours with them. Sources said he acted as an attentive listener for most of the time.

He is expected to hold more meetings with the supporters on Sunday (today) afternoon.

They said that the former CM might stay in his son Moazz Elahi's Kurah house near Gujrat for at least four to five more days along with the other family members.

It is learnt that he also hosted a dinner for former PTI lawmakers and ticket-holders from Gujrat district at the Kurah House on Saturday night where matters pertaining to park affairs and recently held general elections also came under discussion.

Parvez has been keeping quiet since his release from the jail and did not even spoke to media.

Three killed over marriage dispute

By Our Correspondent

GUJRAT: Three people, including a teenager and an elderly man, were gunned down over a marriage dispute in Rasoola Kalan village of Domelli police precincts, Jhelum, on Saturday.

Reports said Sadam along with his accomplices opened fire at 75-year-old Raja Mahmood, Gull Umar (50) and Ghazanfer Adil (14) over a marriage dispute leaving them seriously injured.

The injured were shifted to Domelli Rural Health Centre where they all succumbed to the wounds after which the bodies were shifted to Sohawa Tehsil Headquarter hospital for autopsy.

Jhelum district police officer Nadeem Bajwa also reached the Sohawa hospital and got details of the incident from the heirs of deceased.

The DPO directed investigation SP Raja Naseeb and Sohawa circle DSP to launch the investigation and arrest the suspects involved in the brutal murder of three people.

Police said that they had started investigation into the incident and were conducting raids to arrest the fleeing suspects.

CM orders cut in transport fares

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has ordered reduction in transport fares after cut in petroleum prices.

At a meeting here on Saturday, Ms Nawaz expressed her displeasure on non-reduction in the transport fares despite reduction of Rs35 in the petroleum prices during a month or so.

She directed the transport ministry and police to launch an operation to ensure an immediate reduction in the transport fares.

She also directed the officials to ensure maintaining the prices of toll and other edibles at the official rates.

She ordered timely clearing the animal waste and provision of shade to protect the animals from sunlight in the cattle markets. She also directed to ensure availability of doctors, water and other essential facilities in the cattle markets.

OPDs remain shut in protest against doctors' sacking

270 Sahiwal hospital doctors, other staff members resign; three guards arrested for taking bribes

By Shafiq Butt

SAHIWAL: All outpatient departments (OPDs) remained closed on Saturday in protest against the police action against the doctors, paramedical and staff of the Sahiwal Teaching Hospital and sacking and arrest of four senior doctors during Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's visit to the hospital on Friday.

Some officers and 36 allied health staff, including the heads of departments and senior faculty members, submitted their resignations, saying they would not work under ongoing harassment. They protested sacking of four senior officers, including the medical superintendent of the hospital, by the CM and police action that followed.

The protesters staged a demonstration in front of the Surgical Tower of the hospital.

Later, the Young Doctors Association staged a protest rally and blocked Sahiwal-Dawalabad Road for one hour. The strike call was given by the district chapter of YDA.

Three security guards, including a woman, working on daily wages were also booked and arrested by police. On the other hand, the firefighters of Rescue

1122 received the cash awards that the CM had announced for them for saving the lives of children from the hospital fire.

The chief minister had taken action on the independent reports after multiple inquiries into the death of 11 children in the fire at the paediatric ward of the hospital on June 5.

According to some reports, more than 800 patients suffered because of closure of the OPDs while only the emergency ward was open and patients were being treated there by a limited number of junior doctors.

Dawn learnt from sources that OPDs at Tehsil Headquarters (THQ) Hospital Chichawatni, DHO of Pakpattan, THQ Arifwala and DHO Okara also remained closed.

On the other hand, the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department

has not yet issued termination letters for four doctors, namely Sahiwal Teaching Hospital's MS Akhter Hussain, Deputy MS Dr Usman Arwan, Assistant MS Dr Umar and Sahiwal Medical College Principal Prof Dr Imran Hassan.

Three hospital security guards, including a woman, working on daily wages were arrested by Faisal Town police after they were booked under sections of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) and Pakistan Penal Code (PPC).

The guards were identified as Muhammad Imran, Usman Ali and Sohail. The case against them was registered on the complaint of a patient, named Hassan Rafique, resident of Bahkai Town.

The guards were booked for taking bribes from patients to let them enter the

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Meagre allocation for south Punjab draws flak

By Majeed Gill

RAHAWALPUR: As both federal and Punjab governments have ignored south Punjab's budget allocations for the most financial year, the political and social circles from the region have criticised both the governments.

According to local political circles, the non-provision of any budgetary allocations, particularly in Punjab, has put to rest the reports of restoration of south Punjab secretariats in Bahawalpur and Multan. The move supports the reports already making rounds that the PMU-N governments were gradually heading towards the rollback of the south Punjab secretariats in Bahawalpur and Multan, which were established by the PTI government with a view to establish the South Punjab province at a later stage through the people of Bahawalpur were reluctant to accept the proposal.

Former PTI minister from Bahawalpur, Samiullah Chaudhry, and Ahmed

Dhoroja of Seraikistan National Council, Pakistan Seraki Party's Atiqul Iqbal Waseem and others, belonging to nationalist groups have criticised the government for depriving south Punjab secretariat of its required annual budget.

They feared that the non-provision of the budget would lead towards the stripping of south Punjab secretariats although PMU-N stood for the creation of south Punjab province and the restoration of Bahawalpur province in the past.

They demanded restoration of the required budget of billions of rupees of south Punjab.

It is learnt that for the construction of South Punjab Secretariat and construction of GOR in Multan, a sum of over Rs2.4bn was required during the most financial year while in the Punjab budget, a proposal to allocate a meagre amount was incorporated this year just like the last year. With this meagre proposed allocation this year too, the restoration of South Punjab Secretariat is not in sight.

Case against PTI MPs for pro-Imran rallies

By Malik Tahseen Fazal

MUZAFFARGARH: Layyah police have registered cases against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MNA Malik Awais Jhokkar, MPA Osama Nazim Gajjar, Sardar Shahabuddin Sahar and Shauq Ammar Aman, along with 14 identified and 25 unidentified supporters, under various sections of the PPC including 500R, 427, 141, 188, 186, 253, 382, 148, 149, and 14-MPTO.

The cases were registered at Kot Sakran and Chowk Aman police stations following a PTI rally supporting the release of former prime minister Imran Khan.

According to the Kot Sakran police FIR, protesters led by these lawmakers, allegedly blocked roads, attacked police constables, and snatched their equipment, including cash and helmets, while charring slogans against the government.

Despite police efforts to intervene, the protesters reportedly threatened them with batons. Two constables, Imran and Mukhtiar, were injured during the incident.

The Chowk Aman police registered an FIR against 50 identified PTI protesters and do-

zens more unidentified, who participated in a rally led by MPA Aman.

According to the police statement, the protesters were armed with weapons and batons, and they attacked a police team, resulting in serious injuries. The injured officers were shifted to the hospital.

DPO Asadul Rehman said Section 144 was already in effect in Layyah district, imposed by Deputy Commissioner Amira Baidar. He condemned the attacks on police and vowed strong action against the perpetrators, ensuring their swift arrest.

PTI supporters, however, said the rallies were peaceful and aimed at expressing solidarity with their leader, Mr Khan. They alleged that police used excessive force, including baton charges and snatching, injuring several PTI supporters.

Meanwhile, in Muzaffargarh and Kot Adha districts, similar rallies in support of Imran Khan were reportedly peacefully controlled by the police.

Former PTI MNA Akhbar Majeed Niaz, husband of MNA Amber Majeed Niaz, expressed concerns about potential police actions against their party in the future, highlighting injuries

sustained by their workers.

He said despite support for PTI, Layyah district had not received any major projects or budget allocations for 2024-25.

RESCUED: The Muzaffargarh Sadar police rescued Qari Mubtaz, a mosque prayer leader, who was held captive for three months by kidnappers of the South Kohistan area demanding a ransom of Rs5 million.

The kidnappers had chained Mubtaz and circled videos of his torture on social media. Upon receiving instructions from District Police Officer Syed Hussain Haidar, Station House Officer (SHO) Zawar Hussain Rizvi traced the location of the kidnappers to the Kohistan area in Sindh.

A police raid resulted in the safe rescue of Muhammad Mubtaz from the gang.

Also, Karamat Qureshi SIDO Akhbar and his team, in collaboration with customs officials, conducted an operation against non-customs goods. They intercepted a vehicle following a tip-off, recovering 696 units of khaakhias.

The goods were promptly handed over to the customs authorities. This action reflects the authorities' commitment to safeguarding public safety and property.

PDMA issues alert as rains likely during Eid days

Continued from Page 13

of emergency contact PDMA Helpline 1127 or Helpline 1122.

According to the meteorological department, the current temperature of the city has been recorded at 37 degrees Celsius, with the maximum temperature expected to reach up to 43 degrees. The humidity level in the air has been recorded at 36 per cent.

The experts expressed concerns about a heatwave gripping the city on Saturday and advised the citizens to take precautionary measures.

Lahore was also ranked fourth in the global air pollution index, while a significant decrease in pollution levels has been observed, with the Air Quality Index recorded at 125. On Syed Masood Ali Road, it is 195, and at Thokar Niaz Beg, it is 149.

On the other hand, rain is predicted on the second day of Eidul Adha.

According to the meteorological department, moist winds from the Arabian Sea are likely to enter the upper and central regions of the country. From June 18, moist winds entering the western regions of the country may bring rain in various districts of Gilgit, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Islamabad, Balochistan, and Sindh. Between June 18 and June 22, there is a possibility of strong winds and thunderstorms with rain in Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir, with heavy rainfall expected in some places in Kashmir. From June 16 to June 18, KP is expected to experience very hot and dry weather.

The meteorological department also stated that from June 18 to June 22, there is a possibility of intermittent rain with dust storms and thunderstorms in Central and Alishanabad. During this period, most areas of Balochistan are expected to remain very hot and dry. Between June 18 and 22, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Muzra, and Gilgit may experience dust storms along with thunderstorms and rain in some places. From June 20 to 22, Bahawalpur, Multan, and Khanawal can expect dust storms along with thunderstorms and rain.

According to the meteorological department, from June 20 to 22, there is a possibility of rain with dust storms and thunderstorms in Quetta, Zhob, Dera Bugti, Baluchistan. Most areas of Sindh are expected to remain very hot and dry from June 17 to 20. From June 21 to 22, heavy rainfall is expected in Sukkur and Jacobabad along with dust storms.

Weather forecasters have issued a warning that due to dust storms and thunderstorms, daily life routines may be affected along with potential damage to weak infrastructure. There is a possibility of a reduction in the intensity of the severe heatwave from June 19 to 22. All relevant authorities have been directed to stay alert during the heatwave.

Woman gang-raped over monetary row

By Our Correspondent

NAROWAL: A woman was allegedly gang-raped over a monetary dispute here on Saturday at Shega village of Shekargarh tehsil.

Reports said laborer T complained to the police that he was working in the vegetable market and his wife and children were at home. Upon his return, his wife, a mother of five, told him that during his absence, five suspects entered their house.

According to her, three of them allegedly gang-raped her and then, she said they also started beating her on offering resistance.

The complainant said he had been involved in a business with a nephew of one of the suspects a year ago, which resulted in a loss of Rs170,000. Although he had managed to repay Rs20,000, the remaining Rs150,000 were still outstanding.

The suspect and his nephews had been demanding the repayment. The complainant said four months ago, the suspect had forcibly taken him to an outdoor area and tortured him for not paying the money.

Despite applying for the registration of a first information report, the police did not take action.

Following complainant's recent application, Kot Nazim police registered an FIR against the five suspects.

Police spokesman Darlam Minzala said police were conducting raids to arrest the suspects.

OPDs remain shut...

Continued from Page 13

pediatric ward on the night when the fire broke out. Mr Hassan had told the CM the other day that two male security guards demanded Rs2,000 and a female guard Rs200 for giving the patient's accident entry into the pediatric ward.

The chief minister had issued orders for the arrest of the security guards and district police had included 7-ATA in the case registered against them.

Interestingly, all the three guards arrested by police were not present on duty when the incident happened. District Police Officer Faisal Shahzad said investigations were underway to establish whether the security guards were on leave or not.

The YDA condemned the inclusion of the 7-ATA in the case against the daily-wage guards.

The chief minister had announced Rs100,000 cash for five firefighters of the Rescue 1122 for saving the children when the fire broke out in the hospital ward. According to reports, 41 children were rescued by the parents themselves while more than 28 were rescued by the firefighters. The cheques were distributed among the rescuers by Commissioner Shahab Jilani on Saturday.

Meanwhile, the commissioner has written a letter to all public offices, heads of educational institutions, research institutes and hospitals to check and update their emergency firefighting systems.

Dolphins' act leads...

Continued from Page 13

Authority MD Ahsan Yousaf is holding the additional charge of the DHO Headquarters of the Punjab Police, the high-profile post that deals with the transfer and postings of all officers from the DSP and above.

As Mr Yousaf was unhappy with the performance of SP Dolphin Zohair Rangha, he played a decisive role, convincing the DHO to show Rangha the door and replace him with any other police officer.

The official said Dr Usman Anwar prepared a summary with the consultation of the DHO Headquarters and moved the same to the C.M. She accorded approval and a notification of the transfer of SP Zohair Rangha was issued later on Saturday.

Cop suspended

NAROWAL: A police constable in Shekhar has been suspended from service for allegedly sexually harassing a woman who visited the police station to secure the release of her husband.

The woman alleged the constable demanded sexual favours in exchange for her husband's release and threatened to implicate him in a drug case if she refused. She provided evidence of the constable's inappropriate messages and phone calls to the media.

DPO Hassan Jilani took notice of the incident and suspended Constable Faisal. — Correspondent

اس عید الاضحیٰ وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب مریم نواز شریف کی خصوصی ہدایت پر

لاپور ویسٹ مینجمنٹ پلان

ویسٹ مینجمنٹ پلان

• دیکھیں ماٹرنیٹک کنٹرول روم سے 24 گھنٹے کا ریزرونگ کی لائین ماٹرنیٹک • موٹی سٹریٹوں میں صفائی آگاہی کیپس قائم

• 14 لاکھ سے زائد ماحول دوست ویسٹ بکٹس کی منتھیم • 105 عارضی ویسٹ بکٹیں پیمائش اور 5 ایسیک سائس قائم

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صفائی کالنگ ام پر مشورہ اور کھنے کے لیے LWMC کے گھنٹے کے ساتھ تعاون کریں

لاہور ویسٹ مینجمنٹ کمپنی محکمہ بلدیات، حکومت پنجاب

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CLEAN LAHORE

1ST ENTRY TEST FOR ADMISSION IN ENGINEERING AND ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS IN GOVERNMENT COLLEGE UNIVERSITY FAISALABAD, FALL 2024

1st Entry Test for Fall 2024 Admission in the following programs under the Faculty of Engineering & Technology, Government College University Faisalabad, is being conducted on **Wednesday 26th June 2024**:

| | PAKISTAN ENGINEERING COUNCIL (PEC) ACCREDITED PROGRAM: | NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL (NTC) ACCREDITED PROGRAMS: |
|--|---|---|
| | 1. BS Electrical Engineering | 1. Bachelor of Engineering Technology (Electrical) 2. Bachelor of Engineering Technology (Chemical) 3. Bachelor of Engineering Technology (Mechanical) 4. Bachelor of Engineering Technology (Civil) |
| Minimum Entry Test Eligibility Criteria | The result of one of the following must be available: • First year in F.Sc. Pre-Engineering (or Pre-Medical with the additional subject of Mathematics)/A-Levels/ICS. OR • First two years in relevant DAE. | The result of one of the following must be available: • First year in F.Sc. Pre-Engineering/ F.Sc. Pre-Medical/ A-Levels/ ICS. OR • First two years in relevant DAE. |
| Entry Test Type | • 100 MCQ-type questions. • 4 marks per each correct answer, 0 marks for un-attempted questions, and -1 mark for each incorrect answer. • Questions from F.Sc. level English, Mathematics, Chemistry, and Physics subjects. | • 100 MCQ-type questions. • All questions carry equal marks. • No negative marking. • Questions from Intermediate level English, Mathematics, Chemistry, and Physics subjects. |
| Contact Numbers | 0333-8369095 | 0334-6554844 (Electrical) 0333-6560672 (Chemical) 0300-6236248 (Mechanical) 0321-2657111 (Civil) |
| | Venue: Iqbal Block, GCUF, New Campus, Jhang Road, Faisalabad. | Venue: Kamal Shahid Block, GCUF New Campus, Jhang Road, Faisalabad |

Important Dates/Links

Registration Weblink: <https://admissions.gcu.edu.pk/>
 Entry Test Fee: 500/- Rs.
 Registration Deadline: 25th June 2024 (Tuesday)
 Entry Test Date: 26th June 2024 (Wednesday)
 Time: 10:00 AM (Reporting Time)

Registrar
Government College University,
Faisalabad

(LHR-G)

METRO

North



Slick Germany off to blistering Euros start

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PESHAWAR
Sunset 07:28pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 04:59am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 27°C
Maximum 43°C
Outlook Sunny



PEOPLE buy spices at a shop in Mochi Lera bazaar, Peshawar, on Saturday ahead of Eidul Azha. — White Star

New MTI boards to review legality of decisions taken by their predecessors

Health dept removes BoGs on directives of chief minister

By Ashfaq Yasufzai

PESHAWAR: The newly appointed Board of Governors of medical teaching institutions (MTIs) will review the decisions taken by their predecessors and will undo the ones taken illegally. "We will review the legality of all decisions and proceed accordingly. We want to run MTIs as per law," Prof Nasseerwan Baraki, the architect of health reforms law, told Dawn. He said that they would resume work in MTIs soon after Eidul Azha. He added that they would review all decisions made by the previous BoGs and those

taken in accordance with the law would be retained while the unlawful steps would be reversed. Prof Baraki remained chairman of MTI Policy Board as well as chairman of the Board of Lady Reading Hospital (LRH) till he along with other members was removed by the caretaker government in March 2023. However, the present PTI government in the province removed BoGs of MTIs on Friday and appointed him the chairman of BoG of LRH to resume work on the reforms programme in health sector. The notification issued by health department said that the old BoGs were removed and replaced with those recommended by search and nomination council on the directives of Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur. Asked if he was coming to resume work on reforms in

health sector, Prof Baraki, said that he was awaiting final notifications about chairman of BoG and replacement of Policy Board. Policy Board oversees the performance of all boards to ensure that all MTIs pursue the same policy. He said that notification regarding replacement of Policy Board members was about to be issued. However, he said that the government was very slow on it. He will reoccupy his position as chairman of Policy Board after the issuance of the notification. The existing chairman of Policy Board, Prof Ziaul Islam, told Dawn that he was ready to work in the new setup to play his role for reforms. However, he said that it depended on Prof Baraki as to how he would select members of Policy Board. The new BoGs want to expedite the reforms process because

after nine years, the law is yet to get fully implemented. "Yes, and orders that MTIRA and regulations are followed in letter and spirit," said Prof Baraki. Currently, most of the 10 MTIs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have been operating under the medical and hospital directors, who are working on ad-hoc basis. These are very important positions and enforce the policy of the government through supervision of BoGs. "We are going to start work as soon as possible and make sure that all the high-ranked posts are filled with permanent people," said Prof Baraki. Other members of the newly announced BoGs said that the previous boards had made appointments, promotions, procurements and issued tenders in violation of rules. The health department had banned these BoGs from making

policy decisions, which they ignored. All steps taken in contravention of the law would be assigned to shambles, they added. Earlier, the BoG members nominated their chairmen from among themselves and health department issued notification about it but later an amendment was incorporated in MTIRA, 2015, under which the chief minister will appoint the chairmen of the boards. Therefore, the new BoGs will get chairpersons after Eidul Azha holidays. Prof Baraki said that appointment of boards was a government's matter under the law. It was assumed that BoGs of medical teaching hospitals appointed by the caretaker government would be removed soon after PTI assumed power in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but it took more than three months and that too after pressure from the pro-MTIRA group within the ruling party.

Afghan boy dies by suicide in Kohat

By Our Correspondent

KOHAT: A boy died by suicide in the Ghankol Afghan refugee camp No 2 here on Saturday as his parents said he always played PUBG game on his mobile phone. Police, who reached the scene after receiving information, said that the boy's body was lying in a washroom, where he killed himself with a firearm. The parents said they heard a gunshot from the washroom and rushed towards it and found Saifullah lying in a pool of blood. They added that he always remained busy in playing PUBG on his mobile phone. The Junglakhel police shifted his body to the KDA Teaching Hospital for postmortem, and then handed it over to the relatives. The police registered an FIR on the incident. Meanwhile, the body of a transgender individual was recovered from under a bridge in Togh Bela area here on Saturday. The body was retrieved from a shallow nullah under the Lal Bela Bridge on the Peshawar Highway. Rescue 1122 shifted the body to hospital for autopsy. The police said there were no eyewitnesses to record statements about whether he had jumped himself or was murdered by someone. He said that no identification papers had been found on him, and they were spreading news with pictures to locate his friends or relatives. His body had been placed in the morgue.

Swabi people block road against power cuts

By Our Correspondent

SWABI: People of Shagal and its surrounding areas blocked the Swabi-Mardan Road here to protest excessive electric loadshedding on Saturday. Announcements were made on mosque loudspeakers about the protest, and people from different areas reached Shagal bus stop, where they blocked the road, declaring that they wouldn't end the blockade till concrete assurance from Peshawar Electric Supply Company officials was given that there wouldn't be excessive power outage in harsh summer. They were chanting slogans against PESCO and elected representatives. The protesters didn't allow any vehicle on the road for about one hour. However, later the police officials reached there and assured the protesters that the outage issue would be taken up with the PESCO officials. After that the protesters dispersed peacefully. — Correspondent

KMU proposes Rs3.8bn surplus budget

By Our Correspondent

PESHAWAR: Khyber Medical University (KMU) has proposed a surplus budget amounting to Rs3.8 billion for the next financial year. The budget details were disclosed during the 31st finance and planning committee meeting. The meeting was presided over by KMU Vice-Chancellor Prof Ziaul Haq. The minutes of the previous finance and planning committee meeting were also approved, and a comprehensive discussion on the current financial year and other expenses took place. The commitment to financial prudence and strategic planning was reiterated. VC Dr Zia expressed his satisfaction with the university's financial stability, stating, "There is no economic crisis in the university." The budget proposal would receive formal approval in the upcoming syndicate meeting. Dr Samina Durani, Director Finance at the Higher Education Commission in Islamabad, and the provincial government officials commended KMU for its financial management. They specifically highlighted the university's ability to maintain a surplus budget, which indicates that KMU's revenue exceeds its expenditures. This surplus is a strong indicator of the university's effective financial strategies and fiscal discipline. Dr Durani and the KP officials noted that the diverse revenue streams and prudent expenditure practices at KMU could serve as a benchmark for other universities. These finance-related initiatives likely include efficient budget planning, innovative funding approaches, and cost-saving measures, which together contribute to the financial health of the institution, they noted. The praise reflects recognition of KMU's role in setting a high standard for financial administration in the higher education sector, potentially inspiring other universities to adopt similar practices to achieve financial stability and growth. — Bureau Report

Minister cancels Eid leaves of all TMOs in Hazara

By Our Correspondent

HARIPOUR: Minister for local government, elections and rural development Arshad Ayub Khan on Saturday visited cattle markets in Havelian and Hariapur tehsils here. He also reviewed drinking water and sanitation arrangements in the cattle markets. On this occasion, he gave instructions

to the higher authorities of the local government that the wastes of sacrificial animals should be disposed of properly. The minister also visited the offices of tehsil municipal administrations in Mameleka, Admatabad and Havelian, and cancelled Eid holidays of all tehsil municipal officers across the division to ensure speedy and proper disposal of offal. Arshad Ayub directed the regional

municipal officer Hazara to visit the offices of all TMOs every month and submit their performance report to him. He also directed the installation of a tracking system in vehicles used by TMOs. He said a zero-tolerance policy would be adopted on corruption, and any kind of corrupt practices would not be tolerated. Arshad Ayub also directed to create two more spots each for clean drinking

water in Mameleka, Havelian, Admatabad and Hariapur cattle markets and to build two more shelters for animals and drinking water pots for animals in each shelter, and sprinkle water three times a day in each cattle market. He directed that the property of TMA should be rented at market rate. He said offices and operations of Water and Sanitation Services Company Admatabad would be put on solar energy.

PHC grants bail to suspects in child assault cases

Complainants, respondents reach compromise

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court granted bail to two persons in separate cases of sexually assaulting minor boys as compromise took place between the parties. In both the cases, a single-member bench consisting of Justice Shahid Khan accepted bail petitions of the petitioners on condition of furnishing two surety bonds of Rs100,000 each. In one of the cases, a 17-year-old accused was charged in an FIR registered at Chakdara police station, Dir Lower, on November 8, 2023, under sec-

tion 376 (rape) of Pakistan Penal Code and section 53 (sexual abuse) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Child Protection and Welfare Act. The complainant in the FIR was father of a five-year-old child, who brought the child in injured condition to the police station. He alleged that his son had gone outside home for playing and after an hour he was brought back home by one of his nephews in injured condition. The complainant stated that the child told them that he was taken to an under-construction building by a young laborer and was sexually assaulted by him. Initially, the bail petitions of the accused were rejected by an additional sessions judge in Chakdara on January 25, 2024, and high court on February 22, 2024. Subsequently, he again moved the court on the ground

of a compromise between the accused and the complainant parties. However, the trial court on April 8, 2024, rejected his plea although the complainant in his statement endorsed that he compromised the matter and had no objection on the release of the accused. The trial court had ruled that in appropriate cases it had the power to reject the bail of an accused in a non-composable offence keeping in view the nature and gravity of the offence. The high court bench, while accepting his bail plea, observed that a bare look of the record would comprise that though section 376 PPC was non-composable, however, when the complainant party had no more interest to pursue the case about guilt or otherwise of the accused, then even a compromise alone could be considered for the grant of bail.

The bench observed that the complainant had no objection over the liberty of the petitioner in view of the compromise. "Even today, the complainant despite service is not before the court, which prima facie means that he is not interested in further prosecution of the petitioner/accused," the bench ruled. In the other case, an FIR was registered at Matta police station in Swat on April 26, 2024, against the petitioner under section 376 PPC and section 53 of KP Child Protection and Welfare Act. The complainant in the case was grandmother of a minor boy of around nine, who told police that the victim was going to the residence of his paternal aunt when he was taken to a deserted shop by the accused and was sexually assaulted there. The bail petition of the

accused, who is around 22, was earlier rejected by a child protection court in Swat on May 20, 2024, observing that he was prima facie involved in an offence involving sexual turpitude. Advocate Saad Ahmad appeared for the petitioner before the high court and stated that the parties had patched up the matter. The complainant and mother of the victim also submitted an affidavit wherein they had shown no objection over the release of the petitioner on bail. The high court bench observed that the record so furnished would comprise that though section 376 PPC was non-composable, however, when other grounds available to the accused, prima facie, made his case one of further inquiry, then even a compromise alone could be considered for the grant of bail.

WSSP employees to be on duty during Eid days

Cleanliness plan finalised in meeting

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Water and Sanitation Services Peshawar has developed a plan for collecting and disposing of the waste of sacrificial animals, and maintaining cleanliness in the provincial capital during Eid days.

The plan was finalised during a meeting chaired by WSSP chief executive Rizwan Mehmood, according to an official statement.

The WSSP said it had cancelled holidays for WSSP staff workers on the occasion of Eidul Adha for the execution of the cleanliness plan.

It added that 2,550 personnel, including 73 out sourced persons, would be on duty during Eid days, while over 900 water supply staff members would also participate in the operation.

The WSSP said 679 vehicles would carry out the waste collection and disposal activities across the capital city, while 355 out of those vehicles were rented.

"Small vehicles will collect the remains of sacrificial animals from streets and transport them to the temporary stations and collection points," it said in the statement.

The WSSP added that the other vehicles would collect animal waste from the designated points and shift them to the dumping sites.

"A total of 21 waste transfer sites have been established for Eid days," it said.

The WSSP said that the animal waste transfer and dumping sites would be properly sprayed with chemicals, while all routes to and from those places would be cleaned.

It added that religious scholars and people from other walks of life were involved in awareness campaigns where outreach teams were holding awareness sessions.

The WSSP said that the commissioner of Peshawar and WSSP chief executive would be monitoring the cleanliness operation.

It said according to the finalised plan, its 480 personnel would perform duties in Zone A, 728 in Zone B, 616 in Zone C, 374 in Zone D and 208 in Zone E, while the waste collection vehicles included 149 pickup trucks, 41 mini trucks, 28 lorry loaders, seven small and 19 large tractors, nine excavators, 10 shovel machines and 37 motor loaders.

The WSSP said the out-sourced vehicles included 51 shovels, 112 dumpers, 163 large tractors and nine excavators, while 1,153 sanitation workers, 630 lorry spits, 89 supervisors, 334 drivers, 203 helpers and 71 inspectors would also be on duty during Eid days.

It added that banners were displayed across the city, and pamphlets were distributed in order to sensitize people to cleanliness.

On June 13, deputy commissioner of Peshawar Afraz Wazir chaired a meeting on the Eid cleanliness campaign.

The participants included officials of the Pakistan Air Force, WSSP, administrative officials, police, tribal municipal committee, and other relevant organizations.

They discussed the timely collection and disposal of waste of the sacrificial animals.

The meeting decided that the people living around the airport should not dump animal waste in the area as the act could attract birds and thus, causing operational issues at the airport.



A VIEW of a cattle market in Late Kaley, Peshawar. — White Star

Price hike forces most Bajaur people to opt for collective sacrifice

Livestock dealers say rates surge due to record inflation

By Our Correspondent

BAJAUR: Most people in Bajaur tribal district have opted for collective sacrifice this Eidul Adha amid significant surge in prices of livestock.

"Unbelievable increase in prices of all kinds of cattle this year have forced us to change our strategy," Akbar Jan,

Abdul Wahid and Sulman Khan, who were in the Sadighabad cattle market to buy a sacrificial animal, told Dawn.

They said it was for the first time during last 31 years that they had opted for collective sacrifice. "We have been buying separate cattle such as cow and bull for every Eidul Adha for last 31 years, but the unaffordable prices have compelled us to go for collective sacrifice," they added.

They said they used to buy an animal for Rs60,000 and Rs70,000 previously, whose price had now jumped to above Rs140,000.

Abulbakar Khan, a govern-

ment servant in Khar town, told this correspondent that he decided to have a share in a bull with his neighbours after seeing a record increase in rates of all types of animals.

Ihsan Khan, a resident of Sadighabad town, told Dawn that besides the big animals, prices of small cattle such as sheep and goats had also gone up significantly.

Mansoor Khan, a resident of Mamund area, said he had changed his mind to have a separate sacrificial animal, and was purchasing a share in a bull along with his six friends.

Talking to Dawn, a number

of customers said most of the people, who earlier used to buy a separate animal, had now decided to be part of a collective sacrifice.

They said not only the middle and lower-middle class people, a number of upper-middle class people with up to Rs80,000 monthly income had also opted for shared sacrifice instead of going solo.

Meanwhile, cattle dealers admitted that prices of all types of animals had doubled this Eidul Adha due to prevailing record inflation.

Dr Nazim Khan, an official of the livestock and dairy development department,

told Dawn that less than 20 per cent of local residents were expected to arrange sacrificial cattle for this Eidul Adha in the entire district owing to record increase in their prices.

He said it would be the first time in the district that such low number of people would arrange cattle for sacrifice this year.

BANNED: Authorities have banned boating, swimming, fishing and bathing in all the rivers and dams across the district, said a statement issued here the other day, in order to avoid any unpleasant incident during Eid Days.

PTI activists sent on judicial remand

By Munawar Azam

ISLAMABAD: Anti-Terrorism Special Court Islamabad Judge/Chief Justice Muhammad Zafarullah Khan rejected the police request for 10 days physical custody of PTI's leader and activists, arrested on Friday and sent them to jail on judicial remand.

The Kohat police produced the accused in the court of Judge Abdul Hameed Muhammad Zafarullah with request that they watched anti-riot shield kit and tear gas gas, besides, their other colleagues and activists fled accomplices escaped. For the recovery of same and identification of their accomplices, 10 days physical custody of the arrested accused was sought.

Earlier, the Kohat police arrested Zia Ullah Khan, Raja Qasir Ghaffar, Farooq Hussain, Malik Rafique, Umar Shaukat, Usman Khan, Ahsan

Khan Khattak, Arman Ullah, Nazim Jabbar, and Amir Mansoor in connection with a case registered against them under section 7 of Anti-Terrorism Act along with 375, 324, 148, 149, 188, 189, 341, 353 and 506 of Pakistan Penal Code.

According to the court order, an inspector present and through written application made a request for grant of 10-days physical custody and further requested that accused have been arrested from the place of occurrence and their custody are required for the purpose of recovery and investigation.

The request for the physical custody appears to be unjustified and law discourages unjustified custody of accused.

In the circumstances, request for 10 days physical custody stands rejected. Accused persons are hereby sent to judicial custody for 14 days and he gets produced before the court on June 27, 2024.

Investigating officer is directed to submit affidavits within stipulated period.

According to the FIR, about 70-80 activists of PTI along with armed guards under the leadership of PTI's office bearers Amir Mansoor Bhagat, Shauq Shabbir, Ali Bakhtiar roaded street 38 of Sector F-6/1 in vehicles and motorcycles. The participants were insisting to move forward despite barriers were put in place on road.

The police contingent deployed there, made an attempt to stop them. However, the hit the barriers with car also made an attempt to hit the police with intention to kill them.

They also broke the police cordon by using force and physically confronted and interlocked with the police. They also watched a tear gas gas from Constable Jaffer Anjum, anti-riot shield and kit from Constable Sajad Hashmi, besides, tore the uniforms of SI Farooq Ahmad.

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

OBITUARY

Say, surely my prayers and my sacrifice, and my life, and my death are for Allah, the Lord of the worlds. Our Dearest, most beloved, most perfect Father, Asim Hamid S/o Col. (Retd.) Hamid Ullah Khan (late), passed away on Thursday, June 13, 2024. May Allah have mercy on his soul.

DUA/ Qul will be held on Sunday, 16 June 2024

Guran khawani/Dua after Zuhr Prayers. at 291 Peshawar Road, Rawalpindi

Bereaved family:
Nasir Hamid: 0300-8568815
Yasir Hamid: 0302-8444220
Mr & Mrs Zainab Ali Saeed
Hajira Hamid

(158-P)

عید کی خوشیوں میں رکھیں دھیان صفائی بھی ہے نصف ایمان

عید الاضحیٰ کے موقع پر شہر میں صفائی ستھرائی یقینی بنانے کیلئے

تیار ہے RWMC

شہریوں سے التماس ہے

قربانی کے جانوروں کی آرائش کھلے عام ہرگز نہ چھینکیں بلکہ ویسٹ بیگز میں بند کر کے کوڑے دان میں ڈالیں یا عمل صفائی کے حوالے کریں۔

For Complaints in Rawalpindi

| Sr. # | Officer Names | Contact Numbers | Uc's |
|-------|---------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Anwar Hussain | 0315-2007802 | 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9 |
| 2 | Haris Murlana | 0315-1039920 | 10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20 |
| 3 | Kamran Fareed | 0315-1039920 | 21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29 |
| 4 | Umair Usman | 0315-1039934 | 30,31,32,42,43,44,45 |
| 5 | Waleed Abbasi | 0315-1039942 | 33,34,35,36,37,38,39,40,41,46 |
| 6 | All Hassan | 0315-1039904 | 74,75,76,77,78,79,80,81 |
| 7 | All Munir | 0315-1039920 | 82,84,85,86,87,88,90,91B |

For Complaints in Tehsils

| Sr. # | Officers & Contact Numbers | Tehsil names |
|-------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Bilal Bukhari (0300-5111910) | Taxila |
| 2 | Ahmed (0301-5080042) | Kallar Syedan |
| 3 | Malik Bagh (0315-7252446) | Gujar Khan |
| 4 | Khuresh Shehzad (0348-2055371) | Kahuta |
| 5 | Talha Mir (0315-2008278) | Muzaffargarh |

اہم اقدامات

کوڑا کرکٹ اور آشیں گانے کے کیلئے

عید الاضحیٰ کے وقت شہر میں

مساجد میں گائے بون کی تصویریں صفائی

اہم اقدامات

ماحول دوست ویسٹ بیگز کی منت فرمائی

راولپنڈی شہر اور اس کی تحصیلوں میں

8 گھنٹوں کا قیام

اہم اقدامات

ماحول دوست ویسٹ بیگز کی منت فرمائی

راولپنڈی شہر اور اس کی تحصیلوں میں

8 گھنٹوں کا قیام

CEO RWMC 0321-8400149 SM Operations 0315-1039962 Mgr. Operations 0315-1039930

051-9291108 | 0316-4801718

مرکزی کنٹرول روم کاشیام

1139

راولپنڈی ویسٹ ایجنٹس کمپنی

پشاور



▶ THE ICON INTERVIEW

The veteran has become a pro at hosting and is also regarded as one of TV's most good-looking persons. But it's his versatility as an actor, over more than three decades in the profession, that really sets him apart. Does he enjoy the challenge of playing roles that are not the typical leads?

THE REINVENTIONS OF ADNAN SIDDIQUI



By Maliha Rehman

He's played the handsome chocolate hero, the no-good, two-timing husband, the playboy, the Machiavellian millionaire with a murky past, the lascivious, always-intoxicated poet. And most recently, the cunning mafia lord.

He might be the protagonist, the antagonist, the main lead, the character with a messy role, the glib host of a hit reality show or a participant in a celebrity game show. But no matter what he might be, when Adnan Siddiqui appears on TV, he draws the eye.

It's part of his magic and testament to his prowess as an actor that every role that Adnan takes up ends up being a memorable one. It also means that he's very careful about the roles he agrees to do.

There have been many times when I have discussed the possibility of a no-holds-barred interview with Adnan but it is only now that we meet, when he's been winning accolades in international film festivals for his role in the short film *Jamun Ka Deraakhe* and can be seen on TV twice a week, in two completely disparate dramas — the show but absorbing *Khasihsa Mein Bhasay Khar* and the multi-starrer entertainer *GenGems*.

His last acting stint before all this had been more than three years ago, in the hit drama *Mere Pasa Tera Ho (MPTH)*. And, as a result, it has been nearly as long since my last interview with Adnan.

He now sits across from me, in a cotton shalwar kameez calculated to beat Karachi's sweltering heat, his pepper grey hair framing his face — he tells me that he's growing it long in preparation for his next role, Adnan may have taken his time in agreeing to enact his current line-up of roles but, apparently, his next acting project isn't too far away.

"I have been picky," he agrees, "but perhaps I won't be as much now. My daughter's now studying abroad and I have to earn accordingly." He laughs, adding, "But that doesn't mean that I'll agree to a role that is boring."

PICKING AND CHOOSING

So were most of the roles being offered to him post-*MPTH* boring? "They were repetitive," he says. "There is a problem prevalent in the Subcontinent that, once an actor plays a certain character well, he starts getting offered countless similar roles. *Mere Pasa Tera Ho* aired around the same time as my other drama, *Yeh Dil Meri (YDM)*, and both the characters that I was playing were markedly different.

"Afterwards, though, I was constantly offered scripts in which I was either playing the ladies' man — as in *MPTH* — or a father — as in *[YDM]*. The father I played in *Yeh Dil Meri* had shades but, then, people started offering me roles of the 'by the way' father, the one who merely asks his children when they are coming home at night. I am already one, in real life, and I certainly don't want to be one on screen! And I didn't want to play the sophisticated other man either."

He continues: "The thing is, sometimes you act in a drama and you don't know what the feedback will be and the audience loves it so much that it

ends up becoming your claim to fame. Everyone starts relating it with you and you end up becoming very careful that your next role should live up to the expectations that the audience now has of you."

This may make sense from a creative perspective, but is it a viable decision? More dramas mean more money after all.

"I can strike a good deal when it comes to money!" He grins. "I may not have acted for nearly three years, but I became the host of the reality show *Tawaish* on ARY. It has become very popular and I really enjoy being part of it. Also, I am a regular in the Ramadan edition of the game show *JawaabDilwan*. I love it. I have a whole fan following of children simply because I am part of *Jawaab*!"

I recall his recent appearances in *JawaabDilwan* — Adnan would enter the show doing a little jig and proceed to lead the audience into a collective 'shor', entreating God to allow his team to win the tournament. From chanting playfully in games to teasing his fellow 'celebrity captains', he would be on a roll throughout the three-and-a-half-hour-long show.

“The thing is, sometimes you act in a drama and you don't know what the feedback will be and the audience loves it so much that it ends up becoming your claim to fame. Everyone starts relating it with you and you end up becoming very careful that your next role should live up to the expectations that the audience now has of you.”

"It's all completely natural," he tells *Dawn*. "I don't even think about what I am doing. I am just there, having fun. Hats off to the host Fahad Mustafa for bringing so much energy to the show, day after day."

I change the focus to *Tawaish*, now about to roll out its third season. When the reality show started off, it was criticised as a rip-off of a similar show in India, *Ripit Boss*.

"But *Ripit Boss* follows the same format of *Big Boss*, an international show," Adnan points out. "These are licensed programmes following the same pattern. People love *Tawaish* — so do I."

CHARACTERS THAT MATTER

Does he also love *Khasihsa Mein Bhasay Khar (KMBK)*, the Hum TV Network drama in which he plays philandering poet Ahmad Zaryab, who cheats on his wife, flirts compulsively with young girls, is perpetually drunk and frequently slips into gloom and sings yesteryear hit Pakistani songs?

The drama started off quite well but had, in my opinion, been dragging lately. "Of course, I am happy with the drama although yes, it has been dragging a bit," he agrees.

"The story is interesting, but not *awam* [popular with the masses]. It's the sort of drama which attracts a certain audience but may not bring in ratings"

DOES THAT BOTHER HIM?

"Ratings? No!" he professes. "The channel and the producers worry about ratings. As an actor, I just do my job." He ponders a bit and adds, "Of course, it would interest me if production houses started viewing me as an actor who brought in ratings.

But I've been here for 34 years now. I am not in that race anymore. People know me, they want to see me on TV, and I just feel very lucky."

In *KARAK*, he's a ladies' man yet



ADNAN SIDDIQUI, PAGE 3

Photography: Sajid Nadeem | Promoting: Nazim (N-Gem) | Coordination: Imel Malik | Special thanks to: Mocham

ICON

CINEMASCOPE



Bad Boys: Ride or Die, the fourth film in the series, is the lowest iteration of Bad Boys till date. It's time to let this franchise die

LET IT DIE

By Mohammad Kamran Jawaid

Some would consider *Bad Boys: Ride or Die* the title of the film, but as far as I am concerned, it is an MCQ. On the question of choosing either riding or dying, the pick is obvious: die.



As in, let the franchise die already, and leave us with memories of its mediocrity — not shadders that recall just how bad the series ultimately became.

Back in 1995, *Bad Boys* — and director Michael Bay, an ad-film maverick — broke through Hollywood with a slick shooting and editing style for action movies. The film helped Will Smith in his transition from television to the big screen, cemented his and Michael Bay's status in the big leagues, and screwed up producer Jerry Bruckheimer's approach to shooting and editing films altogether (the four-second cuts, excessive camera angles and bloated budgets became his de facto visual approach when making action films).

Still *Bad Boys* had wild, fun energy, despite its surface-level story and a screenplay that was reliant on sequences that took the story from one clichéd action set-piece to another. It was disposable entertainment at its best, at a time when disposable entertainment counted for something.

Well ladies and gentlemen, we have come a long way from the '90s — both literally and figuratively speaking. We've surpassed the age of diminishing returns; today, films have taken the sword disposable to heart and upped its ante.

Ride or Die, the fourth film in the series, is the lowest iteration of *Bad Boys* till date — not that the series was getting any more intelligent at any point since the first film.

Screenwriters Chris Bremner and Will Beal, and part three's returning director- duo Adil and Bilal Khan are for having their partially completed *Boyz n the City* film shelved by Warner Bros, as a casualty of corporate war, fail on story, intelligence (the meagre kind one expects from even bargain basement productions) and pacing. In the one-line plot, Miami detectives

Mike Lowrey (Will Smith) and Marcus Burnett (Martin Lawrence) attempt to clear the name of their deceased Captain (Joe Pantoliano) when he is falsely accused of conspiracy.

During the film, several characters from Marcus' family wiggle into the forward subplot that link to an even more absurd idea. Early in the film, having just cheated death, Marcus thinks he is unkillable which, of course, leads to an amusingly thought-up case for comedy.

The comedy is definitely a killer — that is, it kills any notion of laughs one steps into the cinema with.

Lawrence is a bad actor, and Will Smith — a capable actor, though not here — is not that far behind. Other actors, such as Ian Gruffudd, who plays a supposedly good-guy mayoral candidate, is royally wasted (one knows from his entry that he is anything but good).

Ride or Die is a film made out of desperation, I think. The actors are getting odd, but since the world is irrevocably stuck in nostalgia-mode for anything from the '80s, '90s or sequels, the studios cannot let a potential money maker go to waste... so *never* have *wasteful* the experience turns out to be for the viewer.

At this time, after this product, it is best to shut the ignition of the ride, and let the film series die. ■

Bad Boys: Ride or Die is rated R and released worldwide. The film releases in cinemas Pakistan-wide on June 17

THE GRAPEVINE

By PYT

VETERAN CRITICISM



Rubina Ali likes to point out the weaknesses of her contemporaries and juniors if and when their performances, according to her, don't meet the required standard. It doesn't necessarily go down well with those who receive her negative comments. Expanding on her candidness to an interviewer, the seasoned actress argued that if retired cricketers can offer criticism (to youngsters) then senior actors can do it, too, with other actors. Rubina A, you're right in theory of course, but the thing is, not all cricketers take criticism well either and not all sportsmen are worthy of doing out advice.

WISH LIST



Make no mistake Sajal Aly is a good artist. There is no other actress of her generation who emotes on screen the way she does. Naturally, she is ambitious and wants to challenge herself as a performer. She has been quoted as having said that she looks forward to working with Bollywood A-lister Ranbir Kapoor and top-notch filmmaker Anurag Kashyap. The thing is Sajal A: such a collab only happens when both parties are equally desirous of working with each other.

INSTA QUEEN

Instagram is, arguably, the most important social media platform for the showbiz community. So it means a lot when someone wears the crown of the most followed celeb of their country. We're saying this because Hania Aamir has become the star with the most number of followers on Instagram, with 14.1m followers. She has knocked Ayesha Khan, who has 14m, off her pedestal. We congratulate Hania A and at the same time would like to tell her that followers don't make you a great artist. Great art earns you true followers. Keep working on your craft, please.



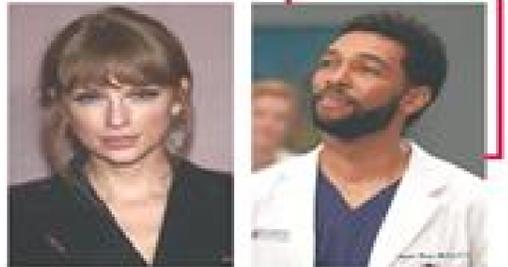
SAME SAME



In the recently held Indian general elections, one of the candidates looked like Pakistani singer Ali Sethi. This was brought to the notice of the vocalist by one of his Indian fans, who also mentioned that the lookalike lost the election by a huge margin. To this, Ali S replied, "apparently I lost some votes in India." The exchange unleashed a series of comments from netizens, one of whom wrote, "Ab hi hain Sethi aurfar (This time around, Sethi's government) — a version of a famous election slogan. Well, if nothing else, an Ali Sethi aurfar would, hopefully, re-open the doors to Pakistani singers performing in India, which would certainly get him more votes there and here.

SWIFT ANATOMY

Everyone knows that pop icon Taylor Swift is a fan of the TV show *Grey's Anatomy*. The star of the medical drama Anthony Hill has revealed that she still watches *GA* with fondness. He got to know about it after meeting her boyfriend Travis Kelce, who, by the way, doesn't watch the show with her. He doesn't like it. After their meeting, Anthony H posted a message for Travis K on social media, urging him, "Time to start break!" Well, we don't think it's the right time for Travis K to start watching the programme. After all, it hasn't been long since he began going out with Taylor S. Last thing he would want is to be referred to in a Taylor S song as the boyfriend who watched *Grey's Anatomy*.



NEIGHBOURLY LOVE

Bollywood actor Vivek Oberoi lives in Dubai. Last week, while he was recording a cookery show in the UAE, a Pakistani fan grabbed his attention when he expressed his love for the Indian celeb. The actor, whose father Naresh Oberoi was born in Quetta, responded warmly. Afterwards, talking to the host of the show, he wondered: "I mean it is quite controversial to say this, but the way they [Pakistanis] love our food, our culture, our films, the way they love us, they give us so much love and respect, where is the hate?" Vivek O, you could also ask the same question of Kangana Ranaut and Anupam Kher.



WIDE ANGLE

Unlike many Disney characters, Donald Duck's stories take place in the present day and his stories are contemporary to the audience enjoying them. His longevity is precisely because he has evolved to appeal to a changing society

A QUACK FOR DONALD AT 90

By Joel Gray

Donald Duck's first appearance on screen was in the animated short titled *The Wise Little Hen*. He was intended as a one-off supporting character, but his immediate popularity meant Disney used him in subsequent comic stories and animated shorts.

Within a few years of his debut appearance in 1934, Donald Duck had already achieved a celebrity status comparable to Shirley Temple or Greta Garbo. His popularity is made clear in Disney's 1939 animated short *The Astoriano Rownd*, whereby the Hollywood A-List of the time drop their studio filming commitments to seek Donald's autograph.

By 1940, Walt Disney himself referred to Donald Duck as "the Galbe of our stable" — pairing Donald's popularity with the Hollywood superstar Clark Gable, the biggest name at MGM Studios at the time.

Donald's icon status was cemented in the 1940s the world over, from comic books in Europe and South America, to starring in US government domestic propaganda during the second World War.

Donald starred in cartoons designed to encourage Americans to rally behind the war effort. These short animations range from encouraging people to invest in American government bonds, to ridiculing

Hitler as a deranged despot. The latter short — *Der Fuehrer's Face* — won Donald his first Oscar in 1943, though it has since been widely criticised for its caricatured imagery of Japanese people.

Donald is arguably as popular now as he was at his mid-20th century peak. Media researcher Chris Rojek has even used Donald as an example in his categorisation of celebrities. The duck represents the archetypal "celebrity", a "fictional character who is an institutionalised feature of popular culture."

Unlike many Disney characters, Donald's stories take place in the present day and his stories are contemporary to the audience enjoying them. This is clear in his relationships with female characters.

In Donald's early days, female characters were often limited to representing beauty, domesticity and subservience to the patriarchy — reflecting the experiences of women the world over. For example, Daisy Duck was originally almost never shown as having her own job or career, in sharp contrast to Donald, who is shown in many jobs, including private detective, postal worker and salesperson.

In more recent years, though, female characters have developed to reflect the modern world. This includes the animated debut of characters such as Donald's sister Della Duck. Della is a skilled pilot, often found in the middle of action scenes and essential to the plots of the comic-book



Relatable frustrations have been important narrative devices for the Donald Duck character | Everett Collection Inc

series *Ducktales* (2018), as well as the television show of the same name.

Della Duck, Daisy Duck and other female characters have agency in these stories — they are main characters and not merely

there to support the male superstar.

Arguably, Donald Duck is a more relatable character than aliens from a galaxy far away, or teenage royals from a place of "once upon a time." Donald and his friends meet the same

daily challenges and enjoyment we do, traffic jams, job dissatisfaction, seaside holidays, festive family gatherings and so on. It is not difficult for his audiences to empathise, identify and understand the situations Donald finds himself in.

Relatable experiences have been an important narrative device for Donald Duck over the past 90 years. Donald enjoyed the technological developments of radio and television in the animated shorts he starred in during the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. And in his most recent animated appearances in *Ducktales*, characters are seen using social media platforms QuackChat — an obvious parody of Snapchat.

Donald Duck is eternally popular because he is the "everyman". People the world over still find much to relate to and laugh at in his temper tantrums at life's misadventures. He provides a way to project our own frustrations in a compossible way to more adult cartoon stars, such as Homer Simpson of *The Simpsons* or Peter Griffin of *Family Guy*.

As long as Donald keeps pace with society, and continues to reflect the ever-changing world we live in, this duck is unlikely to fly away anytime soon. ■

The writer is an Associate Dean for Teaching & Learning at Sheffield Hallam University in the UK

Republished from *The Conversation*

► STYLE

Some must-know beauty tips for Regency ladies

BRIDGERTON BEAUTIES

By Lisa Smith

We've all become accustomed to historical inaccuracies in period TV shows (including *Bridgerton*), but fans of Regency-inspired romance fantasy can't seem to get over the modern beauty techniques on show. "Acrylic nails, fake lashes and 'BOTOX,'" screams a recent headline in *The Daily Mail*.



Bridgerton | Liam Daniel/Netflix

Modern beauty magazines are full of tips and tricks to extend, enhance or conceal. Young ladies from the Regency era (1811-1820) were also interested in beauty advice, but their regimen was a bit different from ours.

Across Europe, young ladies and their mothers were bombarded with beauty advice from physicians, perfumers and moralists alike. For early 19th-century debutantes, the heavy application of cosmetics, commonly associated with the mid-18th century, had become passé. A natural look was the hottest new beauty trend.

True beauty, these ladies of the ton (fashionable society) were told, came from cleanliness, rather than in the make-up aisles of some 19th-century equivalent of Sephora or Boots.

Regency recipe and advice books typically included tips for skincare rather than cosmetics. Natural beauty, medical writers made clear, began with good health. Health came from regular exercise (walking or riding), moderation in diet and cleanliness. Clean skin had moral implications.

According to medical writers of the time, clear skin signalled good health, which in turn suggested potential fertility — a major preoccupation in the marriage mart.

This emphasis on skin was set against the backdrop of high rates of venereal disease, particularly in London, where an estimated 20 percent of the population contracted syphilis before the age of 35. Syphilis could be congenital, meaning that even a chaste young lady might be affected. Skin problems were a main symptom of syphilis.

There were other reasons for young women to avoid cosmetics. A popular advice manual, *Mirror of the Graces*, which was written under the pseudonym of A Lady of Distinction in 1811, identified two problems.

Many face paints contained poisons, such as lead, which could ruin your skin or cause illness. But a painted face also made it difficult to see the truth of your mind and emotions, concealing as it did the subtle shifts in skin colour.

Of the types of cosmetics available — lacquered lips, face powder, eyebrow colouring and rouge — only rouge was acceptable, and then only if a young woman was ill or anxious.

The *Lady of Distinction* offered "healthy" methods to encourage natural beauty. These could be made at home or by an apothecary, or even purchased at various shops. The recommended beauty treatments included hair and face washes, lip balms and creams, scented waters, treatments for hemorrhoids, sunburn, tan or freckles, and methods of removing wrinkles or firming up the skin.

The ingredients were not cheap,

including things like spermaceti (was from a sperm whale, hence its tree resin) and ambergris (waxy substance from the digestive system of sperm whales). The cost of natural beauty could be high.

Chapped hands? Paste of Palermo was a soap that smoothed and protected with its mixture of soap, salad oil (codliver), lemon juice (extra lemon), silver sand (toothpaste) and perfume (scent).

Sunburn from too much exercise? Try fard, a useful paste of sweet almonds, spermaceti and honey.

Dull skin from too many late nights? A water to give lustre to the face included wheat bran, eggs and ambergris.

Need rosy cheeks? Try virgin milk, a mixture of benzoin (a tree resin) and spirits of wine to pull the blood into your cheeks and make them rosy. It also smelled nice and could be used on pimples and other skin problems.

Lips dry and pale? This lip salve of nutmeg, spermaceti, raisins, almond rose and balm of Peru should soften them, while providing a vermillion tint.

Bridgerton, curiously, depicts the elite young ladies as wearing

cosmetics (eyeshadow and blush) and the prostitutes as clear-skinned and cosmetic-free. The reverse would have been true in Regency England, given that prostitutes were thought to have much to conceal: venereal disease and disfigurement.

The light eyeshadow (and strong-looking acrylic nails) worn by the young ladies in *Bridgerton* is not historically accurate, but may instead represent that they took particular care of their appearance.

The lengthy skin care practices of the Regency period are challenging to capture on screen. The cleanliness of the prostitutes, however, suggests their own clean health status and the *Bridgerton* men's relative safety in visiting them.

For Regency ladies, good skin was about much more than just skin-deep beauty. Good skin was a visible sign of one's health, fertility and morals. ■

The writer is a Senior Lecturer in History at the University of Exeter in the UK.

Republished from The Conversation

ADNAN SIDDIQUI, FROM PAGE 1

expectations while shooting the film but I have really enjoyed how it has been appreciated. About my role in it, I don't know, people must see something in me..."

I suggest that his looks most probably have a lot to do with people's assumptions about him. Adnan has always been regarded as one of TV's most good-looking actors. How much have his looks helped in furthering his career?

"I thank God and my parents every day after sunset for my good genes!" he quips. "Of course, looks helped me start off my modelling and acting careers back in the day, but then I built upon my craft. I am still learning every day, wondering if I could have acted a scene out differently and made it better."

Adnan's humility is admirable — and it also comes as a surprise, considering what a brilliant actor he is. Most recently, for instance, he has slipped effortlessly into the skin of Rehmani, the mafia lord in the drama *Genieman*, airing on Green Entertainment.

Rehmani, with his slicked-back hair, gold jewellery and sharp eyes, is Adnan as never seen before. Much of the drama's story may be focused on the star-crossed romance between lead actors Humayun Saeed and Yasmin Zaidi and, yet, most reviewers will agree that Rehmani is a riveting Lynchpin, who keeps the audience gripped.

"Developing Rehmani's character has been a group effort," he tells me. "I have worked with many producers, but the way the producers of *Genieman* (Sana Shahnawaz and Samina Humayun Saeed of Next Level Entertainment) are involved is rare."

"From discussing the wardrobe to procuring a particular pair of shoes that I thought would work for the character, they were involved in all the details. I wanted to have a clean-shaven look in the drama and I lost weight so that my face wouldn't look too full. There were other details that I planned out with the help of the drama's team; Rehmani puts nerves in his eyes, he wears black shawl kameez when he's somber and white when he's happier."

"And then, I had observed a friend of mine in Dubai, who kept tobacco with him in a pouch, spinning it out now and then in a small glass that he would have with him. He told me that he had got into the habit back when he had had no money and couldn't afford cigarettes. Instead, he would chew tobacco. I sawed the gesture away in my mind and was eager to apply it to an on-screen character when Rehmani came my way."

"I had a discussion with my



director Haisam Hussain and he said that this little idiosyncrasy could absolutely become part of Rehmani's persona. I don't smoke, so I would fill up my pouch with green tea leaves and chew them!

"I also took the liberty of giving Rehmani a slightly softer side," he continues. "He's a tough guy, a criminal, but I added a bit of wit to him to make him more likeable. Once again, Haisam allowed me to do so."

Did it irk him that he was playing a character who was slightly older than the one played by Humayun Saeed, although in reality both actors are peers?

"I am slightly older than Humayun in reality too," he tells me, "but these things don't matter to me. I played Hina Dilpazier's husband and the father of eight children in the drama *Mohabbat Aye Bhattar Mein*. Then, immediately afterwards, I had flown off to the US and enacted a tycoon in the drama *Aashiq-e-Aashiyaa*. The character should be interesting, have shades."

Coming back to his on-screen pairing with Humayun Saeed, he says, "Humayun's done some brilliant work over the course of his career but I feel that the chemistry that he and I share is particularly amazing."

They are certainly a hit pair, I agree, recalling *MPTN* and, now, *Genieman*. Both dramas have been written by Khalid Siddiqui — which one does he like better?

"I can't compare. No one writes better than Khalid Siddiqui. The scenarios all fit so well, connecting

seamlessly. His writing is poetic. In *[MPTN]*, I played a sophisticated man and, in *Genieman*, my character is street-smart, surely a BA pass and that too, through cheating!

"Both characters are so different and, yet, the dialogues that he wrote for either fit perfectly. I sometimes find it difficult to learn sentences, but I feel that I would be doing a disservice to Khalid Siddiqui's script if I ad-libbed and didn't say every dialogue word by word!"

TREADING CAREFULLY

Speaking of Khalid Siddiqui, Adnan recently had a telephonic conversation with the writer which was recorded on video and had promptly gone viral. His voice clearly audible on Khalid Siddiqui's speaker phone, Adnan had discussed a recent controversy. Had Adnan known that the conversation was being filmed by the journalist who had been sitting next to Khalid Siddiqui?

"Why would I have said all that I did if I had known that it was being filmed?" he says. "And why would I give an interview to that journalist who I didn't even know. I asked Khalid Siddiqui about it and he said that he had informed me that he had a colleague sitting with him. What could I say to that?"

He continues, "I didn't feel like arguing. If he had told me, I didn't remember. It must have been my fault. You learn from your mistakes every time. Now I know what to say and when to say it."

Could he be referring to his recent tussles with controversy? "Yes, I have

now realised that there can be locker room talk with friends and they will know that I am joking. When I say the same things on TV, people can misunderstand and take offence."

Has he become more careful about what he says now, on social media and in interviews?

"Yes, I have suffered quite a bit recently. So, I am more careful. But I do enjoy sharing my views, tweeting — when the app isn't blocked in the country — and Instagramming. I don't do it to gain millions of views. I do it just because it's something that I find interesting."

So you'll sometimes post a video of yourself playing the flute, I suggest. "Oh playing the harmonium," he says. "I have taught myself to play both instruments. I also cook."

He's also a pro at hosting. And a very entertaining interviewee. But for all his many merits, anyone familiar with Adnan Siddiqui's 34-year-long career would define him first and foremost as an actor — and an exceptional one, at that.

"I am very loyal to my craft," he agrees. "Once I am part of a project, I am passionate about it. I love getting immersed in a character and I enjoy the challenge of playing a role that isn't a typical lead and still getting the audience's attention and becoming memorable. It isn't important to be the hero in a story as long as I continue to be the masses' hero."

That he is. He's probably been one from the very onset of his career 34-odd years ago. Despite, or more likely because of, his reinventions of himself, it's part of his magic. ■

THE TUBE

THE WEEK THAT WAS

Khashboo Mein Bassy Khaf | Hum TV, Tuesdays 8.00pm

After decades of enjoying fame and fortune on the basis of his talent for poetry and command of the Urdu



language, Ahmed Zaryab (Adnan Siddiqui) finally suffers a reversal of fortune. He is arrested for the murder of Penny (Sidra Naezi), another poetess he had befriended and grown tired of. He is not guilty, but the generations of women he hurt now want to see him punished.

While it's popular to see women only as victims, author Anissa Mifti gives us more nuanced sketches of women's personalities — middle-aged women who have not matured or healed, marring the wounds of thwarted love, and ambitious young girls just as ruthless as Zaryab. Curiously, the one woman who should be happy is Advela (Nadia Fandi), the one who managed to actually marry Zaryab, who has a career as a poetess, but she is just as unhappy, a victim of his narcissistic abuse.

The plot thickens and, amid the accusations, the author poses a question: how should we balance freedom and protection for women, especially those of young girls? This is an excellent drama with a lot of depth that would have garnered a wider audience with some editing.

Jaan Nisar | Geo TV, Fri-Sat 8.00pm

Feudal landowner Nosherwan (Danish Taimoor) is a protective, obedient son who has allowed himself to be coerced into marriage with his dead brother's wife, for the sake of his niece and nephew. Unknown to the middle-class Daa (Hiba Bukhari),

Nosherwan has fallen in love with her from a distance, and is searching for her.

Meanwhile, the villainous Farze (Haseem Shahid), who sold Daa to a brothel, has married her sister. After being discovered by her father for being found by the police in a brothel, Daa wanders the streets till she finds a home with a mysterious woman, a more sophisticated courtesan.

Defying expectations of a completely regressive story, the hero of *Jaan Nisar*, Nosherwan, has not kidnapped anyone yet, nor has he fulfilled the cliché of pointing a gun at his own head. This show is geared to the masses and the story has a small twist each episode which keeps the audience hooked for the next turn. Taimoor and Bukhari are well-practised at these intense roles and deliver the excitement and melodrama like professionals.

Let's Try Mohabbat | Green TV, Saturdays 8.00pm

Shehnaaz Nawaz plays Sikandar, who dominates his grown sons and wife as an abusive tyrant who has started everyone's lives. His younger son Zohan (Danial Zafar) and daughter-in-law Fizza (Mawra Hocamy) have managed to trick him into thinking they just met and he arranged their match.

Sikandar is more benevolent towards his new daughter-in-law than his own family, thinking of her as the kind of "respectable" girl who does not have relationships before marriage, which he disapproves of. His angry, bitter son Arden (Ghazan Hameed), who has been treated like a criminal for loving a girl before marriage, decides to expose Zohan and Fizza's secret to belittle his father.

Like other dramas with Shehnaaz Nawaz, his imposing personality seems to take over the screen to the detriment of the show. A stronger director, who understood that less can be more effective, would have edited this script, allowing more screen time to the younger cast, and avoiding the long sessions of brow-beating and monologues. The highlights are Mawra Hocamy and Danial Zafar's romantic interactions, and Tareeq Hussain's excellent performance.

WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR (OR NOT)

Ishq Hua | Geo TV, Coming soon

Haseem Kadwani joins Komal Mir in a very film-style action-adventure for the small screen, which again seems inspired by Feroze Khan's style of acting. ■ — *Sadaf Hashmi*



THIS WEEK ON SPOTIFY

| TOP 10 PAKISTANI SONGS | | |
|------------------------|---|---------|
| S.# | SONG | STREAMS |
| 1 | Wishes Hasan Raheem, Umair, Talwinder | 213,205 |
| 2 | Tu Hai Kahan AJR | 152,833 |
| 3 | O Yaara Abdul Hannan, Kaavish | 144,853 |
| 4 | Come Through (feat. Abdullah Maharvi, Talha Anjum) Umair, Abdullah Maharvi, Talha Anjum | 141,163 |
| 5 | Sadqay Aashir Wajahat, NAYEL, Nehaal Naseem | 124,728 |
| 6 | Bikha Abdul Hannan, Rovallo | 102,455 |
| 7 | Tera Mera Hai Pyar (From "Ishq Murshid") Ahmed Jahanzeb | 87,452 |
| 8 | Long Time No See Taimour Baig, Raffley Anwar, AJR | 86,620 |
| 9 | Iraaddy Rovallo, Abdul Hannan | 79,110 |
| 10 | Kahani Meri Kaifi Khalil, Anmol Daniel | 76,680 |

▶ TRADE

ICON

Work is underway to bring a local version of the popular franchise show Shark Tank to our screens. But why do format-based shows, popular globally, fail to find footing in the country? And can Shark Tank Pakistan buck this trend?

THE FORMAT SHARKS

By Nisma Chauhan

We have come a long way from the nascent days of broadcasting, when there was one state-owned television channel and the quiz show *Neelam Ghar* was all the rage on the airwaves. The last two decades have witnessed a prolific, sometimes seemingly uncontrolled, growth of channels.

At last count, there were 140 licensed channels operating in Pakistan, according to the state media regulator, with close to half dedicated to news. The rest of the channels focus on niches from music to sports, entertainment and infotainment, health and children's programming, and religious and regional language channels.

Alas, this explosion of channels has not translated into memorable programming, including of game shows and competitive series. There have been iterations of *Neelam Ghar* — such as the popular *Janta Pakistan* or shows such as the seasonal *Iranian Ghar*, that are aired during the holy month of Ramadan — but Pakistan is yet to produce any locally conceptualised shows that could make their mark on the global entertainment landscape.

Or even birth a catchphrase to match "*Dehli wali maddon aur nani karam to Tarq Aziz ka naam*" (*Greetings from Tarq Aziz: In the eyes that are watching and the ears that are listening*).

NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

There have been several attempts to bring globally popular format shows to Pakistan in the past, with *MasterChef Pakistan* and *Pakistan Idol* generating quite the buzz, but both shows were shelved after one season only.

Now, another globally successful show is coming to Pakistan, with a local company acquiring the franchise rights to *Shark Tank*, a TV show where entrepreneurs pitch their business ideas to wealthy investors, hoping to secure funding and expertise to grow their ventures.

Usman Malik, the CEO of Greenlit Studios, says the decision to get the rights to the show was spurred by its success in India. His company has partnered with Sony Pictures Television to bring the show to Pakistan.

The show originally aired in Japan in 2001 as *Tigers of Money*. The UK version, *Dragon's Den*, aired in 2005, while its US iteration, *Shark Tank*, premiered in 2009. Versions of the show have aired in a large number of countries — from Afghanistan to Israel — with the 2022 launch of the show in Bangladesh hailed as its 50th remake.

But does it make sense to invest big bucks on a franchise show at a time when TV viewership has to compete with digital platforms?

Malik acknowledges that there is a clear shift — including among advertisers — towards online platforms in Pakistan, with broadcasters now monetising content on YouTube. "But the kind of content currently dominating Pakistan includes daily vlogs or TikToks, which may not necessarily add value," he notes.

For him, the structure of the show will attract eyeballs — on digital platforms and TV channels — particularly of Pakistan's large youth segment. Moreover, he believes the show can provide a flip to



Shark Tank India's third season aired in 2023 and featured 150 pitches | Facebook



A contestant with a judge in *MasterChef Pakistan* | *MasterChef Pakistan*



Host Tarq Aziz during the show *Neelam Ghar* | *Archive*

the start-up ecosystem in Pakistan.

While Malik is interested in creating good content, he also wants to recoup his investment, which is sizeable. The production cost varies significantly, with licensing costs ranging from \$15,000 to \$100,000, depending on the show.

While Malik didn't share the numbers, for a show like *Shark Tank*, the licensing fee is likely to be between \$45,000 and \$60,000 per season, according to veteran producer Ahsan Khan. "Spread over 20 episodes, it fits well within the budget per episode," says Khan, whose previous experience with a franchise show was *MasterChef Pakistan*.

According to Khan, excluding the licensing fees, producing such a show could feasibly start with a budget of around Rs70 million, which is approximately USD 250,000.

This would be separate from marketing and promotion.

HOLDING THE PURSE STRINGS

But such high costs mean that there is added pressure on the rights owners to recover their initial

investment.

According to veteran producer Hamza Ansari, this is one of the main reasons such shows don't take off. "For example, *Pakistan Idol* had a much higher budget than regular shows, but our advertisers didn't invest in it enough to make it financially viable."

Localisation of content is another challenge, he tells *Icon*. "If the show is not modified and adapted for the local consumers' viewing palate, it won't get ratings, resulting in advertisements drying up and the show getting canned," says Ansari.

A third problem, he says, is the lack of consummate professionals who can execute such a show. "Getting an international franchise isn't just about replicating the show, but following the brand guidelines to the T," says Ansari. "We only have a handful of such people [who can do that]."

One of those handful of people is Khan, whose efforts at *MasterChef Pakistan* resulted in the show getting nominated for multiple awards. Despite being a success — the winning participants on the show went on to have successful careers in the culinary industry — it was shelved after one season only.

According to Khan, that was a mistake. "Such

shows need to do at least three seasons. That's the global practice, to get the ratings in," he tells *Icon*. It has to be long-term instead of focusing on instant revenues, he points out.

In contrast, the original British *MasterChef* franchise currently boasts four versions: the main *MasterChef* series, *Celebrity MasterChef*, *MasterChef: The Professionals*, and *Junior MasterChef*. The format and style of the show have been replicated worldwide in numerous international versions. For instance, *MasterChef US* has successfully aired 23 seasons to date and continues to run.

A bigger challenge, say industry insiders, is the "close-knit boys' club" of various media agencies, which control advertising revenue. "Instead of reaching out to and promoting such new projects, these [agency] people act as gatekeepers, forcing the broadcasters to bring costs to a minimum," says Khan. "Broadcasters also give in and it impacts the quality of the product."

Ansari concurs with Khan's assessment. "We produce the same franchise content in a fraction of the budgets that they put in global markets."

Ayesha Jilani, another producer and director, disagrees. For her, it is important to bring the costs down. "The high cost and price tags associated with such shows [*MasterChef Pakistan*, *Pakistan Idol*] is what led to their failure," she tells *Icon*. "The right kind of show, which doesn't have to be extravagant and costly, will get the traction needed."

GETTING THE FORMULA RIGHT

Can the *Shark Tank Pakistan* team get the formula right?

There were some initial hiccups, including the selection of the "sharks" — the investors on the show. But now, at least seven individuals have been finalised for that role.

They include Rabeel Waraich, of the venture capital firm Narmayyar; Junaid Iqbal, who was instrumental in Caravan's expansion in Pakistan; Aleema Nadim, who recently featured in *Forbes 30 under 30 Asia*; and Romana Dada, who leads the Saudi Sovereign Wealth Fund in Pakistan, among others.

With the sharks in place, the team has now got to work to find compelling pitches for the investors and to make sure the process translates well on the screen.

As Pakistan navigates the evolving media landscape, the introduction of *Shark Tank Pakistan* may yet serve as a catalyst for a new era for format shows. With the growing realisation of the potential for innovative content formats, especially among the youth, there's a palpable demand for fresh and engaging programming. As digital platforms continue to grow as preferred mediums, the hope for foreign format shows to thrive in Pakistan remains more than just a possibility.

But for that, not just broadcasters and advertisers, but also content creators have to step out of their own ponds. How well do they make that leap will determine whether such shows stay on the airwaves or end up shelved. ■

The writer is a freelance journalist and a communications professional

▶ SOUNDSCAPE

SURVIVING STRONG AFTER 40 YEARS

Born in the USA still remains Bruce Springsteen's top-selling album and one of his most misunderstood songs

By Diane Winston

Even John, Adele and R.E.M. did it. So did Rihanna and the Rolling Stones. If Donald Trump tried to use her music, Taylor Swift would likely do it, too.

Many musicians have said "no" when politicians try using their music for campaigning. But Bruce Springsteen may be the most famous nay-sayer of all.

In September 1984, Springsteen's *Born in the USA* was atop the charts, and Ronald Reagan, running for re-election against Walter Mondale, told a New Jersey audience that he and the singer-songwriter shared the same American dream.

Springsteen disagreed. Three days later, performing in Pittsburgh, Springsteen spoke about his version of that dream.

"In the beginning, the idea was we all live here a little bit like a family, where the strong can help the weak ones, the rich can help the poor ones. You know, the American dream," he said in between songs.

"I don't think it was that everybody was going to make a billion dollars but that everybody was going to have an opportunity and a chance to live a life with some decency and some dignity."

June 4, 2024, marked the 40th anniversary of *Born in the USA*, Springsteen's top-selling album.

In my recent book, *Righting the American Dream: How the Media Misrepresented Reagan's Evangelical Vision*, I describe the president's attempt to use Springsteen's lyrics to support that vision, which included cutting welfare,

boosting the military and ending abortion — all positions dear to the religious right.

Springsteen had a different vision, and Reagan's attempt to co-opt it spared the singer to be more explicitly political in his words and actions.

BLINDED BY THE LIGHT

The confusion over *Born in the USA* is easy to understand. Just look at the album's cover art.

Shot from the rear, Springsteen is facing a large American flag. The flag's red and white stripes, along with Springsteen's white T-shirt, blue jeans and red baseball cap, all telegraph, "America".

So why a bare chest of the blue-jeaned rocker whose pose screams youth, sex and swagger?

The photo is a Horstchick test, a purposeful mixed message.

Springsteen called the album's eponymous title song "one of my greatest and most misunderstood pieces of music." It's driven by energetic, punnelling drums and a synthesiser's haunting refrain. Springsteen's gruff rasp can make it difficult to hear the lyrics, which express the anguish of a Vietnam vet who regrets enlisting and faces unemployment at home.

Yet the song's chorus, which Springsteen sings proudly and loudly, fits in the air, repeats "*Born in the USA, I was born in the USA*."

Springsteen was doing two things: criticising the war and subsequent treatment of veterans and affirming his American birthright. The song was, in his words, "a demand for a 'critical' patriotic voice along with pride of birth."

HUMAN TOUCH

But its message eluded many listeners, including conservative columnist George Will, whose wife had been given two tickets to a concert.

Afterward, Will told his *Washington Post* readers that Springsteen "is no whiner, and the recitation of closed factories and other problems always seems punctuated by a grand, cheerful affirmation: *Born in the USA!*"

Will, a favourite of Reagan's inner circle, was the likely source for the president's mistaken view that he and Springsteen shared the same American dream.

Springsteen wrote about everyday people: bus drivers, factory workers, waitresses and cops. Reagan needed their votes, but not all of them were his people. His fiscal policies benefited wealthy Americans and corporations but did little for working families and the poor.

Springsteen said as much in a *Rolling Stone* interview at the end of 1984: "And you see the Reagan re-election ads on TV — you know 'It's morning in America.' And you say, well, it's not morning in Pittsburgh. It's not morning above 125th Street in New York. It's midnight."

In that same interview, Springsteen admitted that he last voted in 1972, when his candidate, George McGovern, lost to Republican incumbent Richard Nixon. His preference, he said, was "human politics" — concrete action with a direct effect on local communities.

He put that into practice at the Pittsburgh concert following Reagan's shoot-out. Making a US\$10,000 donation to a food bank for unemployed steelworkers, he urged his audience to also support the cause. His



Bruce Springsteen performs in Providence, R.I. in January 1985 during the *Born in the USA* Tour | *Stuart Greenfield/The Boston Globe*

pitches for local food banks have been a concert staple ever since.

THE PROMISED LAND

Reagan articulated his American dream in speeches and interviews. He believed God had blessed America with freedom — a freedom embodied in free markets, limited government and the freedom to live according to your religious beliefs.

Springsteen has made his American dream the subject of his music: a nation that welcomes immigrants, condemns racism and opposes economic inequality. Its people stand together even — especially — amid tragedy.

Before Reagan cited him as a Republican muse, Springsteen was content to let his music convey his politics. Afterward, he was more candid, often riffing on a favourite phrase, "Nobody wins, unless everybody wins."

In 2004, he jumped into electoral politics, supporting John Kerry's presidential bid. At a large Midwest rally, he warned that the ideals championed in his music were at risk. "United We Stand" ... and "our nation indivisible" aren't just slogans. They need to remain the guiding principles of our public life."

Four years later, Springsteen campaigned for Barack Obama and again in 2012. He supported Hillary Clinton in 2016, and in 2020 he released *My Heart Goes for a Biden* campaign ad.

NO SURRENDER

In May 2024, things came full circle when Donald Trump, the putative GOP presidential candidate, name-checked Springsteen at a New Jersey rally. But this time, the candidate wasn't praising the Garden State troubadour.

He called Springsteen a "wacko", before claiming that the boss and other "liberal singers" had nonetheless voted for him in 2020. Then Trump falsely added that his records outperformed Springsteen's.

But Springsteen made his opinion on the candidate clear in a 2020 interview, when Trump was running for re-election: "I don't know if our democracy could stand another four years of his costidianship."

Springsteen's recent collection of R&B standards is titled *Only the Strong Survive* and, on the cover, the rocker is dressed in black, grizzled but game, looking directly at the viewer.

With the title, is he hinting that Reagan's evangelical vision and Darwinian approach to economics had crushed Springsteen's own American dream?

Or does his assured pose convey his belief that there's still "treasure for the taking, for my hard-working man, who'll make his home in the American land"? ■

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The politics of hate and division and stark economic inequality championed by Narendra Modi and the BJP has been dealt a chastening blow by the Indian electorate, which returned a verdict for the ruling coalition far short of its hoped-for landslide. Has Indian democracy been pulled back from the brink, or will this humiliation lead to Modi digging in his heels?

DENTING MODI'S 1000-YEAR REICH



Narendra Modi during the launch of the BJP's election manifesto on April 14, 2024; the election results represent a stunning personal setback for Modi, who had become convinced of his invincibility | Reuters

By Siddharth Varadarajan

Voters in India have done for Indian democracy what the country's election commission and judiciary failed to do: discipline and rebuke Prime Minister Narendra Modi for seeking to pit Hindus and Muslims against each other, and for his cozy nexus with big business — whose dubious donations have fuelled government policies that have increased inequality and distress.

After 10 years in power, Modi has lost the parliamentary majority his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) enjoyed, and will now run a minority government with the backing of coalition partners, some of whom are notoriously feckle.

It does not help that he himself has never run an actual — rather than a notional — coalition. Three years ago, when the Shiromani Akali Dal challenged him over his controversial farm laws, he remained unmoved and it was the Akalis who had to exit. But the allies India's voters have now ditched him will not quietly pick up their *jhoot* and walk away. They will have

the ability to topple his government.

Putting on a brave face, Modi barked the fact that he has returned to power for the third time as a "historic feat." The truth is that the result represents a stunning personal setback for a man so convinced of his invincibility that he had begun to claim divine origins.

"As long as my mother was alive," he told an interviewer in the midst of the election campaign, "I used to feel that perhaps I have been born biologically. But after her death, looking at all my experiences, I have become convinced... that God has sent me. The energy [I have] has not come from a biological body." The electorate has brought this self-proclaimed messenger of God down to earth with a thud.

THE MUSLIM SCAPEGOAT

Modi's claim to divinity came, incidentally, in the same interview when he lied about an election speech he had made at the start of the campaign. At Banarasa, he had unambiguously referred to India's Muslims as "infiltrators" and as people who have "more children."

Modi was not simply abusing Muslims but attempting to stoke irrational

anxieties in India's Hindu voters, about how he was the only leader capable of stopping the opposition from seizing their property and assets and handing them over to the Muslims.

Modi went on to repeat this accusation, with minor variations, at rally after rally. His party created nasty animated videos, aimed at scaring Hindus into believing this absurd claim. In another interview, he distorted the dubious findings of a widely publicised study by researchers in his own office — released to coincide with the anti-Muslim election narrative he was pushing — in order to convince Hindus that India's Muslim population is growing so fast that they would soon be swamped.

Why is Modi so obsessed with Muslims? For one, it is part of his political DNA. His career began in the BJP's parent organisation — the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) — and has been built around the RSS's belief that India is a Hindu nation which was enslaved by Muslims for 800 years. Modi believes that Indian Muslims today — statistically one of the poorest cohorts in the country — are

DENTING MODI'S REICH, PAGE 2

India's leading pollsters, nearly all of whom had predicted a clear sweep for the BJP, turned out to be so spectacularly off the mark that speculation is on the rise about who benefitted

WHY THE POLLSTERS GOT IT ALL WRONG

By Jawed Naqvi

Distrurbed by the hugely misleading exit polls that projected a runaway victory for Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) coalition partners in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the recent general elections?

If so, you may be pleased to side with the opinion that American writer E.B. White offered in 1945, saying: "The so-called science of poll-taking is not a science at all but mere necromancy."

In other words, to White's mind, psephology (the statistical study of elections and trends in voting) was no better than summoning ghosts and pebbles to figure out one's fate, often spawning tragic consequences, such as the one encountered by Macbeth.

Shakespeare scholar Professor Andrew Cecil Bradley called the witches' prophecy an "equivocation of the

kind." But there was no equivocation in the Indian exit polls. There was no double-speak or a forked tongue that would insidiously support both sides of an argument. The exit polls, as Indian National Congress (INC) leader Rahul Gandhi led the field in suggesting, were a straightforward trick, a confidence trick, played on the small investors, for the benefit of market punters.

At its core, psephology is best described as the science of reading the pebbles. The term draws from the Greek word for pebble — *pephos*. The ancient Greeks used pebbles to vote. Similarly, the word ballot is derived from the medieval French word *ballotte*, meaning a small ball. In its less suspect avatar, psephology attempts to both forecast and explain election results. Exit polls, like the ones seen in India, are offered as a reliable tool in this endeavour to divine the people's will, before the vote is counted.

Why on earth would anyone want to know the results of any elections, in this case Indian elections, before the results are officially out? Correction. Why would

anyone be interested in the likely and uncertain results when the incontrovertible and verifiable verdict would be published soon? Correction. Why would anyone be interested in exit polls about a major election when exit polls are generally wrong?

There's a possibility for yet one more correction here. Why are exit polls allowed in gambling-prone countries like India, where they are known to be used primarily to wreak havoc at the stock market, targeting the small investors mostly?

People bet on anything for a quick profit. The number plate of the arriving car, odd-even, cards, rain. Indian Gandhi banned public access to monsoon forecasts because Gujarat traders allegedly exploited gullible farmers with their insight — not too different from insider trading — in the days when the farmers relied on instinct, not satellites for weather outlook. At the height of the Gujarat massacres in 2002, there were reports of betting going on about where the next killings would be and on how many victims there would be.

Hansie Cronje and Mohammed Aarifuddin, among others, led the field in cricket and also allegedly with betting syndicates. There has been a cultural somersault with the economic opening, as India has embraced its free market regime. Gone are the days when Raj Kapoor movies, *Shri 420* in particular, berated the "atta bazaar" (betting market) and where a card sharper could become a villainous investor on the bourse.

In Delhi in the 19th century, Mirza Ghulam was jailed for hosting gambling under the watch of his patron, the last Mughal emperor. In terms of chronology, note the legend of the *Mahabharata*, where the lure of gambling took a heavy toll on Draupadi, the wife of the five brothers who lost her in a single throw of the dice.

Therefore, it was not an unusual event that the Indian stock markets went up with the exit polls and crashed with the actual results. The actual outcome being the opposite of what was predicted by the so-called pollsters

POLLSTERS OFF THE MARK, PAGE 2

SHAKING THE GROUND BENEATH MODI'S FEET

DENTING MODI'S REICH, PAGE 1

actually 'privileged' and enjoy more rights and benefits than Hindus, and that India cannot attain true glory as long as the 'oppression' of Muslims continues.

But there is a second reason for the recent uptick in his anti-Muslim pronouncements. When you go into an election with nothing much to show by way of actual accomplishments — unemployment and rural despair are widespread and 800 million Indians subsist on free grains provided to them by the government — it helps to divert the attention of voters with large doses of Muslim bashing. This is what Modi and his party did.

STACKING THE BENCH BUT STILL LOSING

It is an open secret that campaigning for votes on the basis of direct or indirect appeals to religion is illegal under our election law and can get a politician banned from contesting for six years. However, Modi correctly calculated that the three election commissioners who are meant to enforce this law (and whom he handpicked for the job) would not say anything.

When some citizens approached the Delhi High Court, requesting that the Election Commission be told to file a case against Modi for his hate speeches, they were sent packing with the advice that they must have faith in the Election Commission. The latter, of course, did nothing and, when the Chief Election Commissioner was asked

(after voting had ended) why he had not acted, his answer was that the courts had rejected petitions that had asked for the Election Commission to take action.

The courts and the Election Commission may have passed the buck between them and done nothing but, unfortunately for Modi, enough Hindu voters saw through his game and decided they were not going to trade their concerns about the here and now for the civil strife that the prime minister was clearly pushing for.

In Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, the BJP's vote share collapsed. Even Ayodhya — which was assigned a special place in Modi's chauvinist politics — decided to dump him. In Rajasthan and Haryana, rural voters angry at Modi's anti-farmer policies, backed the opposition. Across India, as many as 22 sitting ministers — roughly around a quarter of his ministerial council — lost their seats.

Thanks to an electoral battlefield skewed by the BJP's money power, the partnership of big media and his own willingness to use state coercion against the opposition, however, Modi has managed to limit his losses and limp across the finishing line with the help of a coalition.

On Sunday, June 9, he was sworn into office for a third time. The fact that he has been weakened is good news for India's democracy but, to the extent to which he remains unchastened, it is far to ask what his priorities will be this time around.



Rahul Gandhi attends a Congress Party event in New Delhi; hardly anyone foresaw the extent to which voters would back Congress and its allies in this election | Reuters

WHERE DOES MODI GO NOW?

Do his electoral losses mean he will no longer be able to pursue his Hindu chauvinist agenda? Will he now have to ease off on his attempts

to stifle dissent and undermine press freedom? Will he decide it is time to be less indulgent towards big business? Or might he actually double-down on his current agenda?

A Turkish friend reminds me that things can get especially dangerous when a strongman feels weaker. This has been the experience with Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Turkey and there is no reason to expect Modi to be any different.

In his second term, Modi had begun to tighten the screws on India's freest digital media — which has so far managed to function and reach millions of readers and viewers despite the threats and blandishments that have turned India's legacy media into a national embarrassment.

In his third term, Modi is likely to be more aggressive in his use of lawfare against the media. Similarly, he will attempt to once again use the government's enforcement agencies to stymie the opposition by going after individual leaders.

If Modi continues on the path he has taken so far, it will be up to his coalition partners and the judiciary to intervene. The fact that Modi is numerically vulnerable increases the likelihood that he will face some resistance from these quarters, but there is no guarantee that this will be so.

In his first two terms, Modi used the support and goodwill of foreign powers, especially the United States and in Europe, as a force multiplier to strengthen himself politically. That too is not necessarily going to change. Back in power, he is sure to leverage the bait of lucrative business opportunities for Western companies and the sharpening rift between the United States and China to allay any squeamishness

generated by his open Islamophobia and authoritarian tendencies.

Indians are breathing easier today, confident that they have managed to pull Indian democracy back from the brink. They also know it will not take long for Modi to return to his divinely programmed factory settings. Support for the BJP's anti-Muslim politics may have peaked in the north and the west of India, but he is keen to extend its reach in the south and east.

This is a man who boasts of having a 1000-year plan for India — a techno-corporate variant of the RSS's destructive vision — and he is not going to abandon it so easily. The last world leader who dreamt of a millennium for his Reich ended up destroying his country and much more. India's voters have delivered a body blow to Modi's 'vision', but the truth is that he's back.

Indians who love and value their constitution — their rights, their civilisation and their fraternity — will have to meet themselves for a more decisive round, which is sure to be just around the corner.

"Chalao chalo," as Feroz Khan Noon wrote about the search for a new dawn, "ke woh mauch abhi nibha aye!" A safe harbour is still some distance away. ■

The writer is a founding editor of The Wire. He was earlier the editor of The Hindu and is a recipient of the Shorenstein Journalism Award and the Ramnath Gopalakrishnan Award for Journalist of the Year.

By arrangement with The Wire



A man at an appliance store in Ajmer watches the exit polls on June 1; several exit polls predicted the NDA would comfortably return to power, saying that the BJP alone would win more than 300 seats | AFP

POLLSTERS OFF THE MARK, PAGE 1

with their so-called scientific tools was not surprising.

Rahul Gandhi was not alone in pointing out the difference between previous episodes, which too had a habit of missing the mark either enough by a wide margin, and the exit polls this time around. It was clear from data that there was suspicious and mysterious stock market activity around the exit polls and election results, by which a group of foreign investors gained, and millions of Indian small investors lost wealth.

The key point in Rahul Gandhi's

accusation was that Prime Minister Modi and the Indian home minister Amit Shah had publicly exhorted people to invest in the stock markets, because the results would lead to a boom. Were Modi and his fellow Gujarati aide culpable in a potential crime? Rahul Gandhi has demanded a parliamentary investigation into the matter, similar to the 1980s' Bofors gun scam, which had targeted his father.

Let's turn to a more phlegmatic view of what happened and if it were tantamount to a scam. So this is what happened, as *The*

Hindu explained in its diligent way. Ahead of election results on June 4, several exit polls predicted the return of the NDA to power, with a tally of more than 300 seats for the BJP alone.

One pollster, Today's Chanakya, predicted 400 seats (plus or minus 15) for the NDA, and another pollster, Axis My India, said the NDA would win an average of 381 seats. All these polls were way off the mark, as the results showed.

The well-regarded CSDS-Lokniti post-poll predicted that the NDA would receive a vote share of 46 percent, while that of the INC-led Indian National Development Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc (including the Left, Trinamool Congress in West Bengal and Aam Aadmi Party in Punjab) would be 29 percent. The error margin was 3.08 percent points.

The results showed the NDA bagged 293 seats (43.63 percent vote share) and the INDIA bloc 208 seats (including the Trinamool Congress, which won 29 seats) with a vote share of 37 percent. CSDS-Lokniti did not project seats for the alliances but predicted that the NDA would return with a majority. Its vote share figures were within the error margins but were 2.5 points higher for the NDA.



A sadhu shows his ink-marked finger after voting in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh; even Ayodhya, which was assigned a special place in Modi's chauvinist politics, decided to dump him | Reuters

Axis My India projected 47 percent for the NDA and 39 percent for the INDIA bloc and the actual results showed that the projections overestimated the NDA vote share beyond the error margins. C-Vote projected a seat tally of 353 to 383 seats for the NDA, with a vote share of 45.3 percent and 38.9 percent for the BJP alone, which was 2.3 points higher than the actual vote share for the party — 36.56 percent. Its figures for the INDIA bloc were also roughly 2.4 points lower than the actual mark. While the vote shares were within error margins nationally, its seat tallies were way off, across several states.

Naturally, when the stock market reopened on June 3, after the weekend, it rose to an all-time high, driven by the exit polls' prediction of a third successive

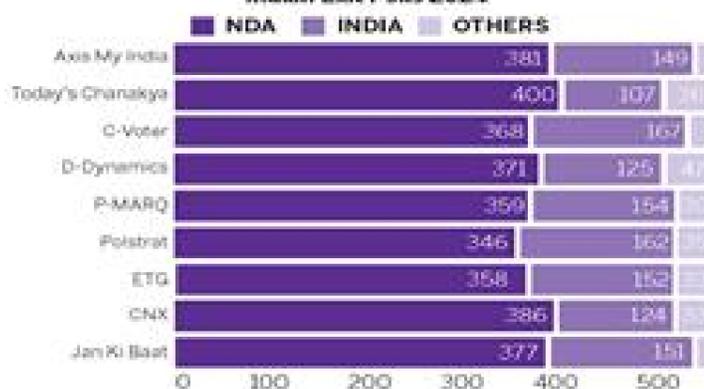
term for Modi with an untrammelled majority. Evidently, the group of foreign investors who suddenly bought huge amounts of shares on May 31 saw their values rise enormously.

On June 8, when the actual results were being declared, it became clear that every single exit poll was way off the mark, and Modi was struggling to get even a simple majority. The stock market panicked, and we all know what happened.

On October 9, 2011, the then chancellor of Austria was forced to resign in a unique scandal. He had rigged opinion polls in his favour, forced the media to show these surveys, and won his election. Indian pollsters may have done even better. ■

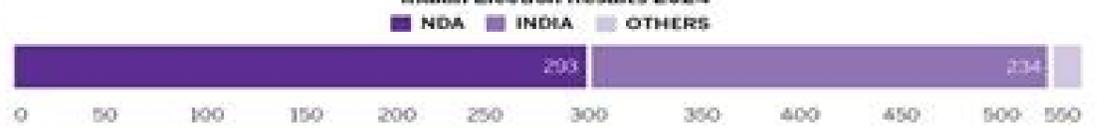
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Indian Exit Polls 2024



Exit polls in India, as shown in the data above, greatly overestimated the NDA's popularity

Indian Election Results 2024



The election results led to the NDA amassing far fewer seats in the Lok Sabha (lower house of the Indian parliament) than had been predicted by the pollsters

► SOCIETY

LEVELLING THE PLAYING FIELD

Despite efforts to increase women's participation in the workforce, Pakistan continues to fare poorly on gender parity in the workplace. The disparity becomes stark in professional roles, where women often have to sacrifice their careers for 'flexible' jobs to juggle dual roles at home and at the workplace. What can be done to break this cycle?

By Nazish Shekha, Rajaa Bokhari & Dure Sameen Akhund

In Pakistan, efforts are underway to increase female participation in the workforce, aiming to reach 45 percent by 2025. However, as of 2024, only a quarter of the workforce is female, and most of them work in rural-based agricultural occupations.

Women perform equally well as men in higher education, but the country's economy will not reach its full potential unless women are given a level playing field. To achieve this, policies and programmes that lead to inclusive workplaces must be implemented. Additionally, it is essential to address cultural biases and gender stereotypes that hinder women's ability to participate fully in the formal sector.

Data from the World Bank identifies that companies in Pakistan had an average of 3.3 percent females working in full-time roles in 2022, much lower than the percentage of female employees in other countries in South Asia. The three main reasons that have contributed to these low levels of workforce participation are gender norms, which require women to manage responsibilities at home, the lack of supporting infrastructure, and the uptake of gender policies by the private sector.

A closer look at the statistics by the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) reveals only 14 to 16 percent of women occupy professional roles in manufacturing and services, and the numbers are even lower in healthcare and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields. In contrast, women occupy 84 percent of the positions in the education sector.

The disparity in women's choice of occupations primarily points to the struggles in managing their roles in caregiving and domestic tasks. Consequently, many women perceive their careers as either expendable — to be foregone for personal responsibilities — or limited. They end up being nudged towards "women-friendly professions", which are more flexible, thus creating significant gaps in STEM fields.

It's important to understand that the challenges faced by women who work do not reflect their capabilities or dedication. The existing system can make women feel like they are failing both at their jobs and responsibilities at home. The fact that a significant majority of women opt for roles with more flexibility highlights the disparity in how private-sector roles are structured, underscoring the urgent need for systemic changes to support the needs of employees from varying backgrounds.

DUAL ROLE OF WOMEN

When you listen to working women, they often speak of the struggles faced by them in managing logistics and after-school care. This also extends to any employee with caregiving responsibilities, such as taking care of old-age parents and sick or disabled family members, which falls mainly on women as well.

This dual burden often leads women to seek alternative career paths for greater flexibility and better alignment with familial obligations. Teaching is particularly appealing, offering the opportunity to maintain employment even after marriage and children, but it is not the first career choice for many women. The profession's main draw is how it aligns with children's schedules, allowing women to be available to care for the children after school, while attending to their domestic duties.

Today, a mother's dedication to her children still conflicts directly with the image of an ideal worker. Motherhood becomes the 'maternal wall' and affects job performance to the extent that women begin their careers with prying questions about their ability to balance their home and work lives during the interview process. This culture becomes a part of teams, which tend to sideline working mothers from projects or assume their lack of inclination to travel for work or sit late at the office.

Working mothers often face challenges when organising after-school care for their children and require accommodations to balance their responsibilities. In Pakistan, school hours typically end around 1:30pm, prompting parents to leave the office to pick up their children, an interruption that often requires a two-hour break in their schedules.

With one child, elderly family members, such as the children's grandparents, may usually take up this responsibility. Still, it becomes increasingly more difficult with their advancing age, especially as the parents have a second or third child.

At this point, many women tend to quit their jobs. As the children grow older, women may try returning to their previous careers, but a long break can pose a host of additional biases against them due to their age. They may be under greater scrutiny from their new colleagues and managers, who could question their level of commitment or ability, when the returning mothers may already have to adjust to the work environment that would



Illustration by Shara Aamir

have transformed in terms of work ethics and technology.

STATE OF THE CORPORATE SECTOR

In data gathered by the Pakistan Business Council (PBC) in 2023, as part of its 'Employer of Choice, Gender Diversity Awards', more than 75 percent of companies identified the proportion of women working for them as low as six percent.

Pakistan's infrastructural and cultural barriers, as well as economic instability, regularly threaten to weaken the business case for hiring women. Employers encounter additional expenses in accommodating female employees, such as establishing segregated facilities or ensuring safe transportation options, especially in small- or medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), for whom the resources

equal career advancement opportunities.

To prepare women for their talent pipelines, companies can simultaneously offer training programmes tailored to them, to address the gaps in their education, vocational background and personal skills. A lack of support may contribute to the low number of women in executive leadership positions, emblematic of a global problem for women trying to become the decision-makers in their organisations.

Being trapped out of senior roles leads to another problem: the gender wage gap. Contrary to common belief, the wage gap does not always exist because women are paid less because of discriminatory company policies or practices. Nearly every company surveyed by the PBC claimed it was an equal-opportunity employer, with the same remuneration policies for women

systemic challenges for women, such as childcare and public transport.

While governments play a pivotal role in promoting gender-balanced workplaces, it's essential to recognise the limitations of relying only on its interventions. The private sector needs to take the lead in addressing the obstacles faced by women in entering and staying in the workforce. The private sector can collaborate with stakeholders to create a supportive environment for women.

For instance, banks in a specific locality could work together to establish a childcare centre or transportation system for female staff. Companies can also customise flexible work schedules, to accommodate different job responsibilities and locations.

Furthermore, it's critical to address

Today, a mother's dedication to her children still conflicts directly with the image of an ideal worker. Motherhood becomes the 'maternal wall' and affects job performance to the extent that women begin their careers with prying questions about their ability to balance their home and work lives during the interview process. This culture becomes a part of teams, which tend to sideline working mothers from projects or assume their lack of inclination to travel for work or sit late at the office.

required to facilitate this transition are often beyond their means.

Conversely, companies often feel frustrated when female employees exit their organisations, despite efforts to allocate resources for their recruitment. However, simply bumping up the numbers of women, without working on strategies to boost their productivity and well-being, as well as not offering them professional development opportunities, will not help companies become gender-conscious employers.

But each time a woman leaves can be seen as a reason to not hire more women, perpetuating further prejudice and discrimination. Data collected by the PBC also found that most of the surveyed companies do not have flexible working arrangements, like shorter work weeks, emergency childcare leaves and remote work.

Considering the cultural expectations of the country's women, companies must strategise on how to become attractive employers who help women balance their priorities early in their careers.

DEVELOPING GENDER-CONSCIOUS POLICIES

Order quotas are determined through a role-mapping process to identify suitable places for women in an organisation, sometimes by making adjustments to jobs that traditionally lock women out.

Role mapping is a good way for companies to build talent pipelines, allocating a particular portion of the pipeline to women or ensuring that a role vacated by a woman is offered to another woman. Hence, it is crucial to eliminate gender biases in company leadership, to ensure women have

and men. Not only are women unable to occupy some of the highest-paying roles, but many companies do not track or report the wage gap, making it difficult to assess when the disparity arises.

Some local companies, aligning with global trends, employ focused policies to attract female talent, such as using gender-neutral language in job ads to encourage female candidates, sensitising their recruitment managers against discriminatory behaviour, and setting quotas for women for different positions and departments.

In data collected by the PBC, leading companies said they are prepared to go the extra mile to compensate working mothers for travel with their children and nannies or allow parents to bring their children to work in exceptional circumstances.

LEGISLATIVE AND OTHER INTERVENTIONS

Legislative policy is advancing to support working women by addressing barriers, albeit slowly. The 2010 Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act requires companies to allow employees to report workplace grievances without fear of retaliation. Furthermore, legislation has prompted most companies to provide paid maternity leave.

However, childcare support varies between companies, from daycare centres to allowances, due to a difference between legislations in between provinces. It warrants a mention that, while the policymaker has the responsibility for designing interventions for enhancing women's opportunities, the corporate sector can engage the government to advocate for policies, which are able to cater to the

issue of trained professionals leaving their careers to care for their children, often referred to as the "leaky pipeline." One solution is for companies to partner with local schools to offer extended after-school programmes. This arrangement benefits everyone involved, by generating additional income for the schools, providing reliable childcare options for parents until the end of their workday, and offering extra learning opportunities for children.

Another option is to establish low-cost childcare systems in neighbourhoods, where neighbours can care for each other's children while their mothers' work. This approach has been successful in many communities, and provides practical and affordable childcare solutions for working women.

TIPS FOR FEMALE EMPLOYEES

Women, in general, tend to be hesitant to look ahead due to the dual roles they juggle. However, through global and local conversations and interventions, women can explore ways to address the barriers which prevent them in pursuing their career of choice. Here are some recommended strategies and examples from career coaches.

Aspire to reach the top: Setting clear goals can help navigate the challenge. For instance, a woman at a large NGO worked to boost her confidence and visibility among teams. After identifying ways to improve, she successfully asked for a promotion and received it.

Engaging with a mentor is recommended. Women in the workplace need to network and seek mentoring. This could be someone in the workplace,

a teacher or a friend, who ideally should have more work experience and can act as a sounding board. As women manage dual roles, they need to remember the importance of networking at work. For instance, a young finance professional found a better job fit after getting guidance from a mentor within her organisation.

Career coaching can bring clarity. There is a growing global trend towards career coaching, which helps people clarify their needs at each stage. This reflective approach helps people work through their internal reservations and recognise their role in moving forward.

Engaging with other working women: Building relationships with women in similar situations can be vital for support during difficult times. Many women find it challenging to network after work due to family responsibilities. Online groups and connecting with other working females can provide valuable advice and support.

Be professional in your approach: Networking platforms help women compare company policies, such as flexible work hours and remote work options, and initiate conversations in their organisations. They can also discuss other benefits, such as childcare support and transportation. Taking a professional and data-driven approach is essential for successful conversations.

Act responsibly: After the organisation implements new policies, it's important to note that there's a possibility of abuse by anyone, regardless of gender. Since new policies may have initial challenges, employees must act responsibly and provide constructive feedback. This will enhance the acceptance of new approaches, allowing women to fully benefit.

Know your worth: To succeed in any profession, it's essential to take ownership of one's skills, confidently showcase accomplishments and master the art of salary negotiation. These proactive measures will help establish one's reputation, earn respect and reach professional objectives.

It may be unrealistic to achieve Pakistan's target for women's workforce participation in 2025, without addressing the systemic barriers that exist at the policy and corporate levels. However, socio-economic conditions are bringing financial constraints that will require households to have two sources of income. It is important for policymakers and the private sector to work together to find solutions.

Additionally, it is equally important for women to voice their need to work at various platforms. As 49 percent of the population, women can use their collective influence to advocate for addressing these barriers. ■

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▶ FOOTBALL

Even though Pakistan went down 0-3 to Saudi Arabia in the FIFA World Cup qualifiers last week and are now eliminated from the competition, there are clear signs that the national team is finally being rebuilt under its new coach

STEADY AS SHE GOES

By Shahrukh Sohail

A few years ago, had someone said that Italy's European Championship-winning coach Roberto Mancini would be leading Saudi Arabia in a FIFA World Cup qualifier game against Pakistan in Islamabad alongside Barcelona legend Xavi Torres, it would have been laughed off.

But truth is stranger than fiction sometimes, and that's how it unfolded on a windy Thursday evening in the capital, when the Shaheens played their namesake, the Green Falcons (as the Saudi Arabia team is called), for the second round of the qualifiers. Pakistan's record until 2023 was unbelievably poor in the FIFA World Cup qualifiers, having never progressed past the first round since 1989, with 52 games played, four draws and 28 losses.

That all changed under the new English boss Stephen Constantine who, despite having only a few days with the team, was able to carve out a narrow win against Cambodia — the same side that ended Pakistan's hopes for progression in 2019.

It was uncharted territory against the biggest names in Asia, with the Shaheens being clubbed with Saudi Arabia (bananas for their 2022 FIFA World Cup win against eventual champions Argentina), Asian Cup finalists Jordan and Asian Cup quarter-finalists Tajikistan.

No one expected Pakistan to pick up any points and the team was indeed put to the sword, but it did put up a brave fight in the fixtures. It started with Saudi Arabia away, where Constantine's men put up a valiant display, despite missing captain Danish Salimani (Saragayin FC) through injury, conceding two late goals in injury time to end things at 4-0.

Tajikistan at home went completely the other way, with suspensions causing Rao Usfer Hayat (Wapda) and Shayk Dost (Wapda) to miss the starting XI and Hayat's replacement Mubshirullah (Karachi United FC) taken to the cleaners by the opponents. The game did see our first goal in the second round, through Habib Nabi's (Digenis Morphou FC) long-range manner, but it remained a consolation and Tajikistan dominated in a 6-1 thrashing.

It was a baptism of fire and clearly Pakistan were out of their depth, but hosting Jordan in the middle of Ramadan in Islamabad did showcase the team's grit. It managed to contain the visitors to 3-0, with Montpellier's Musa Al-Tamari grabbing a hat-trick while being denied by Yousof Butt (Isbj IF) from the penalty spot.

Jordan away turned into another nightmare for



Saudi Arabia's forward Salem Al-Dawsari fights for the ball with Pakistan's defender Muhammad Usfer Hayat (R) during their qualifier match at Islamabad's Jinnah Sports Stadium on June 6 | A/P

Pakistan, with star centre-back Abdullah Iqbal (B99) missing the game due to suspension. The Shaheens were unable to cope with Jordan's attacking onslaught, resulting in a 7-0 thrashing in Amman.

Nonetheless, it has been a huge learning curve for the young Pakistan team that currently has an average age of 23.3 years and can essentially continue for the next seven to eight years. Stephen Constantine has done a fantastic job turning them into a gritty unit that is currently competing with the big boys in Asia.

Despite missing captain Danish Salimani — whose combination with Abdullah Iqbal looks like the greatest centre-back partnership the Pakistan team has ever had, and which resulted in our best performances when the team played Cambodia and Jordan at home — Pakistan still managed to keep the score respectable against Saudi Arabia.

Had it not been for the mix-up between goalkeeper Yousof Butt and Iqbal, the score would have been 2-0, which is the same amount of goals Saudi Arabia put

past Argentina in the 2022 World Cup — not a bad feat, considering the ranking difference between Pakistan and Saudi is 142.

Currently, it looks like the rebuilding process that started in 2022 for the team is nearly complete. After missing out on multiple games and competitions, the team has slowly started getting back into shape. But continuity at this stage is a must.

Home-grown talent such as Alamgir (Wapda), Rao Usfer, Shayk Dost, Adeel Yousof (Dopo FC) and Ferozullah (Muslim FC) have become regulars under Constantine. These boys, despite not having even played the Pakistan Premier League (not organised due to constant political problems), have given their all for the team and have managed to impress against the elite of Asia.

Constantine has also been able to rely on the growing talent available in Europe and beyond, with Ous Khan (Grimsby Town FC), Imran Kayani (Whitehawk FC), Mokeel Abdullah (Nantfield, Town FC),



Stephen Constantine

Muhammad Faisal (Nottle United FC) and Harun Hamid (St Albans City FC) adding overall quality and experience to the side.

This is a team in process and it will take more friendlies and exposure as a unit before it starts delivering results, but the signs are evident that football's time has come in Pakistan.

Over 20,000 fans watched the game at home against Saudi Arabia and it was the highest attendance so far in Pakistan's Group G, despite being clubbed with ardent, developed football countries.

Pakistan's average attendance in the last three games has been over 16,000 despite two games being played in the afternoon due to a lights issue at the Jinnah Stadium and the fans put up a brilliant atmosphere and genuinely got behind the team when Saudi Arabia came to visit. No one can deny that Pakistan loves its football — the numbers are just too obvious now, even for the staunchest critics.

Moreover, if Pakistan is able to get its political house in order at the Pakistan Football Federation and continue with Stephen Constantine in the longer-term, there is a genuine chance that the Jinnah Stadium can lead a strong campaign for the 2027 Asian Cup qualification. ■

The writer is a sports management and marketing expert. He tweets @shahrukhsohail7

▶ POLITICS

THINK IMMIGRATION IS FUELLING RIGHTIST POLITICS IN EUROPE? THINK AGAIN.

Emigration, out-migration from depopulating regions, is actually the hidden catalyst behind the rise of the radical right in Europe

By Rafaella Dancygier & David Laitin

Earlier this spring, the European Parliament voted to overhaul its immigration policy to more evenly distribute responsibility among member states for managing the arrival of migrants and asylum-seekers.

Lurking in the details of the agreement, however, are provisions allowing for payments to third countries to block the entry of asylum-seekers to Europe — and, more ominously, preliminary plans for mass deportations.

Clearly, the EU's dominant parties bear the footprints of the anti-immigrant, populist right-wing parties, which made significant inroads in the June 2024 EU Parliament elections, and seek to reduce their appeal with stricter limits to those permitted to settle in Europe.

The idea of recapturing voters by appearing tough on immigration is attractive to established parties too, as scholars of comparative politics and political behaviour, we believe that this strategy won't return many votes.

YOUNGER VOTERS LEAVING THE COUNTRYSIDE

While it is commonly held that the electoral success of far-right parties is due to a backlash against newcomers, all this focus on immigration obscures another potent force behind this trend: emigration, or the movement of people out of a region or country.

In a recently published study, our research team found a relationship between out-migration from countries and an increase in votes for populist radical right parties in 28 European countries during the mid-2010s.

Out-migration follows a familiar trend across the globe. As countries transition to post-industrial economies, younger generations



People gather to protest the far-right Alternative for Germany party and right-wing extremism in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, in January 2024. The sign reads 'Never again 1933,' a reference to the year the Nazis came to power | A/P

leave the countryside and small towns for larger metropolitan areas, seeking better educational and career opportunities.

This phenomenon is especially prevalent in Spain, which has lost 28 percent of its rural population in the past 50 years. Facing similar declines, Italy recently resorted to paying people to move to its emptying villages.

Countries across the United States are also witnessing precipitous population loss due to a combination of low fertility and out-migration.

But while many people are aware of the economic ramifications this population flight creates, its impact on voters has been explored far less.

RISE OF SWEDEN'S RADICAL RIGHT

The case of Sweden illustrates how out-migration can benefit radical right populists. From 2000 to 2020, the country's immigrant population increased from 11 percent to nearly 20 percent. During this time, over half of all Swedish municipalities

experienced population decline, as people moved to the country's major cities of Stockholm, Malmö and Gothenburg.

Long dominated by centrist and centre-left politics, Sweden is also witnessing a remarkable partisan shift. The country's oldest and largest party, the Social Democratic Party, has seen a gradual decline in popularity.

Meanwhile, the populist, anti-immigrant Sweden Democrats, once considered a fringe group with a fascist past, have made significant gains and now hold a fifth of the seats in the national parliament.

As a result, the country is now governed by a centre-right minority coalition that depends on the support of the radical right populists.

While immigration is a key political issue for the Sweden Democrats, our research found growing support for the party in areas relatively unaffected by immigration.

In fact, looking at elections over two decades, we found that it was in

municipalities that lost population that the radical right was able to score big gains.

What's more, local immigration was much less of a factor behind this success compared with local out-migration. Tracking five election cycles, we found a persistent gain of half a percentage point in vote share for the Sweden Democrats for every one percent loss in local population — a significant pace over the long term.

POLITICAL LEANINGS IN DEPOPULATING REGIONS

Two key forces explain these dynamics. First, as many studies have shown, the people who move from the periphery to urban areas are more likely to lean left. With their departure, the remaining pool of voters naturally contains a greater proportion of conservatives than before. But composition of the electorate is only part of the story.

The political leanings of voters in depopulating regions also changed. From centre-left to populist right. Here, emigration played a key role.

As communities lose more and more of their working-age population, they experience a decline in public services — due both to dwindling numbers and a shrinking tax base. As a result, schools and hospitals are shuttered, public transportation is cut and local businesses close.

Along with these quality-of-life declines, living in a place that so many people choose to leave, generates a sense of status loss among those who stay. Our interviews with Social Democratic Party leaders revealed how local mayors felt they had to contend with a "collective depression."

One mayor noted: "We like it here, but then someone comes from the outside and says that you're a failure if you live here... so we are struggling against the public perception of what constitutes a successful individual. We constantly have to work on the psychology of the municipality's inhabitants."

Meanwhile, disillusionment with established parties provides fertile ground for radical right parties to exploit.

QUALITY-OF-LIFE DECLINES

While centrist politicians may feel compelled to adopt anti-immigrant stances in response, copying the rhetoric of radical right parties risks alienating their base.

Further, we believe cracking down on immigration is likely to prove an ineffective political strategy in the long run. The Sweden Democrats' success in depopulating regions is in part a protest against the political establishment.

But once in office, and without clear solutions to the local economic and quality-of-life declines that emigration has set in motion, party officials will likely face the same voter discontent fueling their current success.

Ironically, the forces that have increased the appeal of the far right's anti-immigrant ideologies — falling birth rates, labour shortages and a lack of new businesses and services

— are most readily addressed by increasing immigration.

By following the right's lead to tighten borders, parties closer to the centre may condemn industrialised nations to a political doom loop.

Instead, centrist parties may find it pays more dividends to focus attention on addressing the root causes of population decline and restoring public services in peripheral areas.

There are some examples of this already happening. During recent years, Swedish governments have introduced and gradually expanded a national support system for local commercial services, such as grocery stores, in vulnerable and remote locations. In 2021, Spain announced a US\$11.9 billion plan aimed at addressing the lack of 5G telephone connectivity and technologically smart cities in rural areas.

Meanwhile, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development is putting over \$200 billion toward efforts to support rural areas in its 2021-2027 budget.

Such moves may counter a somewhat paradoxical trend that has seen fiercely anti-immigrant parties gaining ground in places least affected by immigration.

Either way, as parties in Europe and the US prepare for crucial elections this year, understanding the complex interplay of demographic shifts and political dynamics is critical.

As it acknowledges that emigration, often overshadowed by immigration rhetoric, is a key factor shaping the rise of the radical right, ■

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Reprinted from The Conversation

EXHIBITION

The distinctive craftsmanship of Sindh takes centre stage at a brilliantly curated exhibition at the Mohatta Palace Museum that focuses on innovative regeneration after loss

WHITE LOTUS AND INDIGO WATERS

By Nusrat Khawaja

Jhaley Lal is a syncretic water deity of Sindh, variously conflated with Lal Shahbaz Qalandar, Khwaja Khizr and Narain. A saviour and a unifying force for communities, Jhaley Lal personifies the waters of the river Indus, from which he is believed to have emerged and upon which he rides atop a pure white lotus blossom resting on a golden fish.

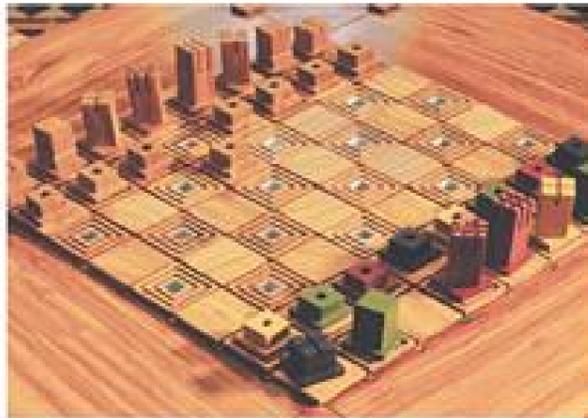
This spirit certainly seems to permeate the halls on the first floor of the Mohatta Palace Museum, where a brilliantly curated exhibition speaks to the notion of resurrection.

"Jhaley Lal: Crafting the Contemporary" is a complex show that demonstrates how revival of heritage craft skills may provide a way forward in the aftermath of forcible displacement. The waters from the floods of 2022 drowned massive areas of Sindh. The losses included the instruments and livelihood of traditional craftsfolk, as their studios became waterlogged.

Sprung by the idea of regeneration, a residency project developed by curator Saima Zaidi was held in Shikarpur in November 2023. Artists and designers from Pakistan and the UK, and craftspeople from Khairpur, Shikarpur and Karachi interacted with one another to infuse traditional working methods with innovative trends in design.

The outcome of this reconstructive synergy are the 19 projects that form the exhibition. The enduring beauty and utility of crafts through the lens of creativity rather than tragedy is underscored by the works.

The walls of the display rooms at Mohatta have been painted indigo blue to psychologically submerge the viewer into a riverine world. The elemental quality of water as a life-giving force is reinforced by the range of craftsworks on display, as the diverse materials used to construct the projects (grass, wood, clay, cloth and metal) all owe their existence to



Shahruq Ke Khilari, Saima Zaidi and Zahra Ibrahim | Kofi Mami



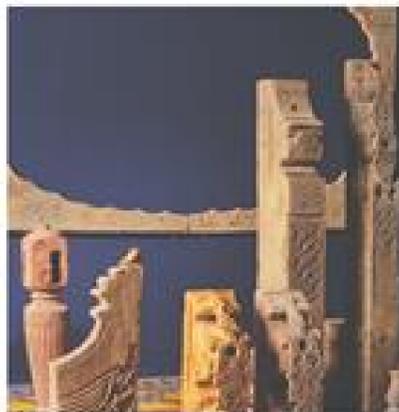
The Date Palm Tree, Nela Bergmans

water, in direct or indirect ways.

A niche at the entrance of the show is painted deep red. It hints at the terminology of 'lat' (food) in the name of Jhaley Lal, as well as in Lal Shahbaz Qalandar. The niche displays small architectural ornaments, such as a conch-shaped botanical flourish, an intricately carved wooden fish, and a marble lotus. The iconography of Jhaley Lal is captured through this assemblage of items, which have been salvaged from building debris being sold as junk in Shikarpur.

Two conceptual programmes underlie the projects in the show. One is the idea of regenerative metamorphosis, and the other is the stylistic notion of composite parts forming the whole. Both concepts are integral to the material content and design development.

The metamorphic properties of water are inherent in the growth of plants that yield raw materials, which are then transformed into art. Thus rushes become woven baskets, moss becomes timber to be carved and shaped for myriad uses, and clay becomes brick. Crafted



Family Portrait, Nela Bergmans and Shaukat Ali Khokhar

objects inherently contain processes of natural metamorphosis, to which the artisan's hand adds a further handmade layer. This historicises

new material into cultural production.

A sound art piece by Haniya Aslam is part of the show. It captures the dual worlds of nature and culture — the tapping of the craftsman's chisel in the auditory refrain from within the studio, and the chirping of birds outside forms a soft background note.

Wood occupies a long time span in its formation. It is naturally the material of choice in several projects. Family Portrait (conceptualised by Nela Bergmans and Shaukat Ali Khokhar)

displays carved wooden objects retrieved from warehouses in Shikarpur. An unusual, hollowed container with a lid made with two-toned sheesham wood

mirrors the industrially produced wares cooler, which is ubiquitous in homes and studios. An object artist, this useful rendition proclaims the independence of the artwork from utilitarian function.

Shahruq Ke Khilari (The Chess Players) is designed by Saima Zaidi and Zahra Ibrahim in sheesham wood with touches of brass. The entire structure fits like a jigsaw puzzle, with dozens of handcrafted components, including the individual squares, the pieces and the stand. A prototype of the chessboard replaces the chess figures with counters that are embossed with the motifs found on Ajrak cloth.

The largest object on display is a majestic Jacquard loom, which uses a binary code punched into cards to weave patterns into cloth. The invention of Frenchman Joseph Marie Jacquard, the machine flourished in Benares (Varanasi), where complex patterns were woven with silk and gold and silver threads into brocade and became an identifier for banarasi silk.

The intricate construction of the loom is mesmerising to behold. Artists Irina Albino and Muhammad Hakeem

collaborated to develop a new punch code, to generate a pattern in the traditional sub-e-sarwan, or floating water, style that was popularly used for muslins. The work, based on their design is in progress on the loom. The silver threads are suggestive of the sun's shimmer on water and of the iridescent shine on the scales of fish, such as the one Jhaley Lal rides on the river.

Shaukat Ali Khokhar's mural disc installation, titled The Circular Flounders, is mounted in the same hall as the Jacquard loom. The contemporary mural design of the discs converges with the traditional metal threadwork on fabric items also on display in the same hall.

As a member of the Shikarpur Residency, artist-photographer Arif Mahmood documented his sojourn in a series of black-and-white photographs called The Vanishing Flounders. With this poignant title, he links the close connection between photography and memory. The visuals include a village woman in her coconut grove, Bourdies on Shikarpur's building facades, dappled light and shadow within interior rooms, and craftsworker families who have engaged in the Jhaley Lal project. The images are a philosophical reflection on the loss and retrieval of transient reality.

From the smallest to the largest item in the exhibition, there is a palpable sense of its significance to society. The great collision between forces of destruction and regeneration is fought on the front of memory, transmitted knowledge and innovation.

As Jhaley Lal swings between the opposing banks of past and present, the river's flow measures us of a future that is being salvaged by art and craft.

"Jhaley Lal: Crafting the Contemporary" is on display at the Mohatta Palace Museum, Karachi from May 17-August 15, 2024

The writer is an independent researcher, writer, an critic and curator based in Karachi

SMOKERS' CORNER



The False Idols of Pakistan Cricket

The prevalent notion that the state of Pakistan cricket mirrors the nation's political tumult is a naive assessment of the cricketing team's lacklustre performances, and fails to acknowledge the fact that our cricketers simply do not know what they are playing for

By Nadeem F. Paracha

Last week, when the Pakistan cricket team suffered two humiliating defeats in this year's T20 Cricket World Cup, a large number of angry fans suggested that the state of the country's cricket is a reflection of Pakistan's current political and economic turmoil. This is not a new take as such. This notion has been doing the rounds ever since the current Pakistan team began to disintegrate from early 2023.

But as far as cricket is concerned, the most prominent examples in the respect have been about teams that actually raised their game in the face of turmoil in their countries. In 1985, one of the most successful cricket captains of the West Indies, Clive Lloyd, told his biographer that the reason the West Indies began to dominate the cricket world from 1976 onwards was the political turmoil that various Caribbean countries had plunged into in the 1970s.

The turmoil triggered a powerful awareness in Caribbean people about their nationhood and race. This pushed the once cavalier side into becoming a more purposeful team. According to the former West Indian cricket commentator Tony Cozier, it was this that transformed West Indies cricket squads from being casual cricketers who played just to entertain white teams, to becoming world beaters.

The West Indies ruled the cricket world from 1976 till the early 1990s. Ironically, though, West Indies cricket began to slide when Caribbean countries actually started to enjoy political and economic stability.

Another example is Sri Lanka. The island nation had been in the grip of a vicious civil war across the 1980s and 1990s. The war provided motivation to the players to do something special, as a way to ease the effects of the war on the Sri Lankan people. In 1996, the Sri Lankan team took the pundits by surprise by winning that year's World Cup event. From being cricket's whipping boys, Sri Lanka became



world champions.

So, saying that the Pakistan cricket team's lacklustre performance is due to the problematic state of affairs in the country is a case of knee-jerk naivete. There will be the usual technical analysis by experts to determine what has gone wrong with Pakistan cricket. But there are certain areas where most analysts will not go to, even though these areas, I believe, need to be explored to fully understand (and resolve) the problem in a more holistic manner.

Fans, players and commentators keep repeating that 'cricket is a religion in India and Pakistan'. Sociologists would agree by understanding it as a 'civic religion', a sport that has been 'sacralised', and/or a secular entity that has been given a sacred dimension. It's the same with American football in the US, club football in England, and football in general in various South American countries.

According to the American sociologist Michael Steen, for some fans, "sport takes on the quality of a secular religion,

which serves to offer an agency for catharsis, a transcendent experience giving followers an escape from the mundane, and a sense of belonging."

When secularism began to make inroads in the West, or when religion began to be relegated to private spheres, the need to worship, and perform religious rituals did not go away. So, secular societies began to shape what began to be known as 'civic religion', in which secular notions such as nationalism, patriotism and certain modern state institutions were sacralised. Sports too provided various secular means to mirror the receding religious rituals.

This has remained the case in Europe and South America. Fans interact with a sport such as football as they would with a religion. They revere football stars as they would saints. Corporate companies and consumer brands that, through their marketing campaigns, are always looking to strike an 'emotional connection' with consumers, encourage this. They invest

large sums of money to glorify the act of revering sporting stars. They piggyback on the inherent emotions of the rituals that sports fans enact.

The same is the case with cricket in Pakistan and India. But it wasn't always like this. Till the mid-1980s, field hockey was the most popular sport in both the countries. It was tightly tied to the then nationalist zeitgeist in both the countries.

Indeed, that strand of nationalism also was sacralised. The players were expected to perform like soldiers in a battle. The fans, too, saw them as that. But since hockey was a state-sponsored/nationalised sport, it hardly ever enjoyed any corporate investment. This meant that a glamorised fan culture was never moulded for hockey.

Cricket began to overtake hockey in Pakistan and India from the mid-1980s onwards. The former dictator Gen Ziaul Haq launched something called 'cricket diplomacy' to smoothen

ties with India. Then, the introduction of de-nationalisation and economic liberalisation in India and Pakistan saw large corporate interests invest more in cricket than in hockey.

It was a matter of timing. Cricket attracted more money when the performance of the hockey teams of both the countries experienced a dip in the mid- and late 1980s — even though they did bounce back a few years later. But, by then, it was too late.

Cricket had begun to attract a lot more money and corporate interest. It became the new sacralised sport, but one whose rise in this regard paralleled and then interacted with the social and political rise of Islam in Pakistan, and of Hindu nationalism in India.

So, in this case, sport as a civic religion eventually began to adopt more outright religious symbolism, almost becoming an extension of Islam and Hindu nationalism. Growing corporate interest in cricket made the outcome even more surreal. TV commercials involving cricket stars started to glamorise Hindu nationalist symbolism in India, and in Pakistan, no such commercial is complete without shots of fans praying to the Almighty, as if they were witnessing a Marseillesan cosmic conflict between good and evil.

Corporate money and deity-like status on the one hand, and religious and religious-nationalist exhibitionism on the other, have turned cricketers into playthings in the hands of corporate brands, politicians, religious outfits and social media trends. Cricketers have no clue what it is that they are really playing for. This is specifically true for the Pakistan's squad.

Maybe with the recent setback to Modi's Hindu nationalism in India, Indian cricketers may escape a similar fate. Yet, paradoxically, can one also posit that, with Pakistan cricket in the doldrums, and Hindu nationalism somewhat receding, Indian cricket may now struggle to look elsewhere for 'political motivation'? Perhaps.



► NON-FICTION

Based on her PhD dissertation, a book by a legal scholar surveys competition legislation across South Asia and provides insights into why its enforcement has been lax in countries like Pakistan while it has been more muscular elsewhere

Breaking the cartels



Competition Law in South Asia: Policy, Diffusion and Transfer
By Amber Durr
Cambridge University Press
ISBN: 978-1-009-24717-7
400pp.

Reviewed by Maria Farrukh Khan

Competition law is having a Renaissance moment worldwide, as legislatures struggle to keep pace with the rapid advancement of technology and the new world of massive conglomerates. It is now the norm for corporations' earnings to outstrip the GDPs of most countries and a consensus is appearing in the public to reign in anti-competitive practices and boost consumer protection.

With the bullish Lina Khan heading the Federal Trade Commission in the US, what was once an obscure and highly technical field of law is now constantly seen in the news.

The subject is no different here in Pakistan. When the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) was established several years ago, it was given sweeping powers that it promptly used. The layman saw several sweeping judgments against various cartels reported widely in the media.

However, the inaction behind those judgments and the lack of subsequent enforcement have left many in the public wondering about the role of the CCP in the region. Thus, there was a pressing need to conduct research and produce a narrative that removed some of the misconceptions surrounding the subject.

In her book *Competition Law in South Asia*, Dr Amber Durr does exactly that. The book is a prescient, concise and easy to understand look into the current status of competition laws in the region. Dr Durr is a meticulous researcher and does her infallible reputation justice by laying out the ins and outs of the current regime. *Competition Law in South Asia* is a pioneering text of its canon.

As a professor of competition law at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) for many years, I yearned for a local text of this depth and breadth that I could assign to my students. Even apart from its utility as a text for students, Pakistan (and the region as a whole) was missing a deep, well-thought-out look into local competition laws and the current enforcement scenario. The book is a useful guide for practitioners and students alike.

The book begins with some interesting

personal anecdotes from Dr Durr's days as a legal practitioner in Pakistan. She then sets the premise for the rest of the book, which has grown out of her PhD research. Dr Durr argues that, while competition legislation was adopted in India after debates for well over two years in a range of democratic institutions, the adoption in Pakistan was largely a World Bank-led effort. This has facilitated the implementation of competition laws in India whereas, in Pakistan, competition enforcement has all but petered out.

Dr Durr argues that "for either country to achieve meaningful competition outcomes and to realize the economic benefits of a competitive society, it would have to strike an appropriate balance between the international and domestic legitimacy of its competition legislation."

On further reading, we find out that, while Pakistan may have made efforts with regards to its international benefactors, the legislation clearly does not enjoy the domestic legitimacy that it should have.

Interestingly, efforts to adopt competition protection measures in various forms have proceeded almost concurrently in most countries of the region. Although some regimes may be more robust than others, as it stands, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Oman and even Afghanistan have all adopted some form of antitrust legislation.

The book starts off with an in-depth look into the laws governing India and Pakistan, their history, drafting and subsequent implementation. It then provides a brief look at the same process for the remaining South Asian countries.

While Dr Durr does an excellent job in providing context and guidelines for the current competition scenario in South Asia, a more in-depth look is needed for countries other than India and Pakistan for the book to truly encompass the entire region.

I was personally interested to learn more about Bangladesh's enforcement scenario at the moment, given its rapid advancement and large industrial conglomerates. This may be because the 'South Asian six' — as Dr Durr calls them — have not fully operationalised their competition regimes until the point of writing.

However, underlying enforcement through various intellectual property, consumer protection and/or contractual laws would have been interesting to read about and useful as a multinational legal practitioner.

Towards the end, Dr Durr also takes a brief look at competition in the digital age, which in the hot topic worldwide these days, and one would be interested to read a more in-depth offering for that subject. Briefly summarising the e-commerce laws in the

The book is a prescient, concise and easy to understand look into the current status of competition laws in the region. Dr Durr is a meticulous researcher and does her infallible reputation justice by laying out the ins and outs of the current regime. *Competition Law in South Asia* is a pioneering text of its canon.



Amber Durr

region, she then outlines the significant competition challenges raised by digital e-commerce platforms.

Competition authorities worldwide are struggling with defining markets in this particular field and more cutting-edge research, both from an economics and a legal perspective, needs to be undertaken to find the best pro-consumer solutions.

At the end, the book briefly provides solutions for bridging the implementation gap, by outlining the economic profiles and challenges of South Asian countries. It analyses whether such multilateral packages of economic and institutional reform address development. The argument is that, for developing countries to fully enforce rather than merely "adopt" competition legislation, a convincing argument must be made that such implementation would spur domestic productivity.

Dr Durr notes that "In the South Asian context, it may also be important to make governments appreciate that rigorous competition enforcement would break up old, politically supported market power, attract fresh capital investment and entrepreneurship and encourage both investors and entrepreneurs to adopt innovative and process strategies."

And therein lies the rub. For the media-infested

economies in countries such as Pakistan, are we ready to break the mould and step forward into the new decade with a revitalised economy? Or are we so beholden to the political chokehold on our industries that policymakers and courts alike would merely sit back and watch the industries wither to dust?

Considering the size of the various South Asian economies and the prevalence of deep-rooted corporations and industries, the lack of such scholarship into antitrust laws was surprising at best and painful at worst.

Dr Amber Durr has always been a beacon of light in the often murky waters of disinformation regarding the competition scenario in Pakistan. Through her PhD dissertation, and now this book, she sheds some light on the subject, making it clear to understand, not just for practitioners but also for laymen who have an interest in the topic. ■

The reviewer is a barrister, who read law at Cambridge University. She has advised multinationals and major conglomerates on competition laws across South Asia and the Middle East and taught competition and antitrust law at LUMS. She can be reached at maria.fkhan@lumslaw.com

► FICTION

A young adult novella set in a fictional college tackles contemporary hot-button issues such as social media bullying, sexual harassment, mental health and political one-upmanship

Coming of age



Timeless College Tales
By Nadiyah Chishty-Majid
Liberty Publishing
ISBN: 978-627-7626-167
127pp.

Reviewed by Kamila Rahim Habib

Sex, drugs and copious amounts of young adult angst encapsulate the main theme of this novella.

When we think back to the classic Bildungsroman literature we enjoyed growing up, books such as *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, *Catcher in the Rye* and *Little Women* come to mind. These works captured the attention and imaginations of entire generations, as their collective despair and triumph were reflected in these transformational stories. *Timeless College Tales* by Nadiyah Chishty-Majid attempts just that — to speak to the young generation of Pakistan, perhaps as a show of camaraderie.

The book is a coming-of-age story with a dual flair, and pays homage to themes of dark academia. It attempts to depict and unpack the raw, unfiltered, interpersonal dynamics one can only experience in their youth, before the cynicism of adulthood sets in.

Trending issues such as how to handle social media, the reality of sexual harassment, the ills of feudalism, the importance of mental health, and the dangers of political one-upmanship, are all part of the narrative. The author has used her own extensive experience as an

educator to create a story about a fictional college in Karachi, and shed light on the elitist, upper-middle class college experience.

The main character that weaves through the narrative is Dr Madecha, an English professor at the SSB College, who plays the role of mentor to the students. She is a passionate, empathetic character ("sweet but bossy"), who gets intricately involved in her students' personal lives and melodrama.

She comes across mostly as a well-wisher and a positive influence, trying — mostly unsuccessfully — to curtail the students' raging emotions and regulate their level of entitlement. However, the reader — and perhaps a parent — would question why she feels the need to get so deeply immersed in their personal matters?

At one point, a student remarks, "You're overstepping your limits here." It makes one wonder where the role of a parent ends and that of a teacher begins. How much access and control should an educator have over a child without the parent's knowledge? It is definitely food for thought.

When we think of iconic movies such as *Dead Poets Society*, *Good Will Hunting*, and *Mr Holland's Opus*, we get an insight into how essential the role of a mentor can be in the absence of parental guidance. This role is further amplified in the current socio-cultural environment, which is having devastating effects on the well-being of teenagers.

Issues such as addictions, depression, the need to fit in and social media bullying, can all be difficult to navigate on your own. Having an ally such as "Maddisonee Madecha" serves the protagonists well in the story.

Nadiyah Chishty-Majid has managed to capture the texture of the young and reckless right down to the lingo and diction. The Pakistani literary landscape is in desperate need of more books

addressing these coming of age stories, so I applaud her for delving whole heartedly into this subject.

The Young Adult genre, for some reason, has never really taken off in Pakistan, probably because the number of young readers is depressingly low, and dwindling further with the passage of time. However, it is still the responsibility of writers to continue telling authentic stories about the tribulations of being a young adult navigating life, grappling with issues of identity and self-esteem.

However, the main issue with the novella is that no character is developed enough for the reader to invest emotionally in their story arcs. Dr Madecha also falls prey to being a tad unidimensional, even though I did see glimpses of a layered and complex character.

I would have enjoyed discovering what past experiences in her life led Madecha to be so overly involved with her students on such a personal level. Also, besides her, there is not one single female character that has any gravitas; the majority of women in the book are presented as love interests of the male characters. A few strong female protagonists would have lent more depth to the book.

Having said that, Nadiyah is a competent and compelling storyteller, who writes with ease and skill. *Timeless College Tales* is a quick, easy read, and she manages to capture and disassemble the high drama and vacillating emotions that are characteristic of the young. She draws from a lexicon that gives the writing an air of authenticity and leads to an immersive reading experience.

If you're looking for a light, slice-of-life book, then this one is for you. ■

The reviewer is co-founder of My Bookshelf, an online library which delivers books to you and picks them up when you're done reading. X @mybookshelf94

► NON-FICTION

A new book comprehensively traces the phenomena of Bazball, which has helped make Test cricket exciting again

Reinventing Test cricket



Bazball: The Inside Story of a Test Cricket Revolution
By Lawrence Booth and Nick Hoult
Bloomsbury
ISBN: 978-1526672087
252pp.

Reviewed by Omair Alavi

Every few years, a phenomenon emerges that impacts cricket and those associated with it. In the days of Sir Don Bradman, there was the infamous bodyline tactic, where pacers targeted batters' bodies rather than the wickets; in the 1970s, World Series Cricket revolutionised the sport with play under lights and in colourful uniforms; and in the 1990s, Sri Lanka launched the innovative pitch-baiting movement up the order.

After three decades, 'Bazball' — named after former New Zealand cricketer Brendon (Baz) McCullum — has made spectators fall in love again with Test Cricket, which was said to be moving towards a 'slow' death.

Cricketer writers Lawrence Booth and Nick Hoult simplify the latest phenomenon through their new book, *Bazball: The Inside Story of a Test Cricket Revolution*. In their opinion, Bazball helped Test cricket reclaim its title as the premier format of the game.

The book explains the method behind the madness known as Bazball, and the various factors that helped transform England from a side that had previously won only one match out of their 17 Tests, into a world-beating team that is now feared by all.

While the rest of the world was still viewing Test Cricket as the slowest

New Zealand, from where England's New Zealand-born Captain Ben Stokes, and of course his coach McCullum hail. It discusses why Brendon McCullum was the ideal person to come up with Bazball and why no one before him thought about reinventing Test cricket.

After all, he had the perfect credentials, considering he holds the record for the fastest Test century (off 34 balls, scored in his farewell Test), and is the only Kiwi batter to score a triple century in Tests.

Add to that his humble beginnings in South Dunedin, from where he migrated into the big leagues, mainly due to the support of his dad Stuart, who somehow knew his son was destined for greatness. The authors then connect McCullum's story with that of Ben Stokes, who — before Bazball — had won England the ODI World Cup for the first time, but wasn't satisfied with his career.

The authors go behind the scenes of what could have been a Ben Stokes meltdown due to his father's death, his continuous court appearances, and the controversies surrounding his off-field antics. In short, had it not been for McCullum, Ben Stokes would have quit the game and Bazball wouldn't have happened. Thankfully, they met before things could turn for the worse, and the rest is history.

— it had more to do with IPL, than English cricket. Similarly, the book details the persistent selection of Zak Crawley and Jonny Bairstow, the non-selection of the better gloveman Ben Foakes, the rotation policy that caught Australia by surprise and, of course, Alex Carey's controversial sniping of Bairstow.

Every player who spoke to the authors had good things to say about McCullum's aggressive attitude and Ben Stokes' tactics, which steered England from the low points of the previous Ashes series and defeat in the Caribbean to wins against sides that might have done well against the old English team. The regime change didn't do the opposition any favours but changed how English cricket was viewed globally.

Booth and Hoult also explain that Bazball isn't limited to batters, the concept is applied also to bowlers, who are encouraged to take wickets without worrying about the runs. Yes, many of the game's pundits, who also spoke to the authors for this book, believed that going rudderless would hurt English cricket, but even they had to praise the phenomenon once the results came in England's favour.

Some still believe that not going for a specialist wicket-keeper is a chink in Bazball's armoury, but Jonny Bairstow's resurgence has temporarily put that debate to rest.

The authors end the book with the Ashes series which ended last July, and leave a lot for debate, such as the impact of Bazball on county cricket, on other teams (they mention Pakistan!), and whether it will be sustainable in the coming years. However, the statistics that succeed the 13 chapters show that Bazball is here to stay, since it has helped Test Cricket more than any other phenomenon in the last 100 years.

If you want to know how Bazball transformed England's fortunes, why it is being adopted by other countries, and how it is being viewed outside England, this book is your best bet. Through a mixture of interviews with the Bazball and the anti-Bazball crowd, the authors have developed a cricket book that will be remembered for a long time, maybe for as long as the subject of their research. ■

The reviewer is a broadcast journalist who also writes on sports, film, television and popular culture. X: @omair75



The maiden over is one of cricket's uniquenesses, and Australia's bowlers pride themselves on their thrift. Day one of Ashes last year turned everything on its head (AFP)

format, for England's head coach 'Baz' McCullum and captain Ben Stokes, it provided the opportunity to break the shackles and show the world that the two-innings-per-side format can be entertaining as well.

But before you move ahead, understand the psychology behind Bazball, which made it the most talked-about cricket phenomenon in recent years. It took the "batters laying a foundation" or "bowlers bowling mindless" theory by the horns and revolutionised the format by telling the batters to play their natural game, instructing the bowlers to take wickets and the fielders to save runs, pushing back the win-less-draw issue that often dominated the minds of the players.

It was with that mentality that the Stokes-McCullum alliance went on to win 11 out of 15 Tests, before taking on rivals Australia in a dramatic Ashes contest that ended 2-2.

The Booth-Hoult duo also impresses, as their subjects did on the field, in their attempt to discover Bazball's origin and journey. They take the readers back in time to the inception of what they believe was the original Bazball way, and trace its journey into the English dressing room, where it currently resides.

They talk to most of the cricketers who were either part of the no-holds-barred approach that champions freedom of expression or ask those who want to join the win-at-all-costs bandwagon, where losing isn't considered an offence but treated as a learning curve.

The book also explains to the readers that the phenomenon has its roots in

Usually, cricket books that aren't autobiographies, biographies or memoirs are boring to read, since they cover topics that don't excite the readers. However, in the case of *Bazball*, which is an exciting phenomenon, the authors had a lot to play with.

They give equal coverage to the Test match win against India (who had earlier quit the tour in 2021 due to Covid), the series wins against New Zealand both at home and abroad, as well as the comfortable victories against South Africa and Pakistan, which were all possible because of the never-say-never attitude of the English coach and captain.

However, the Ashes series of 2023 is covered extensively in this book, which is understandable, since it was during these five matches that Bazball finally found its voice.

It was not a normal Ashes series featuring England and Australia, but an unusual one where, despite England always being on top, Australia ended up with two wins in five matches. One of the three matches ended in a rain-induced draw, while England managed to win the last two, proving that Bazball was no match for the world champions.

From the very first Josh Hazlewood delivery, which Englishman Zak Crawley dispatched for four, to retiring Stuart Broad's final wicket in the fifth Test, the authors cover the series comprehensively for the benefit of their readers.

It might be common knowledge how Moeen Ali was asked to "unretire" for the series, but not many know what prompted Ben Stokes to call Mo back

The fall of a writers' guild

By Christine Larson

The Romance Writers of America, once the world's largest and most powerful authors' association, filed for bankruptcy on May 30, 2024.

In its filing, the nonprofit blamed "disputes concerning diversity, equity and inclusion" for its membership declining by a jaw-dropping 80 per cent. With just 2,000 members left, the organisation finds itself unable to pay US\$3 million in legal commitments for future conferences.

I've spent a decade studying romance publishing, and I believe the rise and fall of the Romance Writers of America shows how quickly organisations can collapse if they don't serve the needs of all their members.

This debacle could serve as a warning to universities, companies and other groups now abolishing and scaling back inclusion efforts.

In my new book, *Love in the Time of Self-Publishing: How Romance Writers Changed the Rules of Writing and Success* I show how a decades-long failure to address institutional racism undermined this once-powerful group.

The Romance Writers of America was founded in 1980 by Vivian Stephens, who was then one of the industry's only Black editors.

At the time, romance writers desperately needed an organisation. The exploding new genre made millions for publishers but romance authors themselves were mocked, maligned and mistreated.

The Romance Writers of America changed all that. It provided a professional home, where isolated, struggling writers banded together, mentoring each other and learned about the industry.

Over four decades, it scored major wins. Contracts improved. Publishers who didn't pay were audited and blacklisted. Copyright battles were waged over plagiarism. The organisation also fought to define and limit the fair use of copyrighted material. Along with other authors' groups, it even stood up to Google — which had been scanning and making books available without authors' permission — and Amazon, for its overly liberal audiobook return policies.

At its peak in the mid-2010s, the group had some 10,000 members worldwide.

But not all authors benefitted equally.

Back then, few editors published the work of writers of colour. It's still an issue today. A 2020 report found that just 8.1 percent of romance novels from major publishers are written by authors of colour.

In the early 1980s, when authors desperately needed the Romance Writers of America, many writers of colour kept their complaints to themselves. But the rise of self-publishing made industry contacts less crucial. Meanwhile, social media offered a powerful megaphone. In 2018, authors of colour and their supporters created the hashtag #WhiteoWhite to protest decades of racial exclusion.

No Black author had ever won the Romance Writers of America's coveted — and now no longer offered — Rita award, which was given to the best romance novels of the year in a variety of categories. The aggrieved authors participated in detailed, extensive social media discussions about the nature of institutional racism in the publishing industry.

In response to these criticisms, many members stepped up to repair the organisation. They launched diversity seminars with major publishers, created internships and scholarships for marginalised authors, and instituted diversity training for Rita judges. In 2019, Kennedy Ryan and M. Malise became the first Black authors to win a Rita. But later that year, a spectacularly mishandled episode prompted mass resignations.

A member filed an ethics complaint against fellow member and diversity advocate Courtney Milan, after Milan called out racist tropes in another member's book. In response, the Romance Writers of America's board suspended Milan.

The decision shocked many members, who interpreted the penalty as retaliation for Milan's diversity activism. Thousands walked. To replace the group's advocacy role, many romance writers turned to the Authors Guild, whose membership grew 45 per cent in the five years during and after the meltdown.

In filing for bankruptcy, the Romance Writers of America hopes that the financial relief will provide an opportunity to regroup. The organisation continues to run programmes for some 30 chapters around the country, is launching a new awards program, and is advocating for artificial intelligence policies that protect authors.

This story shows that even powerful, respected groups can unravel practically overnight, when diversity, equity and inclusion efforts fall short. Some lessons can be gleaned from this saga.

For one, the eye of social media, once opened, is unforgiving. In countless other disputes over four decades, the Romance Writers of America resolved controversies behind closed doors — in meetings, in letters to its in-house magazine and newsletter, and on members-only discussion boards. This protected the organisation's powerful industry reputation. But it also let growing dissatisfaction fester.

Social media pulled back the curtain. And once problems were brought to light, the Twitterphere demanded immediate results. The group had to fix things quickly, with zero room for error. There were serious missteps aside from the debacle surrounding the ethics complaint.

In 2020, the organisation's in-house magazine featured a tone-deaf cover showing a white writer reaching down to help a Black writer up a mountain. Critics pointed out that the image perpetuated the trope of the white saviour. The following year, the group awarded a prize — quickly rescinded — to a book with a protagonist complicit in the genocide of Native Americans.

In each case, social media responded with accelerating, if understandable, fury. Enduring the constant scrutiny of social media, many members working to repair the organisation simply gave up.

An independent audit of the ethics fiasco concluded that the Romance Writers of America relied on a patched-together ethics code and didn't adequately train its board members. It noted that decisive ethics policies and adequate leadership training could prevent future disasters.

The same can be said of many diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) programmes. A 2021 study by the Wharton School found that clear policies and involved, well-trained managers were critical to successful DEI initiatives. Unfortunately, the current anti-DEI movement goes in the opposite direction.

New laws in Texas, Florida and Utah make it illegal for universities to fund DEI efforts. Some 76 percent of companies have no diversity or inclusion goals at all, according to a 2021 report by the Society of Human Resource Managers. Nearly 70 percent of companies require no training on inclusion, and most companies are "merely going through the motions" of DEI, it added.

The Romance Writers of America's bankruptcy shows that laissez-faire attitudes toward diversity and inclusion have long-term consequences. Underrepresented members and their allies will vote with their feet when diversity efforts fail. It might not happen as abruptly or dramatically as what the Romance Writers of America experienced; it's certainly easier to quit a professional organisation than a job.

But the rise and fall of the group shows that if organisations struggling with full inclusion don't rewrite their story, their members will do it for them. ■

The writer is assistant professor of Journalism at the University of Colorado Boulder.

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► CLIFTONIA



A new organisation to oversee everything in the Republic has been formed to tackle governance challenges. But can it fulfil Cliftonians' wild expectations?

CREME DE LA SOUR CREME

By Farid Alvie

Sunday, June 16, 2024, Aitchisonia-upon-Chinab

As an immediate result of the directives issued by the Ministry of Chancery on itself last Tuesday, a joint action committee was successfully established last Wednesday. Acting jointly, this special committee subsequently presented the government with a dynamic new plan last Thursday, to help tackle the multifarious challenges confronting it since last Friday.

Speaking to the media at a press conference held at the Hitz Aitchisonia last Saturday (also known as yesterday), Brig (focibly read) Babar 'Bobby' Niaz said that the formation of this committee is a breakthrough in evaluation, management and strategic remedial allocation techniques.

"We had unshowered [formed] this committee keeping in mind the many issues faced by our republic today. What this joint action committee has done is beyond our wildest expectations. And, as you know, we have always been known for our wild expectations. It has proposed the formation of an organisation, staffed by some of the most accomplished and successful individuals in all of Cliftonia, to run the country," said Brig Niaz.

"This organisation will oversee everything that is taking place in the country. It will be chaired by me but, like all good leaders, I will not be doing any of the work. Nor will I be held accountable for anything. The buck stops below me. This will ensure consistency at the top and will provide a sense of security to foreign investors," explained Brig Niaz.

"The committee has decided to induct the creme de la sour creme of Cliftonian intellect and talent to advise and guide the various ministries on their tasks and directions. From crop yields to financial yields, experts comprising this Deluxe Politburo will respond to a wide variety of issues and prescribe immediate remedies to maladies afflicting Cliftonia," he said.

The committee chairman also shared the names of some of the prominent members of the Deluxe Politburo with the media.

"As indicated in the previous sentence, as committee chairman, I am going to share the names of some of the prominent members of the Deluxe Politburo with the media. They include:

"Mr Jimmy Jirga, Senior Vice President for Retail Banking, First Bank of Cliftonia, has been appointed Expert Overseer on all matters pertaining to the Cliftonia cricket team. This will include a three-year stint as the bowling and batting coach of the team. His extensive experience — as a winder of cricket on television — has equipped him with the wherewithal necessary to guide and direct the team to success.



Illustration by Usha Khuram

In weekend inter-departmental matches, he has an outstanding bowling record against Arjind from the Treasury Department. As we all know, no one knows more about cricket than bankers," said Brig Niaz.

Speaking on the occasion, Jimmy Jirga said: "It is an honour for the Cliftonian team to be mentored and coached by me. I love to swing in and out and, therefore, will ensure our bowlers become the best swingers in the business. I will also introduce them to the side-swing delivery, which I invented last weekend, while playing 'Cricket 99' on the PlayStation, with my six-year-old son, Yehuda."

"I have also appointed Ms Cliftonia Ali, Features Editor and Anchorperson at Zamzama News, as Expert Overseer in-charge of the State Bank of Cliftonia. Ms Ali brings with her years of experience as Alan Greenspan's neighbor. She brings a journalist's fresh eye to the ills afflicting our economy, along with her stately go-go-go Jimmy Choo," said the committee chairman.

Addressing the media, Ms Ali said: "I want every poor person to wear a Jimmy Choo. That's what I want for Cliftonia. If not now, then when? If not us, then who? Economy is all about style. It's about time we move away from our awful Aitchisonia sandals and

switch to Jimmy Choo stilettos."

"Among our finest recruits, I have appointed National Icon & Hope Nazir Jr, Captain of the celebrated Pithos Games World Cup winning team of 1992, as Expert Overseer of Parliamentary Affairs. Mr Jr has spent over two decades as a professional pithos games player, having led club sides to numerous provincial titles, both in Cliftonia as well as in the beautiful lake districts of Somerset Maugham. He has also modelled for Vogue, which is more than I can say for our current prime minister," stated Brig Niaz.

"Let's be honest, parliamentary affairs is no rocket science. You don't have to have special training for it, like you do for commanding a battalion or running a business or playing pithos games. Any ralloo kanoo can do it. That's why I think I will be the best person for overseeing these affairs, because there is no one in this country who knows more about affairs than I do.

"And, if anyone claims he or she does, they are nothing but lying ralloo kanoos!" yelled National Icon & Hope Nazir Jr, as he stormed out of the room, a

Farid Alvie was born. He currently lives in his on K @faridalvie

► GARDENING



The red lipstick variety of the Aglaonema plant needs deft handling when separating the baby plant from the parent plant

NURTURING THE BABY RED

By Dr Khwaja Ali Shahid

Plants with dual-shaded or multi-colored leaves tend to attract people who want to decorate their homes with beautiful ornamental plants. The Aglaonema plant variety offers a myriad of such plants that have a unique combination of colour splashes and patches on their leaves.

Last week, I introduced our readers to one such plant. The green leaves with the red-colored borders of the Aglaonema red lipstick plant are a visual treat for any onlooker. This week, I will tell you how to tend to the Aglaonema red lipstick and what key elements are fundamental for the propagation of this plant.

When the Aglaonema red lipstick plants are thriving, white-colored flowers begin to grow, usually from the centre of the plant. These flowers, although beautiful to look at, should be removed, as they sap energy from the plant. The flowers can impact the growth of the parent plant and the speed at which baby shoots creep up.

Although the growth of the plant is relatively slow, like every other plant, it needs to be shifted once it outgrows its container. Whether it is the chattering of stems over the surface — which may kill its aesthetic appearance — or the congestion of roots within the soil, separating and transplanting the plant becomes necessary.

In order to shift the plant, it is necessary to identify and differentiate the parent plant from the newly growing baby shoots and baby plants. The baby Aglaonema red lipstick plants usually grow around its parent counterpart. The parent plant is obviously bigger in size, occupying more space and with more large-sized leaves, contrary to the baby shoots.

Other distinctive features are related to the stems. The stems of the parent plant is usually thick and white to light brown, with dark-colored leaves arranged in whorls on the stem — likely from the leaves that may have been plucked or died earlier. The stem of the baby red lipstick is usually softer, thinner and smooth, while being light green to soft pink in colour.

It is better to prepare beforehand a recipient container for the plant to be shifted. We also need to replace the



Parent and baby red lipstick plants after flower removal, shifting and segregation in new pots | Photos by the writer



Three baby shoots, growing around the mother plant, tied to a splint for support

space created on the parent plant's pot with additional soil or potting mix. Ideally, the potting mix should include nursery soil, mixed with any of the organic composts, and small quantities of perlite and coco-peat.

The method is to simply hold the pot upside down, in a manner that the palm of our hand is covering the entire soil surface, with maximum support centred around the plant base, so that it may not fall off. With the other hand, gently tap the outside

part of the pot, so that the soil along with the plant leaves the inside wall of the pot.

We can also use our thumb or finger to apply pressure through the drainage hole at the base of the pot, which would be closer to us when the plant pot is upside down. When we do that, the whole plant along with the soil will slide out and drop on our palm.

As the plant along with soil is sliding out, it is important to ensure the ingredients of the pot stay in their original shape. This ensures there is limited injury, if any, to the roots. If it is not tactfully managed, plant drooping can cause severe plant root injury and probable plant shock, which might hamper its already slow growth. The baby red lipstick plants are then gently separated, while the parent plant is repotted with additional potting mix.

Before going in, we need to ensure that the roots of the baby plant and the parent plant are not entangled with each other. While it requires practice, we can use our fingers to feel the soil and the plant to ascertain whether the plants are already separated or if their roots are tangled.

Whenever I want to separate a baby red lipstick plant from the mother plant, my preferred method is to consciously decrease the watering quantity to the bare minimum for a week before the shifting. This helps the roots of the plant to leave the soil easily during the process.

If the soil is still attached to the plant and clinging to the roots, then the plant along with the soil can be placed in a big-sized bucket or tub, which is filled with water. The level of the water should be to a point that the root part of the plant remains submerged. After a few minutes, the stickiness between the plant's roots and the soil minimises.

One may use a sterile knife or a saw to cut the attached roots of the parent and baby plants. The use of a sterile blade helps reduce the chances of any future bacterial or fungal infections in the future. We should also take precautions to ensure that the roots of both the plants remain intact individually, giving each a separate identity. ■

Please send your queries and emails to alvie@alvie@hotmail.com. The writer is a physician and a host for the YouTube channel 'The Tree Gardening' promoting organic kitchen gardening.



ADVICE



AUNTIE AGNI

'I'm Pregnant But Also Want to Give the CSS Exam'

Dear Auntie,

I am a 29-year-old married woman with a baby and pregnant with another. I am also a government employee, while my husband is unemployed.

My mother-in-law takes care of our expenses. Once, she kicked us out of our apartment because she wanted to give it to her daughter's family. We shifted to another apartment, which was not well-furnished like the previous apartment. My father had to help my husband and I to get that house repaired.

My mother-in-law is a very arrogant woman. She has only two kids. But she doesn't give respect to her son like she does to her daughter. Both families — that of my husband and of my sister-in-law — are completely dependent on my mother-in-law. After marriage, the most important thing that got damaged was my self-respect.

My dream is to clear the Central Superior Services (CSS) exam and to be a government officer. I have already had one attempt. This would be my last attempt, as it has an age limit of 30. However, after marriage, it has been very difficult to pursue this dream.

I already have a grade-16 government job. Another important thing is that I want respect from society — for myself and my kids. My husband is a lazy person, who is not interested in his career like I am.

It's difficult for me to continue pursuing CSS because of the pregnancy while I also have to look after the children and household chores. This pregnancy also makes me lazy. But there is also my inner voice, which constantly tells me that I will definitely clear the CSS exam if I were to take it.

Auntie, please tell me what I should do. Should I appear in the exam or not? Overwhelmed.

Dear Overwhelmed, Balancing a demanding job, family responsibilities and preparing for a competitive exam such as CSS — while being pregnant — is no easy feat. It is also unfair that you are doing everything. First and foremost, your health and the health of your baby are paramount. Ensure you are getting adequate rest and medical care. Create a schedule that balances your study time, job and family responsibilities. Even small, consistent study sessions can add up.

Reach out to friends and family, who might be able to help with the children or household tasks. Discuss your situation with your husband and mother-in-law to see if support can be arranged.

It's also crucial that your husband finds a job and contributes to easing the financial and household responsibilities. This will not only support you but also provide long-term stability for your family.

Since you already have a government job, use this as a stable foundation. If you pass the CSS, it will be a bonus. If not, you still have a respectable position. Your passion and determination are clear. If CSS is your dream, don't give up on it entirely.

If you feel prepared and believe you can manage your time effectively, then go for the exam. However, if the preparation is causing too much strain, it might be wise to postpone and focus on it when you are in a better position. If possible, hire help for household chores. This can alleviate some of your burden and give you more time to focus on your studies and self-care.

Ultimately, the decision is yours. Consider your physical and emotional well-being, your support system and your readiness for the exam.

Wishing you success in whichever path you choose. ■

Disclaimer: If you or someone you know is in crisis and/or feeling suicidal, please go to your nearest emergency room and seek medical help immediately. Auntie will not reply privately to any query. Please send concise queries to: auntieagn@gmail.com

STATIC CLING



THE CAMPAIGN OF STRUGGLING AMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE JOE BIDEN WAS GIVEN A SHOT IN THE ARM WHEN THE MINNOWS USA TEAM DEFEATED PAKISTAN IN THE ONGOING T20 WORLD CUP: THE SHOCKING UPSET UNDERSCORED FOR BIDEN THAT ALL WAS NOT ENTIRELY LOST FOR THE US, EVEN IF HE COULD NOT RECALL WHAT SPORT IT INVOLVED.

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Applications covering the following mandatory details are required to be submitted:

- Company profile
- Company details of present and past contracts.
- Verifiable references
- National/Provincial Tax Number and Certificate

Tender documents along with scope of services for 3rd quarter will be issued through **SAP ARBA** only to those pre-qualified service providers who will fulfil the above mentioned requirements within the deadline along with payment of **Rs. 2000/- (Non-Refundable)**.

To facilitate prospective bidders, an informative workshop for pre-qualification will be held at Fort Qasim Plant, Karachi on **20-06-2024** at 10:00 AM for above.

Note: Company reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications without assigning any reason.

The applications for pre-qualification are required to reach Tri-Pack Films Limited by **25-06-2024** till 03:00 PM at the following address:

Commercial Manager
TRI-PACK FILMS LIMITED
Plot No. G1 to G4 North Western Industrial Zone, Port Qasim Authority, Karachi, Tel: (021) 34720247-8

SAY NO TO CORRUPTION

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY
(FINANCE WING-REVENUE SECTION)

CORRIGENDUM-I

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

FOR HIRING OF OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT (O&M) CONTRACTS FOR 31x PACKAGES OF POLICE FINE COLLECTION UNITS ON NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AND MOTORWAYS TILL 30.06.2025

Reference: IFB Notice for the subject procurement published in National Dailies dated May 21, 2024 and also uploaded on NHA & PPPRA Websites

1. With Reference to the above Referenced IFB Notice, it is to be informed that the Bid Submission Date for the subject procurement has been **EXTENDED** and both Technical & Financial Bids, under **Single Stage Two Envelopes** (Basis) shall now be received on **June 25, 2024 at 11:00 Hours**. Technical bids shall be opened on the same day at 11:30 Hours at NHA Auditorium (210).
2. All other terms and conditions of IFB shall remain unchanged.
3. This Corrigendum-I Notice is also available on PPPRA website at www.pppra.org.pk.

GENERAL MANAGER (REVENUE)
National Highway Authority
28-Maave Area, Sector G-10/1, Islamabad
Phone: 051-9202153, 051-9200190 & 051-9032843
Website: www.nha.gov.pk

ELECTRICITY THEFT
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GEPCO

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR GENERAL MARKET IMPLEMENTATION & REGULATORY AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT (MIRAD) GEPCO, GUJRANWALA

Gujranwala Electric Power Company (GEPCO), a leading public electric utility company, endeavoring to provide uninterrupted electric supply to more than 4.2 million valued consumers with more than 18000 employees. The company intends to hire a highly dynamic personality for the post of DG (MIRAD). This position will provide leadership and direction to company for implementation of respective actions for the development of competitive electricity market in Pakistan and its operations afterwards. The MIRAD functions include location power purchase contract agreement, legal and regulatory affairs, billing and settlement with market operator, demand forecasting and transmission planning. The department will be interface of GEPCO with competitive trading bilateral contract market (BLCM).

Duties & Responsibilities

- Oversee the implementation of GEPCO's actions with reference to BLCM implementation roadmap.
- Ensure compliance of the regulatory provision to the power market.
- Preparing, facilitate Finance/Tariff department in filing and follow up of tariff petitions and all related documentation in a timely manner to ensure commercial viability of GEPCO and to ensure that the market related aspects are captured in the revenue requirements.
- Facilitate the Finance Department in calculation and management of credit cover/guarantees.
- Participate in all regulatory hearings, workshops and meetings with Government, NEREA, CERA, other licensees and power sector entities with regards to the implementation and operations of the competitive electricity market for regulated areas of GEPCO on both platforms.
- Oversee the transmission planning and from selling a Bids within GEPCO.
- Lead the contract negotiations with generators and administration of bilateral contracts.

Qualification

Bachelor or equivalent degree in Engineering / Finance / Accounting / Law / Management Sciences from reputable HEC recognized universities. Master's degree will be an added advantage.

Experience

Minimum 12 years of total experience including 10 years of experience in power sector. The candidate should possess strong knowledge of technical, commercial and financial matters of the utility business / power sector along with regulatory affairs and legal/contractual issues. Knowledge of competitive electricity markets will be an added advantage.

Age Limit

Up to 60 years at the time of application.

Measure of Employment

The employment shall be on contract for an initial period of three (03) years, extendable on satisfactory performance.

Pay & Allowances

Market based competitive Lumpsum Pay package.

How To Apply

- The applications alongwith scanned copies of all academic and experience credentials will only be accepted if submitted through the GEPCO official link i.e. <https://gepcoco-jobs.com.pk> instead of any other online/offline source mentioned upto 12:00/2024.
- No application will be accepted by hand.
- The candidates already working in Govt. / Semi Govt. / Autonomous Public Organizations can also apply through proper channel through their respective departments/units in their letter head.
- Candidate shall be required to produce / show original documents including experience certificate at the time of interview / selection process.
- GEPCO reserves the right to conduct / cancel the whole recruitment process at any stage without assigning any reason.

HR & ADMN DIRECTOR GEPCO
SAS-A, MODEL TOWN, GUJRANWALA, (Ph: 051-920013) www.gepcoco.com.pk

Gujranwala Electric Power Company Limited (GEPCO)

SAY NO TO CORRUPTION

Ph: 022-9210207, Fax: 022-9210208

CANCELLATION OF TENDER

The advertisement published in various newspapers under information No. 1729/2024 the following tender appearing at S.No.17 for the financial year 2024-25, LRH, Hyderabad / Jamshoro is hereby cancelled. The new dates will be announced shortly.

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Tender Enquiry No.03/2024-25 | Supply of Life Saving Medical for LRH, Hyderabad (Part-I) |
| Tender Enquiry No.04/2024-25 | Supply of Life Saving Medical for LRH, Jamshoro (Part-I) |
| Tender Enquiry No.05/2024-25 | Supply of Dietary Articles (Part-I) |
| Tender Enquiry No.06/2024-25 | Supply of Janitorial Items & Janitorial Services (Part-I) |
| Tender Enquiry No. 07/2024-25 | Deployment of Security Guards (Part-I) |
| Tender Enquiry No.08/2024-25 | Supply of Other Items (Miscellaneous) (Part-I) |
| Tender Enquiry No.17/2024-25 | Provisionment of Hospital Services at Liaquat University Hospital, Hyderabad / Jamshoro (Part-I) |

Medical Superintendent
Liaquat University Hospital
Hyderabad / Jamshoro

SAF-NRY: 158824

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF HOUSING & WORKS
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES HOUSING AUTHORITY

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
(For Pre-qualification of Financial Consulting Firm/Transaction Advisor)

Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) is an autonomous body of Ministry of Housing and Works. FGEHA intends to pre-qualify through Online / Electronic tenders from the Financial Consulting Firms/Companies having expertise in the Transaction Advisory Services and / or Financial & Economic Analysis of Development Projects of Housing schemes, apart from the pre-qualified ones. Interested Bidders may download the pre-qualification documents (PQD) from e-PADIS (www.pppra.gov.pk) or FGEHA website (www.fgeha.gov.pk) upto 04.07.2024 during office hours. The pre-qualification documents prepared in accordance with the instructions provided in the PQD, must be submitted on e-PADIS (www.pppra.gov.pk) through electronic means on 04-07-2024 latest by 11:00 AM and will be opened on the same date at 11:30 AM in the presence of the bidder/authorized representatives, who may choose to attend.

Prerequisites for Pre-qualification / Short listing

- Valid Registration with the relevant professional body (ICAP, ICMA/PEC, Provincial Chartered Accountants (CPA), etc.)
- Registration with SECP, Registrar of Firms, Chamber of Commerce, or any other body deciding legal status of Firm, Company or organization.
- National tax registration number with active taxpayer status.
- Subjects with vast knowledge in Infrastructure, Building, Financial Management and Project Management items.
- Undertaking by the firm / company on a legal paper/stamp paper of value minimum Rs. 100, that it is currently not included by any Federal, Provincial, State or Local Government department and/or by any Government owned Company/ Foundation/ Authority.

Terms and conditions

1. Pre-qualification of the firms will be done in accordance with criteria defined in PQD.
2. List of the pre-qualified firms will be valid till June 2025.
3. The scope of the services is tentative for pre-qualification only. The actual scope of work will be provided at the time of awarding RFP as per actual scope of work.
4. Pre-qualification/shortlisting of any firm does not guarantee award of work and it depends upon availability of assignment and financial and / or technical proposal submitted by the consultant for specific work at later stage.
5. Tenderers through post/ fax/ telegraphically shall not be entertained.
6. The submission of documents by the Consultant implies that he is fully conversant with the scope of work & conditions laid down in the pre-qualification documents.
7. Conditional proposals will not be acceptable.
8. PQD will be issued to authorized representative of firms.

Director (Finance)
FGEHA, 10-Maave Area, Sector G-10/4 Islamabad. www.fgeha.gov.pk +92-01-9106062

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INVITATION TO BID
ICE: 2499/2024/01

1. Pakistan State and Power Development Authority (PSPDA) invites sealed bids from time to time per Single Stage - Two Envelopes (SST) bidding procedure for Contract (SSTP) No. 01 Procurement of 1 No. M 11 helicopter for Dera Helicopter Project. The total bidders must be registered with Income Tax and Sales Tax Department and must be an Active Taxpayer List of Federal and/or Revenue (FBR) for Income Tax as well as Active Taxpayer of Federal/Provincial sales tax departments to take tax at the time of submission of bid.
2. Bidders may obtain further information and acquire the Bidding Documents, containing detailed terms and conditions, method of procurement, procedure of submission of bids, performance guarantee etc. from the Office of the Employer, at the address given below.
3. Bidding Documents may be purchased by an interested bidder/authorized representative on submission of a written application to the following office upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 2000/- Bidding Document can also be downloaded from www.pspda.gov.pk free of cost.
4. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security along with Technical Proposal of Rs. 10 million or its equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency in the form of Deposit at Call or a Bank Guarantee issued by a Scheduled Bank in Pakistan on bid security form provided in bidding document or from a foreign bank duly counter guaranteed by a Scheduled Bank in Pakistan in favour of the General Manager Project Director Dera Helicopter Project (PSPDA) valid for a period 28 days beyond the bid validity date.
5. The bids must be delivered at PSPDA Auditorium, WAPDA House, Lahore at or before 11:00 hours on July 23, 2024. Bids will be opened at 11:30 hours on the same day at WAPDA Auditorium Lahore, in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
6. PSPDA reserves all the rights to reject any or all bids as per PPPRA rules.

General Manager / Project Director
Dera Helicopter Project, WAPDA
101 - WAPDA House, Lahore
Telephone No: 01-42 8900171 and 01-42 8900 - Email: derahp@pspda.com

This notice is also available at PPPRA Website: www.pppra.org.pk

PPRA, Islamabad Website: www.pppra.gov.pk Email: ppra@ppra.gov.pk

Director for Owner Bids & Tendering Dept.

GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PUKHTUNKHWA PESHAWAR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR PROJECTS, PDA Commercial Complex, Phase-V, Hayatabad, Peshawar

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Peshawar Development Authority Peshawar intends to engage the National and International consultants for Transaction Advisory Services (TAS) for the following projects:

| Package | Project Name | Date & time of submission | Date & time of opening |
|-----------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Package 1 | Transaction Advisory Services (TAS) for Feasibility Study/Planning and Design of Reg. Model Town (Sub measuring 500 Acres in Reg. Model Town for Residential, Public Facilities and Other Facilities etc. to be provided on AI mode) | 04/07/2024 On 11:30 am | 04/07/2024 On 12:30 pm |
| Package 2 | Transaction Advisory Services (TAS) for Feasibility Study/Planning and Design of High Rise Commercial Buildings/Apartments along with Recreative Sports/Plaza at Peshawar 05 Kanal and Old Center (500 Kanal) in Hayatabad and 50 Kanal land in Reg. Model Town to be provided on AI mode | 22/07/2024 On 11:30 am | 22/07/2024 On 12:30 pm |
| Package 3 | Transaction Advisory Services (TAS) for Feasibility Study and Design of Underpasses and Widening of Ring Road Peshawar to be executed on AI mode | 06/08/2024 On 11:30 am | 06/08/2024 On 12:30 pm |

1. The firms/Consortia or companies should have valid registration of PEC (or relevant category) and with Khyber Pukhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRA).
2. A firm/joint venture will be selected for the services under quality cost based selection (QCBS) method as per procedure/terms described in RFP/Annex.
3. Consultants are invited to submit as per schedule mentioned above, a comprehensive Technical proposal in English (Original - one copy) and a financial proposal (Original - one copy) for the services required under the terms of references (TOR). The original & copy of the proposals shall be put in one sealed envelope addressed to the Director General PDA.
4. RFP documents can be downloaded from the official web site of PDA (www.pda.gov.pk) / e-mail at contracts@pda.gov.pk or in the name of Director General PDA shall be submitted along with technical envelope/bidding which the proposal will be considered as non-responsive.
5. The services of the successful firm shall be subjected to all Government taxes admissible under the local/Provincial/ Federal laws.

DIRECTOR PROJECTS
PESHAWAR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
3rd Floor Block-B PDA Commercial Complex Phase-V Hayatabad,
Peshawar, email: info.pda@pda.gov.pk

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed Bids are invited through SAP Arba from eligible contractors with adequate past relevant experience and financial capabilities for the below captioned tenders:

| Sr.# | Tender Description | Tender No. | Bidding Procedure | Tenders Availability |
|------|--|------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 1 | Procurement of LPG 500 MT for the month of July-2024 (7-Fortnight) | GP-0204-JA | | These tenders will be available through SAP Arba Portal Only |
| 2 | Procurement of LPG 500 MT for the month of July-2024 (2-Fortnight) | GP-0407-JA | Single Stage - One Envelope | |
| 3 | Procurement of LPG 500 MT for the month of July-2024 (7-Fortnight) | GP-0408-JA | | |

TENDER BIDDING SYSTEM (TBS) - (Non-Refundable) in favour of Pakistan State Oil Company Limited (PSO) (Bids & Tenders)

| TENDER NO.1 | DATE | TIME |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------|
| TENDER DOCUMENTS COLLECTION (THROUGH SAFARIBA) | 21.06.2024 to 04.07.2024 | 09:00 AM to 04:00 PM |
| BID SUBMISSION (THROUGH SAFARIBA) | 05.07.2024 | 12:00:00PM |
| BID OPENING (THROUGH SAFARIBA) | 05.07.2024 | 03:00 PM onwards |
| TENDER NO.2 | DATE | TIME |
| TENDER DOCUMENTS COLLECTION (THROUGH SAFARIBA) | 21.06.2024 to 03.07.2024 | 09:00 AM to 04:00 PM |
| BID SUBMISSION (THROUGH SAFARIBA) | 04.07.2024 | 12:00:00PM |
| BID OPENING (THROUGH SAFARIBA) | 04.07.2024 | 03:00 PM onwards |
| TENDER NO.3 | DATE | TIME |
| TENDER DOCUMENTS COLLECTION (THROUGH SAFARIBA) | 21.06.2024 to 22.07.2024 | 09:00 AM to 04:00 PM |
| BID SUBMISSION (THROUGH SAFARIBA) | 23.07.2024 | 12:00:00PM |
| BID OPENING (THROUGH SAFARIBA) | 23.07.2024 | 03:00 PM onwards |

For Single Stage Two Envelope bidding procedure, commercial bid opening date and time will be communicated later in the technically qualified bidders only.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

Any party interested to participate in any of the tenders may send its request for tender documents through SAP Arba Portal in the following manner:

1. Scanned copy of the duly signed and stamped request on official letterhead of the bidder shall be uploaded on SAP Arba Portal in the subject request letter, please mention "Tender Documents Collection Request - Tender No. _____".
2. Request shall be accompanied by a scanned copy of the following:
 - a. Valid NTN, GST/PTI certificates, CNOC of interest / authorized representation. Tender should be in written in Urdu.
 - b. Tender fee of deposit of Rs. 2,000/- (two thousand rupees) in the following bank account:

Title of Account - PAKISTAN STATE OIL COMPANY LIMITED
IBAN: PK33 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
Account No. 078-80-025-0217 Bani B-rode 078 BBL Plaza Branch
LL Chaudhry Road,
Karachi.

The bidder is also available on PSO website www.pso.com.pk and TBSA website www.tbsa.gov.pk

Please note that interested vendors not having Arba Network ID are required to register themselves on SAP Arba Portal by clicking on the link below to ensure and participate in upcoming PSO tenders.

www.pso.com.pk

The bidders are urged to visit PSO & PPPRA websites regularly for any further changes that may be updated by the Company, from time to time.

PSO is a member of PPPRA LIMITED
PROVIDING PROGRESS, PROMOTING GROWTH, IMPROVING LIVES AND ENRICHING THE NATION
Website: www.pso.com.pk

RIVERINE & INLAND FOREST DEPARTMENT SINDH

FOREST AUCTION NOTICE

Open auction for the disposal of minor forest produce (fishery, kanasar, coconuts, pods, confiscated agricultural crop, intercropping), major forest produce (initial/emergency erosion strips/dead wood, fuel wood, fallen trees), operation/works and procuring consultancy or other services under the provisions of non-development and development budget for the year 2024-25 of various Forest Divisions of Riverine & Inland Forests Department Sindh shall be held on 1st and 15th of every month at 11:00 am commencing from 1st July, 2024 to 30th June, 2025 in the respective Forest Division Offices. In case, the public holiday falls on these dates, the auction will be conducted on the next working day.

Particulars of forest produce/contract works/ operations and Terms and Conditions can be seen and obtained from the office of concerned Divisional Forest Offices on any working day during office hours.

Divisional Forest Officer (Direction)
Riverine & Inland Forest Department
Sindh at Hyderabad

SAF-NRY: 200224

Capital Development Authority @HumCDA

ATTENTION / PUBLIC NOTICE

1. Any construction activity within the limits of notified Capital Territory (CT) has to be carried out in accordance with the provisions of CDA Ordinance 1960, ICT (Zoning Regulations-1967 (as amended) and ICT Building Control Regulations-2020 (amended 2023) etc. and with the proper approval from the Capital Development Authority (CDA).
2. It has been observed that a large number of buildings in various communities of Islamabad have been and are being constructed, not only without valid approval of building plans but also in violation of Authority's Rules/Regulations/Bylaws. In the recent past, the Authority has taken action against violators (including Public Notices and individual notices) have been issued/issued taking physical / concrete action by way of sealing of illegal / unapproved buildings/works/structures. However, it has been observed that these illegal / unapproved construction activities have not been stopped to date till and now.
3. A large majority of these illegal / unapproved constructions also pose serious risks to the structural stability of the buildings, human lives and hard-earned savings of the public invested in them. Therefore, in order to implement the Authority's will and jurisdiction, CDA has decided to initiate strict legal action against all these construction works / projects / activities that have been and are being constructed without approval of the Directorate General of Building & Housing Control, CDA. These actions may include but not be limited to sealing of premises, demolition of structures/buildings and regularization of FFRs etc.
4. Through this Public Notice, all such Owners/Builders/Developers who have ceased to be in the process of raising illegal / unapproved buildings are directed to stop the same **IMMEDIATELY** and submit their building plans along with requisite documents and applicable charges within a period of 15 days from the date of its publication. Non-compliance / no response in this regard shall lead to the initiation of aforementioned punitive actions against the violator(s).
5. All marketing companies are also informed not to advertise any illegal building/works/project without the approval of CDA otherwise their legal action will also be taken against such marketing companies.
6. The General Public is also advised through this notice to ascertain the approval status of a Building/Project situated in CT limits from the Directorate General of Building & Housing Control, CDA before making any investment in the same, so as to prevent any loss/damage/inconvenience in the future.
7. In order to obtain any information regarding the legal / approved status of any building/project or to lodge a complaint against illegal buildings/works/projects, the Directorate General of Building & Housing Control, CDA can be reached at 001-92523811.

PPRA/042024
Faisal Naqem
Director General Building Control & Housing Control
CDA

GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PUKHTUNKHWA PESHAWAR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR PROJECTS, PDA Commercial Complex, Phase-V, Hayatabad, Peshawar

Expression of Interest

Abolment of Plots to National / International Schools Systems on long term lease basis in Education Zone Regi Model Town (RMT) Peshawar.

1. Regi Model Town Peshawar is the largest residential township in the city, owned, planned and developed by Peshawar Development Authority. The Town spans over an area of 4618 Acres. It is divided into 5 zones having approximate 26 thousand residential units.
2. In the master plan of RMT, a chunk of land comprising approximately 400 Kanals has been dedicated for Education Zone for establishment of educational institutions. Peshawar Development Authority is desirous of allotting appropriate pieces of land to the organizations of national and international repute, experience and financial and professional capability to establish private educational and professional institutions (school/college/university levels) in the designated Education Zone. The land will be allotted on Lease, Build and Operate Model.
3. Through this advertisement, PDA invites the interested leading education systems to send their "Expression of Interest" for consideration of the PDA. For details, interested parties may download the EOI document from the PDA's website or Office of Director project, PDA Peshawar.
4. EOI documents will be available for download on 30/06/2024 from the official web site of PDA(<http://pda.gov.pk>) whereas a Cash/Bank draft of Rs. 5000/- in the name of Director General PDA shall be deposited along with proposals failing which the proposal will be considered as non-responsive.
5. Proposals shall reach the office of Director General PDA on or before 31/7/2024 at 11:30 am and will be opened on same date at 12:30 pm.

DIRECTOR PROJECTS PESHAWAR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
3rd Floor Block-B PDA Commercial Complex Phase-V Hayatabad, Peshawar. email: info.pda@kp.gov.pk

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations invites interested vendors for training and registration with FAO.

Training & Registration Venue:
Karachi: Marriott Hotel (July 11, 2024)
Hyderabad: Hotel Indus (July 09, 2024)

Last date of submission of application: 02 July 2024

Kindly Submit your company profile and participants details at FAOPK-Tenders-Goods@fao.org

INVITATION TO BID
ICB-280P-M44-21

1. Pakistan Water and Power Development Authority, WAPDA (the "Employer") has received funds from the Government of Pakistan in the form of a loan for the construction of Damir Basha Dam Project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of the funds will be applied to eligible payments for Procurement of Hydrologer for Damir Basha Dam Project. Bidding is open to all eligible bidders.
2. The Employer invites sealed bids from time to time as per Single Stage - Two Envelopes (SSTO) Bidding Procedure for Contract "SSTO-M44-21" Procurement of Hydrologer for Damir Basha Dam Project. The total bidders must be registered with Income Tax / Sales Tax Department and must be an Active Taxpayer List of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) for Income Tax (Active Taxpayer) of latest professional rates for departments for rates for at the time of submission of bid.
3. Bidders may obtain further information and acquire the Bidding Documents containing detailed terms and conditions, method of procurement, procedure for submission of bids, performance guarantee etc. from the Office of the Employer, at the address given below.
4. Bidding Documents may be purchased by an interested bidder / authorized representative on submission of a written application to the following office upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 2000/- Bidding Document can also be downloaded from www.wapda.gov.pk free of cost.
5. All bids must be accompanied by a 3rd Party security along with Technical Proposal of Rs. 50 million or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency in the form of Deposit at Call in a Bank Quotable issued by a Scheduled Bank in Pakistan or bid security form provided in bidding document or form a Single bank only source guaranteed by a Scheduled Bank in Pakistan in favor of the General Manager/Project Director Damir Basha Dam Project WAPDA and for a period 28 days beyond the bid validity date. The bid must be delivered at the office of General Manager, SSTO-M44-21/2024 House, Lahore at or before 11:00 hours on July 22, 2024. Bids will be opened at 11:30 hours on the same day at WAPDA Auditorium Lahore, in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
6. WAPDA reserves all the rights to reject any or all bids as per FPRR rules.

General Manager / Project Director
Damir Basha Dam Project, WAPDA
106, RAJPUJIA HOUSE, LAHORE

Telephone No: 011-42-802021 / Ext. 2188. Email: icb280p@wapda.gov.pk

This notice is also available at FPRR website: www.pprp.org.pk

FOR CLARIFICATION: info@wapda.gov.pk / PRC@WAPDA.GOV.PK

Website: www.wapda.gov.pk

Details for Damir Basha & Malir Dam



Sul Southern Gas Company Limited

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES CORRIGENDUM

This is with reference to the advertisement "General Manager - Counter Gas Theft Operations" published in Dawn, Business Recorder and Jang Newspapers on June 02, 2024.

The title of the position is amended as "General Manager (Security Services & Counter Gas Theft Operations)" and job summary is amended to include:

"The position shall lead and supervise the Security Services Department to ensure security and safety of company assets and resources including pipelines, compressor stations, company's office / buildings, company's personnel, etc."

The deadline of the position has been extended till June 30, 2024.

Other specifications / contents of the advertisement remain unchanged. Interested candidates are encouraged to visit our website <https://www.ssgc.com.pk/careers> for details / job description and apply at "gm_cgto@ssgc.com.pk"

hr@ssgc.com.pk www.ssgc.com.pk

Pakistan Machine Tool Factory

Pre-qualification Notice

PMTF, a leading manufacturer of quality precision engineering goods in Pakistan, invites registered and operational firms, importers, authorized distributors, and manufacturers in the following categories to participate in its procurement process:

- (a) OIL (Hydraulic, Cutting and etc.)
- (b) Aluminum (AS 12 U/I and etc.)
- (c) FIR Wood (Sleeper, plank and etc.)
- (d) Paint (Oil paint, Special type paint and etc.)
- (e) Casting of CNC/ Conventional Machines
- (f) Computer, Server Accessories & Services
- (g) Clearing & Forwarding Agents
- (h) Insurance (Marine/In Transit)
- (i) Canvas bags of various sizes

Prequalification Document can be downloaded from (www.ppra.org.pk) and (<http://pmtf.com/tenders>). Interested parties are requested to forward their proposals, prepared in accordance with the instructions provided in the prequalification documents, must reach at Procurement Dept., PMTF Road, Off National Highway, Karachi before 1st July 2024 11:30 a.m.

For any query, please contact: 0331-2377504 or rafay@pmtf.com or faizans@pmtf.com

PMTF reserves the right to reject any or all bids or cancel the tender process at any stage in line with PPRR rules.

Pakistan Machine Tool Factory
PMTF Road, Off National Highway, Karachi, Pakistan
Phone: +92 21 3502451-54

INVITATION TO BID
ICB-280P-M44-21

1. Pakistan Water and Power Development Authority, WAPDA (the "Employer") has received funds from the Government of Pakistan in the form of a loan for the construction of Wajirah Dam Hydro-power Project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of the funds will be applied to eligible payments for Procurement of Hydrologer for Wajirah Dam Hydro-power Project. Bidding is open to all eligible bidders.
2. The Employer invites sealed bids from time to time as per Single Stage - Two Envelopes (SSTO) Bidding Procedure for Contract "SSTO-M44-21" Procurement of Hydrologer for Wajirah Dam Hydro-power Project. The total bidders must be registered with Income Tax / Sales Tax Department and must be an Active Taxpayer List of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) for Income Tax (Active Taxpayer) of latest professional rates for departments for rates for at the time of submission of bid.
3. Bidders may obtain further information and acquire the Bidding Documents containing detailed terms and conditions, method of procurement, procedure for submission of bids, performance guarantee etc. from the Office of the Employer, at the address given below.
4. Bidding Documents may be purchased by an interested bidder / authorized representative on submission of a written application to the following office upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 2000/- Bidding Document can also be downloaded from www.wapda.gov.pk free of cost.
5. All bids must be accompanied by a 3rd Party security along with Technical Proposal of Rs. 50 million or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency in the form of Deposit at Call in a Bank Quotable issued by a Scheduled Bank in Pakistan or bid security form provided in bidding document or form a Single bank only source guaranteed by a Scheduled Bank in Pakistan in favor of the General Manager / Project Director Wajirah Dam Hydro-power Project WAPDA and for a period 28 days beyond the bid validity date. The bid must be delivered at the office of General Manager (P.D. M44-21/2024) House, Lahore at or before 11:00 hours on July 22, 2024. Bids will be opened at 11:30 hours on the same day at WAPDA Auditorium Lahore, in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
6. WAPDA reserves all the rights to reject any or all bids as per FPRR rules.

General Manager / Project Director
Wajirah Dam Hydro-power Project, WAPDA
106, RAJPUJIA HOUSE, LAHORE

Telephone No: 011-42-802021 / Ext. 2188. Email: icb280p@wapda.gov.pk

This notice is also available at FPRR website: www.pprp.org.pk

FOR CLARIFICATION: info@wapda.gov.pk / PRC@WAPDA.GOV.PK

Website: www.wapda.gov.pk

Details for Damir Basha & Malir Dam

TENDER NOTICE ADVERTISEMENT NO.27/2024

A. Offers are invited from manufacturers/suppliers for supply of the following:-

| Sl. No. | Tender Enquiry No. | Description | Qty. (Nos.) | Closing Date |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--|-------------|--------------|
| International Tenders | | | | |
| 1. | SH-464724 | Shot Blasting Machine Elevator Belt with Buckets, Horn Bolts Nut and Washer & Shot Galls | 04 | 23 Jul 24 |
| 2. | SH-464724 | Burner Block for Gas Burner | 06 | 23 Jul 24 |
| Local Tenders | | | | |
| 1. | LED-04524 | Renewal and Support for Aplus Converse System for Dispatch of Agendas for the Directors for 25 Users | 01 | 09 Jul 24 |
| 2. | LET-07824 | Gas Leakage Detectors | 10 | 09 Jul 24 |
| 3. | LET-07824 | 1. Passenger Van (High Road) | 05 | 03 Jul 24 |
| 4. | LET-07824 | 2. Passenger Van (Standard Road) | 05 | 03 Jul 24 |

Tender Documents for Tender Enquiry No. GMBD13/1M45/2024 can be purchased from the Business Development Department, Gas House, 3rd Floor, 21-Kashmir Road Lahore, for further information please contact Mr. Saad Akbar Satria, Chief Officer, Business Development, Email at saad@ppra.org.pk telephone No. 342-9920096, Mobile No. 9931-4688462. The tenders will close at 15:30 hours and will be opened in public at 16:00 hours, on the dates mentioned against each Tender at Gas House, 1st Floor, 21-Kashmir Road Lahore except Tender Enquiry No. GMBD13/1M45/2024 which will be closed at 16:00 hours and will be opened in public at 15:30 hours, on the date mentioned below at the Business Development Department, Gas House, 3rd Floor, 21-Kashmir Road Lahore. Tender documents can be purchased, up to a day before the opening date of each tender, from 11:30 to 15:30 hours on any working day. Local manufacturers/suppliers desirous of quoting for the above tenders are required to provide a copy of valid Sales Tax registration, Income Tax, Latest Professional Tax Certificates and Evidence of being on the Active Taxpayers List (ATL) along with their request for purchase of tender documents. For further information in International Tenders please contact Mr. Shauqat Raza Shahid, at telephone # 342-9920149 and Mr. Asim Mahmood for Local Tenders at telephone # 342-9920026. The tender fee is Rs. 2,500/- (non-refundable) each in the shape of a Pay Order/Demand Draft in favor of SNGPL. The amount of bid security is 2% (excluding GST) of estimated value as mentioned in the tender documents. The amount of the bid security is mentioned in the tender documents against Tender Enquiry No. GMBD13/1M45/2024. Tender Notice is also available at www.ppra.org.pk and www.sngpl.gov.pk.

EXTENSIONS

B. The closing dates of following tender enquiries have been extended:

| Tender Enquiry No. | Description | Extended Closing Date |
|--------------------|--|-----------------------|
| LED-04124 | Lubricant Renewal-Growth watch and Identity Services Engine (GSE) | 27 Jun 24 |
| GMBD13/1M45/2024 | Hiring the Consultancy Services to Develop Marketing and Sales Plan Note | 02 Jul 24 |

The Pre-Bid meeting for this tender shall be held on 21-06-2024 at 18:00 Hrs in Conference Room, 6th Floor, SNGPL Head Office, Gas House, 21-Kashmir Road, Lahore. All interested firms are hereby invited to attend the Pre-Bid meeting.

CORRIGENDUM / CANCELLATION

C. Tender Enquiry No. SH-464724 "Check Valve" the total Qty to be read as 11 Nos. instead of an existing one.
D. Tender Enquiry No. SH-464724 "Plug Valve" the total Qty to be read as 68 Nos. instead of an existing one.
E. Tender Enquiry No. SHD-247724 "TVG along with Accessories" the total Qty to be read as 725 Nos. instead of an existing one.
F. Tender Enquiry No. SHD-248824 "Domestic Gas Meters G-1.8 & G-4", the Pre-Bid meeting for this tender shall be held on 02-07-2024 at 14:30 Hrs at Conference Room, 6th Floor, SNGPL Head Office, Gas House, 21-Kashmir Road, Lahore. All interested firms are hereby invited to attend the Pre-Bid meeting. RDC@SNGPL

www.ppra.org.pk www.sngpl.gov.pk www.pprp.org.pk

(BEFORE SPECIAL JUDGE) ANTI-TERRORISM COURT, KASHMIRE AT KANDHKOT

SPECIAL CASE NO.157 OF 2023

The State
Versus
Murad Ali Mazari & Others

FIR NO-89 of 2023,
US: 353, 324, 399, 148, 149 PPC & 6/7 ATA
Police Station: Karampur

Whereas, the accused namely **Murad Ali S/o Nawaz Ali Mazari** having CNIC No. 43104-0151187-5 has committed (or is suspected) to have committed offense punishable under section 302, 337H2, 395, 148, 149 PPC & 6/7 ATA have shown as absconders in above cited case. And whereas, non-bailable warrants were issued by this court for the arrest of above named accused, which returned unexecuted, with report of police that the accused has absconded and is not traceable.

Therefore, proclamation u/s 87 Cr.PC read with section 19(10) of Anti-Terrorism Act 1997 is issued with directions to the above named accused person to appear before this court at Subordinate Court Building Kashmire at Kandhkot within seven days after publication of this notice, failing which the case will be proceeded in his absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Court. This 11th day of June, 2024.

(SPECIAL JUDGE) ANTI-TERRORISM COURT KASHMIRE AT KANDHKOT

03F-0377-1985/24

(BEFORE SPECIAL JUDGE) ANTI-TERRORISM COURT, KASHMIRE AT KANDHKOT

SPECIAL CASE NO. 22 OF 2024

The State
Versus
Muhammad Tarique Qalandrani Bugli & Others

CRIME NO: 09 of 2023,
UNDER SECTION: 402, 399, 324, 353, 148, 149 PPC & 6/7 ATA
POLICE STATION: Tangwari
DISTRICT: Kashmire @ Kandhkot

Whereas, the accused namely **Muhammad Tarique s/o Paimo Khan Qalandrani Bugli** R/o RD-109 C.N.I.C No.55103-8863019 has shown as absconder in above cited case. And whereas non-bailable warrants were issued by this court for the arrest of above named accused, which returned unexecuted, with report of police that the accused has absconded and is not traceable.

Therefore, proclamation u/s 87 Cr.PC read with section 19(10) of Anti-Terrorism Act 1997 is issued with direction to the above named accused person to appear before this court at Subordinate Court Building Kashmire at Kandhkot within seven days after publication of this notice, failing which the case will be proceeded in his absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Court. This 11th day of June, 2024.

(SPECIAL JUDGE) ANTI-TERRORISM COURT KASHMIRE AT KANDHKOT

03F-0377-1985/24

(BEFORE SPECIAL JUDGE) ANTI-TERRORISM COURT, KASHMIRE AT KANDHKOT

Special Case No.61/2024

The State
Versus
Khadim Hussain @ Khadu Bhayo & Others

Crime No: 67 of 2024
Under Section: 385, 386, 324, 337H6, 148, 149 PPC & 6/7 ATA
Police Station: A-Section, Kandhkot

Whereas, the accused namely 1. **Khadim Hussain @ Khadu S/o Pinyal @ Panjal Bhayo**, 2. **Maula Bux @ Jumo S/o Pinyal @ Panjal Bhayo**, 03. **Ladho @ Leo S/o Pinyal @ Panjal Bhayo**, 04. **Ameer Bux S/o Pinyal @ Panjal Bhayo**, 05. **Sadam @ Adhar S/o Shehzado Bhayo**, all absconding accused are r/o RD-219, Katcho, Taluka Kandhkot have shown as absconders in above cited case. And whereas, non-bailable warrants were issued by this court for the arrest of above named accused, which returned unexecuted, with report of police that the accused have absconded and are not traceable.

Therefore, proclamation u/s 87 Cr.PC read with section 19(10) of Anti-Terrorism Act 1997 is issued with directions to the above named persons to appear before this court at Subordinate Court Building Kashmire at Kandhkot within seven days after publication of this notice, failing which the case will be proceeded in their absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Court. This 11th day of June, 2024.

(SPECIAL JUDGE) ANTI-TERRORISM COURT KASHMIRE AT KANDHKOT

03F-0377-1985/24

(BEFORE SPECIAL JUDGE) ANTI-TERRORISM COURT, KASHMIRE AT KANDHKOT

Special Case No.69/2024

The State
Versus
Adab Hussain Sabool & Others

Crime No: 99 of 2024
Under Section: 353, 324, 337Fii, 34 PPC & 6/7 ATA
Police Station: A-Section, Kandhkot

Whereas, the accused namely 01 **Adab Hussain S/o Qurban Ali Sabool** R/o Katcho Taluka Kandhkot, 02. **Sarmad S/o Habibullah Bhayo** R/o Katcho Taluka Kandhkot have shown as absconders in above cited case. And whereas, non-bailable warrants were issued by this court for the arrest of above named accused, which returned unexecuted, with report of police that the accused have absconded and are not traceable.

Therefore, proclamation u/s 87 Cr.PC read with section 19(10) of Anti-Terrorism Act 1997 is issued with directions to the above named accused persons to appear before this court at Subordinate Court Building Kashmire at Kandhkot within seven days after publication of this notice, failing which the case will be proceeded in their absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Court. This 10th day of June, 2024.

(SPECIAL JUDGE) ANTI-TERRORISM COURT KASHMIRE AT KANDHKOT

03F-0377-1985/24

BEFORE SPECIAL JUDGE ANTI-TERRORISM COURT, KASHMIRE AT KANDHKOT

Special Case No.68/2024

The State Versus **Khadim Hussain @ Khadu Bhayo & Others**

Crime No: 42 of 2024
Under Section: 353, 324, 399, 400, 440, 148, 149 PPC & 6/7 ATA
Police Station: B-Section, Kandhkot

Whereas, the accused namely 01. **Khadim Hussain @ Khadu S/o Pinyal @ Pinyo Bhayo**, 02. **Imdad Ali @ Imdu S/o Ghulam Muhammad @ Ghulam Bhayo**, 03. **Ayaz Ahmed S/o Ali Hassan Bhayo**, 04. **Hamadullah S/o Allan Bhayo**, 05. **Sadam S/o Shahmir Bhayo**, 06. **Sarmad S/o Habibullah Bhayo**, 07. **Saifullah S/o Ghulam Muhammad @ Ghulam Bhayo**, 08. **Sadam Hussain @ Adhar S/o Shehzado Bhayo**, all are r/o Katcho Taluka Kandhkot, 09. **Majid @ Malho S/o Ghakar Bahalkani**, 10. **Dani Bux @ Dhama S/o Muhammad Ibrahim @ KV Bahalkani**, 11. **Munoor Ahmed S/o Sadore Bahalkani** all r/o Soan Wah Taluka Tangwari have shown as absconders in above cited case. And whereas, non-bailable warrants were issued by this court for the arrest of above named accused, which returned unexecuted, with report of police that the accused have absconded and are not traceable.

Therefore, Proclamation u/s 87 Cr.PC read with section 19(10) of Anti-Terrorism Act 1997 is issued with directions to the above named accused persons to appear before this court at Subordinate Court Building Kashmire at Kandhkot within seven days after publication of this notice, failing which the case will be proceeded in their absence.

Given under my hand and Seal of this Court this 10th day of June, 2024.

SPECIAL JUDGE ANTI-TERRORISM COURT KASHMIRE AT KANDHKOT

03F-0377-1985/24

DAWN
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RAISALABAD ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED (FESCO)
CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Director General (Market Implementation & Regulatory Affairs) Department FESCO
FESCO (Faisalabad Electric Supply Company) is a leading Public Utility Company dealing with the power sector and operates its business of distribution of electricity serving more than 5.27 million customers with annual revenue base of Rs. 482.431 billion in Eight (08) Districts of Punjab namely Faisalabad, Chiniot, Bahawalpur, Jhang, T.T. Singh, Khushab, Mianwali & Bhakkar.

The Company intends to hire a dynamic personality for the post of DG (MRAD). The position will provide leadership and direction to the company for implementation of respective actions for the development of competitive electricity market in Pakistan and its operations afterwards. The MRAD functions include bilateral power purchase contract agreement, legal and regulatory affairs, billing and settlement with market operator, demand forecasting and transmission planning. The Department will be interface of FESCO with competitive trading bilateral contract market (CTBCM).

1. QUALIFICATION:
Bachelors or equivalent Degree in Engineering / Finance / Accounting / Law / Management Sciences from reputable HEC recognized Universities in addition to Master's Degree in the relevant disciplines.

2. EXPERIENCE:
Minimum 25-years of total experience including 10-years experience in power sector. The candidate should possess strong knowledge on technical, commercial and financial matters of the utility business / power sectors particularly Market Implementation Regulatory Affairs and legal / contractual issues. Knowledge of competitive electricity markets will be added advantage.

3. AGE LIMIT:
Up to 55-years at the time of application.

4. NATURE OF EMPLOYMENT:
The employee shall be on contract for an initial period of three (03) years, with annual performance evaluation to be conducted by the Board of Directors FESCO, which shall neither be regularized nor be permanent.

5. PAY & ALLOWANCES:
Market based pay will be given with perks & privileges equivalent to BPS-20.

6. HOW TO APPLY:
Applications will be submitted online through FESCO website (www.fesco.com.pk). The prescribed application form (which can be downloaded from FESCO website) duly signed by the candidate along with following documents should be dispatched through courier at the below mentioned address within Fifteen (15) Days from the publication of advertisement:-

- Copy of detailed CV with updated career history.
- Copies of Degrees/ Testimonials duly verified by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) or the professional body or association whichever is relevant.
- Copy of CNIC and recent photograph.

7. OTHER CONDITIONS:

- Application incomplete in any respect or received after due date will not be entertained and no claim whatsoever thereof will be acceptable.
- The candidates already working in Govt. / Semi Govt. / Autonomous Public Organizations can also apply through proper channel along with WOC of their department issued on its letterhead.
- Candidates shall be required to produce all original documents at the time of interview.
- FESCO reserves the right to withhold / cancel the whole recruitment process at any stage without assigning any reason.
- Only short-listed candidates will be invited for interviews / selection process.
- No TA / DA will be admissible for interview / selection process.

FESCO-47/2024
703/4473
Director General (MR)
Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO), West Canal Road,
Abdullahpur, Faisalabad (041-9226243). For online submission: www.fesco.com.pk

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KARACHI SHIPYARD & ENGINEERING WORKS LIMITED
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Karachi Shipyards & Engineering Works Limited is offering Career opportunities for those, who are looking to work in a challenging engineering environment, having tremendous growth potential in the field of **Marine Design & Construction** against following positions on contract basis, as per KS&EW rules. This organization will provide vast learning opportunities and encouragement to hard working individuals, having engineering aptitude, growth potential and productive approach.

| S No | Posts (Numbers) | Minimum Qualifications / Experience / Age limit |
|------|--|---|
| 1. | Manager (02) a. Production Coordination | i) BE Electrical / Mechanical / Marine Engineering / Naval Architecture ii) 05-10 Years' experience in relevant field iii) Age limit: 30-45 Years |
| 2. | Deputy Manager (02) a. Machining (01) b. Machinery movement/Transfer System (01) | i) BE in Mechanical/Marine (Eng/Naval Architecture) ii) 05-08 Years' experience in relevant field iii) Age limit: 30-45 Years |
| 3. | Deputy Manager (02) a. QC Mechanical (01) b. QC Piping (01) | i) BE in Mechanical / Metallurgy / Materials (Candidate having certification in QMS/ ISO 9001:2015 & NDT/UT level II will be preferred) ii) 05-08 Years' experience in relevant field iii) Age limit: 30-45 Years |
| 4. | Deputy Manager (Hull Eng) (04) a. Section Fabrication (02) b. Section Joining (02) | i) BE in Mechanical/Naval Arch/Ship Construction ii) 05-08 Years' experience in relevant field iii) Age limit: 30-45 Years |
| 5. | Sr. Supervisor / Supervisor (13) a. Machinery Mounting (02) b. Paint/Grt Blasting (02) c. Pipe Fabrication/Mounting (02) d. Pipe Welding/Blasting (02) e. Welding (02) f. Steel Fabrication (03) | i) DAE/ B.Tech (Mech/Construction/Metallurgy/ Material) from a recognized institution / Foreign-qualified in relative technology / BSc with Physics & Math (Preference will be given to B. Tech qualified) ii) Min 05-10 Yrs. Experience for Sr. Supervisor and 05-08 Yrs. for Supervisor in relevant field iii) Age limit: 30-45 Yrs. |
| 6. | Sr. Supervisor / Supervisor (03) (Electrical / Weapon) a. Cabling (01) b. Connecting (01) c. Equipment Mounting (01) | i) DAE/ B.Tech (Elect/Electronics from a recognized institution) / BSc with Physics & Math (Preference will be given to B. Tech qualified) ii) Min 05-10 Yrs. for Sr. Supervisor and 05-08 Yrs. for Supervisor in relevant field iii) Age limit: 30-45 Yrs. |
| 7. | Sr. Supervisor / Supervisor / Tech Assistant (25) a. Work Order Writing Technician (10) b. Work Preparer (TA) (10) c. Scheduler (TA) (05) (Mechanical, Electrical, Piping, Welding, Hull, Accommodation & Preservation) | i) DAE/ B.Tech (Elect/ Electronic / Mech / Metallurgy/ Material Construction from a recognized institution) / BSc with Physics & Math (Preference will be given to B. Tech qualified) • Expertise in understanding construction drawings • Familiar with fabrication & welding process. • Be able to modify drawings in Auto CAD • Material estimation from drawing (BOQs) • Understanding of inspection & test plan/ QC checks • Proficiency in MS Office/Project ii) Min 05-10 Yrs. for Sr. Supervisor, 05-08 Yrs. for Supervisor and 03 Yrs. For TA in relevant field iii) Age limit: 30-45 Yrs. |
| 8. | Sr. Supervisor / Supervisor (QC / NDT) (10) (Hull, Welding, NDT, Mechanical, Electrical, Interior Decoration, Outfitting, Piping, Anchoic Tiles) | i) DAE/ B.Tech (Elect/ Electronic/ Mech / Metallurgy / Material Construction) from a recognized institution / BSc with Physics & Math (Preference will be given to B. Tech qualified) Candidate applying for Hull/Welding/NDT must have Certification in UT, RT, MT ii) Min 05-10 Yrs. for Sr. Supervisor and 05-08 Yrs. for Supervisor in relevant field iii) Age limit: 30-45 Yrs. |
| 9. | Supervisor Chemical Lab (01) (Pipe pickling / passivation/waste water treatment Mod purifying Lab) | i) DAE/B.Tech (Mech/Chemical/Equivalent) BSc/BSc (Chemistry / Chemical/EC) ii) 05 Yrs of experience as In-charge Chemical Lab dealing required operations iii) Age limit: 20-45 Years |
| 10. | Technical Assistant (QC / NDT) (25) (Hull, Welding, NDT, Interior Decoration, Paint, Mechanical, Outfitting, Piping, Anchoic Tiles & Electrical) | i) DAE/B.Tech (Elect/ ET / Mech / Metallurgy / Chemical / Material / Construction) from a recognized institution / BSc with Physics & Math (Preference will be given to B. Tech qualified) (Candidate must have Certification in QMS and those applying for Hull/Welding/NDT must have Certification in UT, RT, MT as well) ii) 02-03 Years' Experience iii) Age limit: 20-45 Years |
| 11. | Technicians: (Grade B & C) (162) a. X-Ray Welder (All positions) (40) b. Gouger (20) c. Steel Fabricator (20) d. Grinder-man (10) e. Hot Former (10) f. Gas Cutter (05) g. Pipe Fabricators (10) h. Pipe Fitter (10) i. Pipe Welder (TIG/GTAW), Brazing, Plasma Cutting, (10) j. Plant Operators (02): (Pipe Pickling & Passivation, Boiler wastewater treatment plant/Acid purifying System operator) k. Electrical (10) l. HVAC (05) | i) Matric/ DAE (Mech/Elect/HVAC/Equivalent) with relevant trade qualification certificate (Relaxable in case additional experience) ii) Min 02-03 Yrs experience of relevant field for Grade C & 7 Yrs for B. (Candidate completed KS&EW Internship / Courses from STS will be preferred) iii) Age limit: 20-45 Years |
| 12. | Technician / TA (IT) (05) | i) DAE in CIS /IT with proven experience as IT Support / IT Technician roles ii) 02-03 Yrs. experience in relevant field. (must have in-depth knowledge of Windows, MAC, Linux and UNIX operating system, internet, network security protocols) iii) Age limit: 20-45 Years |
| 13. | Office Assistant (10) | i) Graduation ii) 04 Yrs. Experience in MS Office/ Document & Data Management (must be with typing speed of 30 WPM) iii) Age limit: 23-45 years |
| 14. | Technical Store Keeper/Assistant Store Keeper (10) | i) Graduate for Store Keeper, DAE (Mech/Elect/ Intermediate for Asst Store Keeper ii) 04 Yrs. Experience for Store Keeper/02 Yrs. for Asst Store Keeper of handling Technical stores iii) Age limit: 20-45 years |
| 15. | Unskilled laborer (05) | i) Matric/Middle ii) No Experience required iii) Age limit: 18-30 Years |

Interested candidates may apply online through KS&EW's Official website, www.karachishipyards.com.pk/page/careers or forward their applications along-with 02 Passport size photographs, attested copies of CNIC, relevant documents to the office of Deputy General Manager (Admin & Support) MBU-570 at the following address within Fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this advertisement, mentioning the name of post on envelope.

- Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview.
- No TA / DA will be admissible selected candidates will undergo 3 months probationary period, which will be followed by Contract with KS&EW based on performance during probation.
- For Serial 1 - 08, Age relaxation may be given/considered, depending on additional qualification / experience.
- All candidates applying for the positions of Manager/Deputy Managers are to provide copy of their degrees, duly verified by HEC and Engineers are also to provide copy of valid PEC Card / Registration Certificate.
- All candidates applying for the positions of Supervisors/Technical Assistants are to provide copy of DAE/B Tech Certificates, duly verified by the respective Technical Board/TC.

Website: www.karachishipyards.com.pk
DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER (ADMIN & SUPPORT) MBU-570
Karachi Shipyards & Engineering Works (Tel: 021-99214045-64 Ext 506 & 491)
West Wharf, Dockyard Road, Karachi - 74000

University of Gwadar
SITUATION VACANT

Applications are invited for the post of Project Director for the project entitled "Establishment of University of Gwadar Phase-I" as per following details:-

| S.No. | Post details | Minimum Qualification | Minimum Relevant experience |
|-------|---|--|---|
| 1. | Project Director PPS-20 on contract for a period of One year (extendable) Age limit: 40-55 years. | PhD/Post Graduate Degree/Masters degree/ equivalent to 14 years or M.Sc/M.Phil equivalent to 16 years in the field of Civil Engineering, Project Management, Business Administration or equivalent from HEC/PEC recognized in case of Engineering Degree university/universities | Holder's degree/Masters equivalent to 16 years or least 12 years of post qualification relevant experience in the professional organization of good repute including 05 years of experience in project design, management, project documentation, consultancy and materials procurement, construction and contract supervision and preparation of proposals and other reports. M.Sc/M.Phil equivalent to 16 years or least 12 years of post qualification relevant experience in the public/private organization of good repute including 5 years of experience in project design, construction management, project documentation, consultancy and materials procurement, construction and contract supervision and preparation of proposals and other reports. Candidate should also be well versed in PRC, PWA, BPPRA, Planning/Construction, Finance, Project Management and other Govt. related procedures provided for the implementation of development projects. |

i. All candidates are required to submit one set of all documents including applications form, copies of degrees, merit cards, transcripts, certificates and experience certificates along with recent passport size photographs. In all cases, certificates from the employers must support statement of experience in favour of University of Gwadar.

ii. Candidates already on service of a govt./semi govt. department or an autonomous body must apply through proper channel.

iii. Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview.

iv. Applications received after due date will not be entertained, even though passed before the due date. Incomplete applications shall not be considered.

v. Age relaxation can be considered on the basis of experience and according to rules.

vi. Applications must be sent to the office of Registrar University of Gwadar by hand or by courier services. Applications for "Project Director" must be written on envelope.

vii. Interested individuals who meet the eligibility criteria can obtain **Application Form** from Registrar's Office, University of Gwadar or download it from University's website: www.uog.edu.gw

viii. Last date for submission of application for the post is Monday 15th July 2024.

ix. Short listing of the candidates will be made in accordance with the procedure laid down by university. The University reserves the right to interview advertised post / withhold appointment against the post for reasons to be recorded.

Registrar
University of Gwadar
Seewala Avenue New Town Phase IV Gwadar
E-mail: registrar@uog.edu.gw / 011-9211-024549

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Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB)
VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

PSEB is seeking to recruit competent and experienced human resources for its PDPF project "Certification of IT Professionals" on a contractual basis. The details of the same are as follows.

| Sr. No. | Position | No. of Positions | Location |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Certification of | | | |
| 1. | Finance Officer (PPS-08) | 01 | Islamabad |
| Total Position | | 01 | |

- For a detailed job description and to apply online, visit <https://pseb.gov.pk>
- PSEB has a right to transfer the position in Pakistan depending upon the requirement of the project.
- Only online applications will be considered.
- No application will be considered via post or email.
- The last date for submission of online application is June 30th, 2024.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be called for an interview (TA/DA is not admissible).

PH (0) No. 1822/23
Manager Human Resource
Pakistan Software Export Board (P) Ltd.
Plot 61, 96th Floor, New State Life Tower, Near Saudi Pak Tower,
Jinnah Avenue, Blue Area, Islamabad
☎ 051-9202295 (Ext. 116), 051-9202184, Email: hr@pseb.org.pk

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Government of Pakistan Competition Commission of Pakistan

STAFF REQUIRED

Competition Commission of Pakistan is looking for the services of high-performing and experienced International Relations Officer on contract basis for two years as per the following details:

| Post | Minimum Qualification | Age Limit | Minimum Experience | Professional Experience/Skills | No. of Positions |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------|--|--|------------------|
| International Relations Officer | Master/Bachelor's degree in International Management or relevant field | 40 Years | 5 years in case of Master's degree 7 years in case of Bachelor's degree | Experience of writing memos/letters in coordinating with multilateral organizations. Experience of coordinating with donor agencies (strategic, monitoring, reporting, and exploring bilateral relations). Strong understanding of functioning of international donor agencies. Excellent communication and negotiation skills. Ability to work independently. | 1 |

- TERMS & CONDITIONS:**
- The Candidates possessing the requisite qualification, experience, and age may apply for the position.
 - Only shortlisted candidates will be called for the interview.
 - Only citizens of Pakistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir are eligible for appointment.
 - Candidates belonging to Balochistan and those with disabilities are encouraged to apply. Candidates with disabilities must attach valid Disability Certificate issued by the National Council for Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons (NCRDP).
 - No TA/DA will be admissible.
 - Government employees may apply through proper channel after getting NOC from their department.
 - Applications that are incomplete or received after the due date will not be considered.
 - Applicants of 5 years in support age limit would be granted as admissible under the rules.
 - Candidates who try to exercise undue influence during the selection process will be disqualified immediately.
 - Lump sum salary package will be offered keeping in view the qualifications & experience.
 - The Organization reserves the right to accept, reject the applications or postpone the process as allowed under the rules.

How to apply: Interested candidates meeting the requisite qualification/experience/skills criteria for the mentioned posts may apply online at www.ccp.gov.pk. Only online applications will be considered. Last date to apply is 15 days from the publication of this advertisement.
Deputy Director (HR), 9th Floor, ISE Towers, Blue Area Islamabad

PK01/2024



Government of Pakistan MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS Islamabad

VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT

Following MP Scale positions are vacant in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad.

| Post | Qualification/Experience | Age |
|--|---|--|
| Deputy Legal Advisor (MP-40) | i) Ph.D in any field of International Law with 05 years professional experience as licensed/practicing Advocate in Pakistan. Or ii) Masters in any field of International Law with 07 years experience as licensed/practicing Advocate in Pakistan. | Maximum 62 years of age (to be calculated as on the closing date of submission of application) |
| Assistant Legal Advisor (MP-40) | i) Ph.D in any field of International Law with 03 years professional experience as licensed/practicing Advocate in Pakistan. Or ii) Masters in any field of International Law with 05 years experience as licensed/practicing Advocate in Pakistan. | Maximum 62 years of age (to be calculated as on the closing date of submission of application) |

The above posts shall be filled on open merit basis initially for a period of three (03) years, which is further extendable for a maximum period of two (02) years on annual basis, subject to satisfactory performance. As per shortlisting criteria, in case of more than fifteen (15) eligible applications for each position, the applicants having practical experience of working for the Federal Government, an international organization, or any other relevant institution, in any field of International Law, would be given preference. Detailed terms and conditions, job descriptions, deliverable, timelines and salary package may be accessed at www.mofa.gov.pk. Interested candidates may submit their applications (complete CV giving details of qualification, experience, NIC & address etc.) within 15 days of the publication of this advertisement on the following address:

(SHAHBAZ HUSSAIN)
Director General (HR&CP)
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Constitution Avenue, G-5, Islamabad
Tel: 051-9202362, Fax: 051-9204059

PK01/2024



Pakistan Reinsurance Company Limited Career Opportunities

Applicants are invited for following posts on market competitive salary in Pakistan Reinsurance Company Limited (PRCL). Candidates possessing following Qualification, Experience, and maximum age limit (including age relaxation) may apply:

| S. No | Post | Department | Qualification and Experience | No. of posts | Maximum Age |
|-------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--------------|-------------|
| 1. | Claims | Claims | i. Master or bachelor's degree (16 years of education) in business administration, finance, economics, insurance, risk management, M. Com (Insurance) from HEC recognized university/institute along with at least 3 years in insurance industry preferably in Claims, OR ii. Dip (CII) along with at least 3 years of experience in insurance industry preferably in Claims. | 02 | 35 Years |
| 2. | Taxation | Taxation | CA/ICMA/ACCA or Master or any other degree (16 years of education) in Accounting/Finance from HEC recognized university/institute with at least 3 years of experience in taxation or tax related department. Diploma in Taxation and tax laws of Pakistan will be a plus. | 01 | |
| 3. | Re-Talabat (Accounts) | Re-Talabat (Accounts) | CA/ICMA/ACCA or Master or any other degree (16 years of education) in Accounting/Finance from HEC recognized university/institute with at least 3 years of experience in taxation, finance, and accounts related functions. | 01 | |
| 4. | Investment | Investment | MBA (Finance)/MCA or any other degree (16 years of education) in Finance/Economics/Statistics from a recognized university/institute with at least 3 years of experience in investment or treasury function preferably in a financial institution (Bank, DF, Brokerage House, AMC, Insurance Co, etc.) Candidates holding a FA charter or pass-out CFA will be a plus. | 01 | |
| 5. | Underwriting | Underwriting | i. Association/Advanced Diploma (CII) or MBA (IRM) or M. Com (Insurance) or M.Com (Accounting) or M.Com (Finance) from HEC recognized university/institute along with at least 5 years of experience in underwriting preferably in insurance or reinsurance industry OR ii. Dip (CII) or BBA (Insurance & Risk Management) or Insurance Diploma (PFI) or B.Sc. (Actuarial Science) from HEC recognized university/institute along with at least 5 years of experience in underwriting preferably in insurance or reinsurance industry. | 01 | |
| 6. | Underwriting (Retrosession) | Underwriting (Retrosession) | i. Association/Advanced Diploma (CII) or MBA (IRM) or M. Com (Insurance) or M.Com (Accounting) or M.Com (Finance) from HEC recognized university/institute along with at least 3 years of experience in underwriting preferably in insurance or reinsurance industry OR ii. Dip (CII) or BBA (Insurance & Risk Management) or Insurance Diploma (PFI) or B.Sc. (Actuarial Science) from HEC recognized university/institute along with at least 5 years of experience in underwriting preferably in insurance or reinsurance industry. | 01 | |
| 7. | Human Resources (HR/Generalist) | Human Resources (HR/Generalist) | Master or bachelor's degree (16 years of education) in business administration with specialization in HR from HEC recognized university/institute along with at least 3 years of experience in HR function. CHRP/Certificate or diploma from HEC or CIPD will be a plus. | 01 | |
| 8. | Anti-Fraud Department | Anti-Fraud Department | CA/ICMA/ACCA from a recognized professional body of accountants with at least 3 years of experience in accounts, finance, and audit functions. | 01 | |
| 9. | Risk Management | Risk Management | MBA (Finance) or CA/ICMA/ACCA or any other degree (16 years of education) in Accounting/Finance from HEC recognized university/institute with at least 2 years of experience in risk management functions of a financial institution (bank/insurance/banking). | 01 | |
| 10. | Management Executive | Compliance | MBA (Finance) or CA/ICMA/ACCA or any other degree (16 years of education) in Accounting/Finance from HEC recognized university/institute with at least 2 years of experience in risk management functions of a financial institution (bank/insurance/banking). | 01 | |
| 11. | Corporate Affairs | Corporate Affairs | MBA (Finance) or CA/ICMA/ACCA or any other degree (16 years of education) in Accounting/Finance from HEC recognized university/institute with at least 2 years of experience in risk management or insurance or reinsurance company, corporate affairs, board secretariat and accounting or finance. Candidates in ICSP/CPA/PPA is a plus. | 01 | |

- IMPORTANT NOTES:**
- In compliance with Prime Minister's Welfare Enhancement Package 2024, selection of 10% female candidates will be reserved among potential candidates as per recruitment policy of PRCL.
 - Pakistan Reinsurance Company Limited (PRCL) is an equal opportunity employer, applicants with special abilities, women, minorities and applicants with disabilities are encouraged to apply.
 - The appointment will be granted based on full-time basis in per Ministry Salary Policy (MSP).
 - Interested Applicants may apply within 15 days from the publication of this advertisement as per prescribed Application Form available on CTPP website www.ctpp.com.pk, along with the prescribed and for deposit slip from CTPP website and send the complete Application Form along with 3 recent color photographs and a copy of your CNIC, educational certificates, education, and experience certificates to CTPP Head Office Plot # 141, Item 3, Sector I-1/1, Industrial Area, Islamabad, within 15 days of publication of this advertisement.
 - Original documents along with HEC verified testimonials will be required at the time of interview.
 - The applicants working in public sector are required to provide NOC at the time of interview.
 - The candidates shall not be called for any TA/DA while appearing for the interview.
 - PRCL reserves the right to stop the recruitment process without assigning any reason.
 - Only shortlisted applicants will be called for interview and selection will be based on per the approved policy of PRCL.
 - Any offers made to influence the recruitment and selection process will lead to disqualification of the potential candidate, who may otherwise be qualified.
 - Applications not submitted as per above instructions shall not be considered.

Pakistan Reinsurance Company Limited, 14th Floor PRCL Towers 23-A Lohoran Drive M.T Khan Road, Karachi
Ph: 021-9820268-14, Website: www.pakre.org.pk

PK01/2024

Shahbaz Institute of Urology & Transplantation (SIUT), & Shihab Institute of Urology & Transplantation (SIUT), on Shaheed Benazirabad (Newazehah), is a 300 bedded tertiary healthcare hospital established with a mission to provide free-of-cost medical cover to the patients with renal & related diseases.

We are looking for energetic and enthusiastic professionals who have passion and a desire to make a positive difference in patient care. The below mentioned positions are based at Shaheed Benazirabad (Newazehah).

SENIOR LECTURER/ ASSISTANT PROFESSOR/ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
● CLINICAL PATHOLOGY ● INTERNAL MEDICINE
● NEPHROLOGY ● PEDIATRIC NEPHROLOGY
● INTENSIVE CARE UNIT
Qualification, Experience & Publication requirements for these positions is as per PMDC requirements.

GENERAL PHYSICIAN
FCPS Medicine or equivalent qualification with 03 years post-fellowship experience. Candidates with experience of Nephrology will be preferred.

CONSULTANT/SPECIALIST RADIOLOGY
FCPS/MCh/DABD in Radiology with relevant experience.

ADMINISTRATOR
Master's degree from a recognized university with minimum 05 to 07 years post-qualification experience preferably in a hospital setup.

NUTRITIONIST
Bachelors in Diet & Nutrition with 1 to 2 years relevant experience preferably in a hospital setup.

CCTV OPERATOR
Minimum Intermediate with 03 years experience as CCTV Operator preferably in a hospital setup.

SECURITY SUPERVISOR
Retired JCO from Armed Forces with 03 years experience preferably in a hospital setup.

SECURITY GUARD - FIRE & SAFETY
Retired from Armed Forces with 03 years experience in Fire & Safety trade.

GT SCAN TECHNICIAN
BS Medical Technology with 1 to 2 years experience of GT Scan.

AC TECHNICIAN
Matic with DAE in Refrigeration & AC Technician or 1 year training course in AC and 03 years relevant experience preferably in a hospital setup.

We offer a market-competitive salary, perks, and a growth-oriented work environment.

HOW TO APPLY
If you are interested in joining our dynamic team, please send your updated resume at SIUTSIUT.HR@GMAIL.COM, latest by June 26, 2024. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

The Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi seeks applications from experienced and motivated candidates for the following positions:

- Assistant Manager Financial Assistance
- Executive Alumni Affairs

For a detailed job description, please visit our career page www.iba.edu.pk or contact us directly. The due date for the submission of applications is 15 days from the publication date of this advertisement. The IBA faculty is an equal opportunity employer and all applications are assessed based on merit. Shortlisted candidates are also encouraged to apply. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for an interview.

Women are encouraged to apply.
National Recruitment Department, Institute of Business Administration, Karachi
Road, Karachi, 74800-333-333 | www.iba.edu.pk

**FAZIA SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

Following vacancies are available in a highly-reputed Fazia College at PAF Base Shaheed Jacobabad. Competent and well-qualified candidates, who are seeking for a career under an inspiring work environment, may apply.

| Description of the Vacancies | Qualification and Experience |
|---|---|
| TEACHER SENIOR SECTION (URDU, ISLAMAT, PHYSICS) | MA / MSc / BS (04 Years) degree in the relevant subject along with B.Ed / M.Ed degree. Candidates having additional qualification and experience will be preferred. |
| TEACHER JUNIOR SECTION (MATHS, URDU, ENGLISH, COMPUTER, S.ST, ART) | BA / BS / BSc, B.Ed / one year Montessori Diploma. Candidates having additional qualification and experience will be preferred. |

Pay/ Perks:

- Selected candidate will be offered a good pay package.
- After successfully completing probation period, the individuals will have an opportunity to join either Provident Fund or Gratuity Scheme, as opted.

Ineligibility:

- The candidate removed / dismissed during probation, from any post of Government or non-government institution.
- Those terminated from any Fazia institution, upon any allegation/discipline issue.
- The candidate possessing history of any moral turpitude, financial embezzlement or criminal offences. The applicants are to produce NOC from previous institution, in this regard.

Notes:

- It is a contract-based employment, annually, renewable on the basis of performance and may continue for an unlimited time period, depending upon good performance of individual.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview.
- TA / DA will not be admissible for the interview.
- Concealment of any fact or information may lead to strict disciplinary action, even after the selection.
- Send your applications, addressed to Chairman Managing Committee, along with resume and attested copies of testimonials, at the given address, latest by **30 June, 2024**. Applications received after due date will not be considered.

Postal Address: Fazia Inter College, PAF Base Shaheed, Jacobabad, Sindh.
Contact No. 9722-691889, 9309-2322772, Email: faziasba@gmail.com

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PATEL HOSPITAL
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BUILDING SUCCESS TOGETHER

JOIN OUR TEAM: Unlock your potentials with opportunities at Patel Hospital.

| Position | Required Qualification & Experience |
|--|--|
| HOD Quality Assurance | MBA (Hospital Management)/MSc/Pharm-D. Minimum 05+ years of post-qualification experience in any reputable organization, from which 03 years in managerial role. Diploma/Certificates in QA along with intensive knowledge of Quality Management System Standards, International Guidelines, Auditing Protocols and Legal Requirements of Regulatory Bodies will be preferred. |
| General Manager Laboratory | Master's Degree in Medical Lab Sciences/Clinical Lab or related field with MBA preference. Minimum 15 years of experience in a clinical laboratory setting, with at least 5 years' experience in progressive leadership responsibilities in clinical laboratory. |
| Cytose Epidermology Fellow | FCPS qualified in relevant discipline. |
| Senior Medical Officer- Ophthalmology | MSc/BS with 03-05 years of experience in relevant discipline. |
| Sr. Officer Costing | M.Com/MBA/ICMA partially qualified along with 3+ years of experience. |
| Infection Control Nurse | Diploma in Nursing/ BScN. Diploma in Infection control or 2-3 years of relevant experience. |
| VR Technician | Diploma in Ophthalmology or OI or equivalent along with 05+ years of specialized experience in Vitreo retinal procedures. |
| OT Technician-Eye | Diploma in OT along with 02+ years of exclusively eye surgical procedures. |
| Anaesthesia Technician | Diploma in Anaesthesia along with 01+ year of relevant experience. |
| Endoscopy Technician | Diploma along with 02+ years of advance procedures experience specially ERCP. |

Only shortlisted candidates will be called for an interview. Please specify the position name in the email subject.
Please send us your updated CVs at hr@patel-hospital.com, latest by June 25, 2024.