



Govt unleashes offensive to 'decisively' end terrorism

- 'Operation Azm-i-Istehkam' aims to use full force of military, diplomatic, legislative, socio-economic arsenal
- Move comes a day after senior Chinese official voiced concerns over security situation
- National Action Plan's apex committee reviews SOPs to enhance safety of Chinese nationals

By Bagir Sajad Syed

ISLAMABAD: The government on Saturday announced a new counterterrorism operation, Azm-i-Istehkam, vowing to unleash the full force of the country's military, diplomatic, legislative, and socio-economic arsenal to decisively defeat terrorism and extremism.

The announcement came after a meeting of the Central Apex Committee of National Action Plan, which was chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and attended by key federal ministers, provincial chief ministers, service chiefs and top bureaucrats.

"The prime minister approved a reinvigorated and re-emergent national counterterrorism campaign through the launching of Operation Azm-i-Istehkam, with the consensus of all stakeholders including the provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, symbolising the national resolve to eradicate extremism and terrorism from the country," the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement issued after the meeting.

Azm-i-Istehkam is the latest in a series of counterterrorism operations launched by the Pakistan

Army since the mid-2000s. More recent operations include Zarb-i-Akh, launched in 2014 by Gen Raheel Sharif to combat militants in North Waziristan, and Radikal Jannat, initiated in 2017 under Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa to eliminate what was then described as "residual terrorist threats" in the country.

No room for lapses in foreigners' security, says interior minister: Page 5

China's concerns: Editorial on Page 6

While these operations achieved tactical successes, including the reduction of terrorist incidents and elimination of high-value targets, they did not completely eradicate militancy from the country.

Strikingly, the announcement of the new operation came a day after Liu Jianchao, a high-ranking Chinese official, voiced grave concerns at a political forum. He starkly highlighted that the deteriorating security situation in Pakistan undermined the confidence of Chinese investors, urging a ramp-up

Continued on Page 5



RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff Gen Asim Munir attend the funeral service of Deputy Haroon Williams at Saint Paul's Church, on Saturday. The copy was among five security men who embraced martyrdom in an IED blast in Kurram district a day ago.—AFP

Tax-laden budget finds no takers in NA

- PPP ends boycott, terms budget visionless; MQM calls for imposing 'financial emergency'
- Speaker suspends Mastikhel's membership for using 'indecent' language

By Amir Wadai

ISLAMABAD: Lawmakers from the treasury and the opposition on Saturday continued to assail the tax-laden federal budget in the National Assembly, as the PPP, a key partner in the ruling coalition, ended its boycott of the proceedings but only to join the fray, highlighting a number of 'shortcomings' in the proposed budget.

It was the third consecutive day of the debate on the budget, presented by Finance Minister Muhammad Aslam Khan on June 22, and the lower house continued to witness members from both sides of the aisle trading barbs and making personal attacks against each other.

There was pandemonium

in the house when the treasury members, mostly the women lawmakers, gathered in front of the speaker's dais to register their protest over the objectionable remarks made by Senator Mastikhel of the PML-Q.

PPCC identifies over two dozen budget anomalies: Page 9

The opposition Sunni Itehad Council (SIC) in its speech, the members' protest forced Deputy Speaker Ghulam Mustafa Shah to suspend the proceedings for a few minutes.

Later, when the house resumed proceedings, Speaker Asim Sajid announced the suspension of Mr Mastikhel's membership for the remainder of the current session following approval of a motion in this regard through a voice vote.

During his budget speech, Mr Mastikhel, the MNA from Bhakkar, addressed Defence Minister Khawaja Asif and said the opposition members had not reached the parliament by opposing someone. While stressing this point, he used some "indecent" words, prompting a strong protest from the treasury benches.

Realising his mistake, Mr Mastikhel immediately asked the chair to expunge his remarks, but the treasury members demanded action against him.

"No apology", the women members were heard shouting when the speaker came to his chair.

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Pakistan seeks UNSC role in halting TTP attacks

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan told the UN Security Council that despite promises, the Afghan interim government has not acted "decisively" to halt cross-border terrorist attacks by the banned Taliban.

Pakistan (TTP) that have resulted in hundreds of civilian and military casualties.

"The highest priority for the international community, for Afghanistan's neighbours and for Afghanistan itself remains the elimination of terrorism within and from Afghanistan," Pakistan's permanent representative to the UN, Munir Akram said in a debate on the situation in Afghanistan.

Pakistan, he said, had repeatedly conveyed to the Afghan Taliban — at very senior levels — to act decisively to end the banned TTP's attacks, disarm its fighters, capture and hand over the terrorists to Pakistan.

"Unfortunately, despite promises, no meaningful action has been taken so far. TTP safe havens remain close to Pakistan's borders. Cross-border attacks have continued, including one by a TTP associate that killed several Chinese engineers working on the Dam hydro power project," the Pakistani envoy told the 15-member Security Council.

"The impunity which some of these terrorist groups seem to enjoy within Afghanistan poses a dire and direct threat to all of Afghanistan's neighbours as well as to the international community."

Ambassador Akram urged the UNSC to call on the Afghan Taliban government to sever its links with the outlawed TTP and its associates, prevent

Continued on Page 11

ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP RESULTS & FIXTURES

INDI BEAT BAN BY 10 RUNS

INDIA 186-5 in 20 overs (D. Pandya 50 not out, V Kohli 37, I Sharda 2-32); BANGLADESH 84, 146-8 in 20 overs (M. Shorif 40, S. Yadav 3-13)

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UPCOMING MATCHES

ENGLAND vs USA (7.00pm PST)
WEST INDIES vs SOUTH AFRICA (5.30pm on Monday)
See sport pages for more coverage

Levies man martyred in Ziarat attack

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: A Levies force official was martyred in Ziarat on Saturday, a day after militants in a separate attack on a Levies police station held personnel at gunpoint and took away their official weapons and motorcycles.

Gul Zaman, the Levies official, was heading back home when he was targeted by unidentified armed men riding motorcycles near Ziarat, police said.

Police removed the body to the district hospital. "He received multiple gunshot wounds, which caused his instant death," they

Continued on Page 5

ON OTHER PAGES

Senate panel dissatisfied with budget

The Senate Standing Committee on Finance expressed dissatisfaction with tax measures announced in the budget, lamenting they appeared more aligned with IMF priorities than national interests. The committee, which is set to deliver its recommendations on Monday, also expressed concerns over the unequal distribution of tax burden. Page 9

Plus...



ECP defends decision to deny SIC reserved seats

SC to hear party's challenge to PHC verdict tomorrow

By Nasir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: As the Supreme Court resumes hearing on Monday (tomorrow) the Sunni Itehad Council's (SIC) challenge to the Peshawar High Court's March 14 verdict, the Election Commission of Pakistan on Saturday justified its decision to deny the party reserved seats for women and non-Muslims.

In a concise statement furnished before the apex court through senior counsel Nikanwar Rashid Mahsum, the ECP

argued that the SIC did not meet the criteria and is therefore not eligible for reserved seats for women and non-Muslims on account of not being a political party within the meaning of articles 51(5)(d), 56(3)(e) and 106(3)(c) of the Constitution, as well as the election programme's requirement to furnish a list of priority (Form 46) in a timely manner for the reserved seats.

The ECP also pointed out that Article 3 of the SIC constitution limits the party's membership to adult Muslims only, imposing certain restrictions that violate Articles 17, 20 and 25 of the constitution. Based on this alone, the commission argued that the SIC is not entitled to any reserved seats, particularly those for

women and non-Muslims.

A full-court bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justices Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Munir Akhtar, Yahya Afridi, Aminul Din Khan, Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Ayaz A. Malik, Athar Minallah, Syed Hassan Ashar Hussain, Shahid Waheed, Irfan Saadat Khan and Naveen Akhtar Khan will take up the SIC challenge on Monday.

In its statement, the ECP explained that the SIC also failed to meet additional criteria, specifically that at least one of its candidates should have contested and been elected on a general seat under the common election symbol of the concerned political party.

Therefore, the commission argued, the PHC verdict denying reserved seats for women and non-Muslims to the SIC was correct.

Moreover, it said, a party consisting only of independent candidates who joined such party pursuant to Article 51(5)(d) and Article 106(3)(c) of the constitution, read with Rule 92(6) of the Election Rules, was not a political party within the contemplation and scope of the constitutional provisions.

"The scheme of the Constitution and the Elections Act 2002 envisages and recognises only three classes of contesting candidates in the general elections, (a) candidates contesting general seats under a common election symbol, (b) candidates contesting elections on general

seats as independent candidates after getting respective election symbols and (c) candidates contesting elections on reserved seats for women or for non-Muslims," it said.

There is no fourth category, the ECP argued, adding that the scheme of the Constitution does not envisage nor recognise any so-called class of "X-party backed candidates", which in the present case was coined by the media as "PTI-backed independents".

"The moment a candidate contesting for a general seat fails to submit a party affiliation certificate for allotment by the returning officer (RO) of the common election symbol of the relevant political party

Continued on Page 11



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Demand made in PA for downsizing bureaucracy

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A demand has been made in the Punjab Assembly for downsizing the bureaucracy, blaming the officialdom for defacing every good project. A member of the treasury also called for abolishing all authorities and companies to reduce the financial burden on the province.

The demands were made by the PML-N's Anjum Ali Javed who lauded the government for reducing the loan burden of the province and allocating more funds for education, health, agriculture and infrastructure.

On the other hand, the lawmakers in the assembly continued political posturing during the third day of the four-day open discussion on the budget on Saturday.

Responding to the PTI's claims of not allowing peaceful rallies and public meetings, Finance Minister Mujtaba Shujaat Rahman said the PTI would have to seek permission from the district administration for holding a public meeting or organising a protest.

Inshad-e-Pakistan Party MPA Shauq Siddiqui said he faced five cases under terrorism charges during the PTI regime besides being subjected to other abuses.

PTI-backed SIC lawmaker Rana Shabbaz said Asif Zardari and the Sharifs were trying to impose their new generations on the masses, leading

Imran Khan for keeping the economy stable during the Covid-19, he said presently the people were dying of hunger because the London plan for dislodging the PTI government damaged the national economy.

The PML-N's Salma Butt asked the opposition for defying Supreme Court order by not holding local government polls and cutting down Punjab's development budget during its tenure.

SIC legislator Nadeem Dogar lamented that the textile industry in Faisalabad was lying closed while wheat growers were financially hurt as the government backed out of its promise of procuring wheat.

The Opposition's Ameer Hashid Bharti was in a loss to understand distribution of funds through block allocations while the house was kept in the dark about utilisation of funds.

He demanded the use of subsidies for commissioning industries instead of making the people beggars and charity-seekers.

SIC MP Arwa Viki questioned the reason behind the arrest of the farmers protesting for their rights and non-procurement of wheat by the government.

Tashkhat Abbas Warraich said the PTI was blamed for its four-year performance but the PML-N was not ready to explain its 25-year working.

Treasury MPA Ahsan Raja said without Nawaz Sharif all development was zero while Sharif Razaan said the PTI proved to be the most corrupt party in the government.



LAHORE: Workers prepare wheat containers near De Maria Pul.—White Star

Model Town case PAT workers fired on police, defence witnesses tell court

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Six defence witnesses on Saturday told an anti-terrorism court (ATC) that the armed workers of Pakistan Awami Tehreek (PAT) had opened fire at the officials of police and district administration during an alleged 2014 anti-encroachment opera-

tion outside the residence of Dr Tahmid Qadri in Model Town.

The witnesses, who also reside near Idara Minhajul Quran in Model Town, include Khwaja Sohail, Waqar Ahmed Qureshi, Malik Saleem, Yasmin Mokhtar Ahmed, Ghulam Shabbir, and Imran Hussain.

They recorded their statements in a private complaint filed by the PAT for the trial of police officials in the Model Town firing incident.

Advocate Barhan Musarrat Malik, the counsel for the police officials, presented the witnesses before the court.

The witnesses said they observed the whole incident since their residences were around 500 meters away from the site of the alleged anti-encroachment operation.

They said the workers of the PAT fired from the rooftops and threw petrol bombs on the officials of police and the district administration, who ran

to save their lives.

The witnesses said the police later fired tear gas shells at the PAT workers but did not shoot at them. They said the police were removing the barricades placed on roads by the PAT workers. Judge Asif Akmal Javed adjourned for their hearing till June 28.

The judge directed the PAT counsel to cross-examine the defence witnesses at the next hearing.

The judge also named DSP Rana Mahmoodul Hassan, ASI Asad Ahmed, constables Faisal Hashid and Amir Hassan as witnesses.

So far, a total of 104 witnesses have recorded their testimonies in the Model Town incident trial.

At least 10 people were killed and around 100 injured during an 'anti-encroachment' operation outside the Model Town residence of PAT chief Dr Tahmid Qadri on June 17, 2014.

Idara Minhajul Quran, a subsidiary of PAT, had

filed the private complaint before the ATC against the then prime minister Nawaz Sharif, sitting PM Shabbaz Sharif and almost all federal and provincial cabinets of PML-N besides officials of police and district administration accusing them of killing its workers.

However, the trial court in 2017 dismissed the complaint to the extent of political personalities and started trial proceedings against the officials of police and district administration nominated as accused by the complainant.

The previous government in Punjab led by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf had constituted a new Joint Investigation Team (JIT) to reinvestigate the incident. However, several accused police officials challenged the JIT before the LHC and got it stayed in 2019.

Former inspector general Mubashir Shabbaz, former DSP operations Rana Akmal Jafar, for-

mer commissioner retired Gaj Muhammad Usman and two other accused persons have been acquitted in the trial.

PAT in a statement, PAT legal spokesperson Naeemuddin Chaudhry appealed to the Lahore High Court to issue orders for an expedited decision on the pending positions regarding the JIT cases of the Model Town incident.

He pointed out that the JIT, formed on the Supreme Court's orders, had been barred from functioning by the LHC for the past four years. He questioned how justice could be achieved without an impartial investigation.

He stated that the Model Town incident was unique in the country's history, with 14 citizens killed, yet the statements of the victims' families, the injured, and eyewitnesses had not been recorded.

He alleged that a fake charge-sheet had been prepared by using police hosts as witnesses.

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HRCP seeks strict action in Swat case

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) calls urgently on the federal government to take strict action following the recent mob lynching of a 40-year-old man in Swat, after he was accused of having desecrated pages of the holy Quran — a charge he reportedly denied while in police custody.

The savagery with which the victim was lynched, the mob's violent articulation of moral self-righteousness, and the fact that

this is the second such incident in less than a month following the death of Nasser Makh in Sargodha, should make it clear that the state has, knowingly or otherwise, not rendered its writ in matters of faith-based mob violence, says a press release issued by HRCP.

Such incidents are no longer merely a question of problematic laws that are easily weaponised on grounds of blasphemy. Instead, they are a direct result of decades of pandering to, and deliberately cultivating, far-right religious groups and militancy, it says.

"The state has been directly

complicit in this: it has accorded impunity to perpetrators of faith-based violence and appeared indifferent to such incidents where decisive action was necessary."

Nor are mob lynchings confined to faith-based violence any longer. In at least three recent incidents in Karachi since March, aggrieved crowds caught and killed suspected criminals, it says.

"This reflects a near-breakdown of law and order, a deep mistrust of the criminal justice system and a general sense of economic and social dependency."

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The Journal of the

New Englander, 2000, p. 100.

By Our Staff Reporter

It said that "those who argued with us for last many decades should not be punished, for short-term gains by increasing their cost of doing business and adopting knee-jerk measures to collect revenue, which is not sustainable and in the longer run will impact the documented economic growth."

small, round, off-white, round tablet.

The trained catfish, H.A., had claimed responsibility of the fish-stealing.

While appreciating the government's efforts to enhance fiscal responsibility and tax compliance, the AIC, however, claimed that the proposed disincentives

The ABC said that if MNCs started rationalizing or reducing their media spends due to this proposal, it would have serious consequences on the media and advertising industry's health. —Staff Reporter

Continued from Page 1

Theodor A. Brown

Casualties feared in D

The meeting was attended by Secretary Interior Khurram Ali Akbar, NACTA National Coordinator Muhammad Tahir Razi, National Action Plan coordination and senior officials of the ministries and relevant agencies.

The concern that a law drafted based on the security threats to Chinese nationals in Pakistan, and the measures being implemented to ensure their safety. The meeting was briefed on the newly established and disseminated standard operating procedures aimed at bolstering security protocols for Chinese citizens residing in this country.

Kiefer AG also contributed to this project.

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In a letter to Additional Chief Secretary Zahid Saloom, the home minister said, "Prompt disciplinary action should be taken against the deputy commissioner and assistant commissioner of Turbat, and conduct an enquiry."

Postquam, postquam in Christianis
omnes sunt collati in eadem ecclesia

The Minimum Asset

LOWER DIR: Casualties are feared on both sides as militants from Afghanistan reportedly attacked Frontier Corps (FC) personnel at multiple locations at the Pak-Afghan border in Mahlan area of Lower Dir district on Saturday, as per unconfirmed reports.

On getting information about the alleged infiltration, troops of the paramilitary force EC led by

The security forces surrounded alleged militants at three different locations. Later, gunship helicopters launched strikes on the alleged mil-

According to locals, members of the banned TTP, hailing from Lower Dir and Swat districts, often use the Shali and Rishabi routes to enter into Lower Dir and move further towards Swat district Tld.

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Israeli shelling kills dozens near ICRC office in Gaza

GAZA STRIP Israeli military pounded Gaza on Saturday, a day after the International Committee of the Red Cross said 22 people were killed in shelling that damaged its office in a southern town of the besieged Palestinian territory.

The ICRC said the 22 dead and 45 wounded people were taken to a field hospital after shelling with "heavy calibre projectiles" near its office in al-Marwan, a coastal town in southern Gaza.

"Firing so dangerously close to humanitarian structures puts the lives of civilians and humanitarian aid workers at risk," the ICRC said on X.

Meanwhile, 42 people were killed in Israeli attacks on districts of Gaza City, in the north of the Palestinian enclave, on Saturday.

One Israeli strike on houses in al-Shati, one of the Gaza Strip's eight historic refugee camps, killed 24 people. Another 18 Palestinians were killed in a strike on houses in al-Tuffah neighborhood.

TV footage showed Palestinians rushing out to search for victims amid destroyed houses. The footage showed wrecked houses, blasted walls, and debris and dust filling the



FAMILIES make their way through the rubble of buildings destroyed by Israeli strikes on al-Shati refugee camp on Saturday. —AFP

street in Shati refugee camp.

The Israeli military released a brief statement saying "A short while ago, IDF (Israeli) defence forces' fighter jets struck two Hamas military infrastructure sites in the area of Gaza City."

Hamas did not comment on the Israeli claim to have hit its 'military infrastructure'. It said the attacks targeted civilians and were in a statement "the occupation and its Nazi leaders will pay the price for their violations against our people".

Witnesses reported gun battles between Hamas and Israeli forces in Gaza

City on Saturday. They also reported Israeli helicopters firing at fighters in the city's Zaitun neighborhood.

Earlier, the Israeli military said troops had continued to carry out operations in central Gaza and that its jets had struck targets across the Palestinian territory.

The Israeli army said on June 16 it would implement a daily "tactical pause of military activity" in a northern corridor to facilitate aid delivery.

But Richard Prosper, of the World Health Organisation said "we did not see an impact on the humanitarian supplies

coming in". "We don't see any aid," said Umm Mohammed Zaidat, 55, from northern Gaza, now living in Khan Younis, in the south.

"Even agencies specialised in aid deliveries are not able to provide anything to us," she added.

Dr Thana Gargavalia, a WHO trauma surgeon and emergency officer, said the UN in Gaza was trying to "operate in an remarkable environment".

According to the WHO, 17 of the 36 hospitals in Gaza are operational, but only partially.

Focus on Rafah, Deir al-Balah

After destroying much of Gaza's infrastructure, Israel's advance is now focused on Rafah and the area surrounding Deir al-Balah.

Residents say Israeli tanks have deepened their incursion into western and northern Rafah areas in recent days. On Saturday, Israeli forces bombed several areas from air and the ground, forcing many families living in areas designated as humanitarian designated areas to leave southwards. However, the Israeli military said forces continued "precise, intelligence-based" operations in Rafah. —Agencies

Centre asked to stop collecting taxes from GB importers

Bill to increase CM's benefits causes uproar in assembly

By Jamil Nagri

GILGIT: The Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly unanimously approved a resolution on Saturday demanding the federal government stop collecting taxes on goods imported from China through the Khunjerab Pass.

Another resolution adopted by the house urged the centre to appoint judges to the GB Supreme Appellate Court.

The resolution on taxes, tabled by the opposition member Javed Ali Memon, also expressed concern over the suspension of trade activities between Pakistan and China through the Khunjerab Pass.

The house demanded the federal government and president abolish sales tax, income tax and federal excise duty collected from local

traders on imported goods.

It said local traders should be incentivised to import items from China under the Pak-China Border Trade Agreement, 1984 and provided with a conducive environment for bilateral trade.

They should be allowed free delivery of up to four tonnes of commercial goods from China to GB.

After the resolution was favoured by opposition and treasury members, Speaker Nasir Adnan announced its unanimous adoption.

Appointment of judges

Another resolution, tabled by treasury member Arif Hossain, stated that according to the Gilgit-Baltistan Order 2018, the Supreme Appellate, the highest court of appeal in the region, should have a chief judge and two judges.

The resolution added the Supreme Appellate Court CJ was appointed by the premier on Nov 4, 2022, and a summary of the appointment of the remaining two judges is also pending with the PM due to stay orders issued by the

Supreme Court. "[T]he appointment of judges of Supreme Appellate Court GB is being delayed since long due to the stay order passed by the Supreme Court of Pakistan restraining the appointment of judges of Supreme Appellate Court GB," the resolution said while referring to the order issued on petition filed by ex-PM Khawaja Asif.

The Supreme Appellate Court GB has remained dysfunctional for over five years, which amounts to the "denial of fundamental rights" as provided under the Constitution of 1973 and the GB order 2018.

The house urged the Centre to move the SC to vacate its stay order.

Separately, the house broke into a noisy protest over an amendment to the law governing the chief minister's salary and benefits.

GB minister Ghulam Muhammad tabled a bill seeking amendment in the Chief Minister GB (Salaries, Allowances and Privileges) Act of 2021 to increase CM benefits and discretionary funds. It also called for establishing a separate camp office in Islamabad.

Death toll rises to 54 in India hooch tragedy

NEW DELHI: With more than 100 people still in hospital, the death toll has climbed to 54 from consumption of tainted liquor in India's southern state of Tamil Nadu, a government official said on Saturday.

Nearly 200 people have been treated since Wednesday for stomach aches and diarrhoea, after drinking liquor spiked with methanol in the district of Kallakurichi, about 250km

from the state capital Chennai.

Law enforcement officials investigating the incident have arrested seven people, said M.S. Prasad, a senior district official, adding that follow-up action was being taken against liquor sellers and brewers in the district.

Videos from ANI and local media showed state ministers and opposition leaders making a beeline to the district to meet the victims. There

was a mass cremation of the deceased and families carried out last rites only a few metres apart, videos showed, reminiscent of images from India during the height of Covid-19 pandemic.

Over a dozen people died last year in a similar incident in Tamil Nadu, while 115 deaths from tainted hooch consumption were reported in states of Bihar and Gujarat. —Agencies

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Pg.18 SPORT



THE electronics market in Saddle is crammed full with people buying battery-powered fans. A large number of localities in the metropolis are witnessing hours-long loadshedding being carried out by the K-Electric amid scorching heat and rising humidity for the past several days. —Shahid Adil/White Star

Uproar in PA after PPP lawmaker accuses Musharraf of 'ruining' LG system

- Comment on former military dictator goes down badly with Muttahida MPAs
- Speaker assures opposition of expunging un-parliamentary words
- Debate on Sindh budget 2024-25 continues

By Imran Ayub

KARACHI: The Sindh Assembly on Saturday witnessed a brief tense situation during the ongoing debate on budget proposals when a ruling Pakistan Peoples Party member criticised the local government system under General Pervez Musharraf regime which attracted strong reaction

from the opposition Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan pushing senior parliamentarians to move in and defuse the situation.

It all started when PPP MPA from Mafiz Sadiq Jakhro stood up on his turn to address the house while taking part in the budget debate with permission of Speaker Anwar Qadir Shah.

After leading "people's friendly budget" presented by his party and referring to several schemes of human development which were introduced from time to time in the history of Sindh, he turned to respond to the criticism on his party mainly from the opposition MQM-P.

Without naming the rival party, he targeted General Musharraf for "ruining the local government institutions".

He called it a "grave injustice" from the deceased "dictator" that he had put all institutions under the elected local government representatives to 2001 which lasted till 2010.

"It was no one else but General Musharraf who had ruined the institutions bringing them under the control of

Nazims [a term then used for city mayors]," said the PPP MPA.

Before Mr Jakhro could complete his sentence, the opposition MQM-P members started shouting, throwing desks and yelling at the ruling party MPA for his criticism of General Musharraf.

Amid growing uproar, shouting of desks and yelling, the MQM-P members were almost invisible. It emerged that the opposition was angry over remarks of Mr Jakhro against the deceased general.

"Why you get angry when I named General Musharraf? I am only criticising the dictator for his role and character. What this has to do with you?" asked Mr Jakhro while speaking continuously amid protest from the opposition.

As there was lot of shouting and commotion, senior PPP leader and Sindh Minister Syed Nadeem Hussain Shah stood up to intervene and finally succeeded in cooling down MQM-P members.

At the instance of MQM-P members, the Speaker also assured the opposition to "expunge all non-parliamentary words" of Mr Jakhro's speech from the

proceedings.

'Foul attitude'

Later, responding to the PPP member's speech, Kiran Masood of MQM-P criticised the "foul attitude" of the ruling party legislators and said that the assembly session on the crucial subject of budget didn't reflect true seriousness from the treasury side.

"Sometimes, this house gives a look of Mughal era court proceedings where the sides of the ruler only come to praise him," she said.

The same thoughts were shared by Rahan Akram of the MQM-P who alleged that the PPP MPAs were only opposing their leadership to get closer to them.

"The same MPAs who are proving the budget today and calling it most revolutionary document, would be crying tomorrow that nothing is done in their constituencies," he added. Hina Dastgheer of PPP admitted that there were a few shortcomings in the budget, but under the circumstances it carried the best possible proposals and estimates.

Mayor stunned by opposition's allegations after 'cordial meeting'

Jl's Saifuddin had accused Wahab of running the house like a 'dictator'

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Wondering over its allegations and complaints about the upcoming June 24 session of City Council to pass the budget of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation, Mayor Murtaza Wahab on Saturday challenged the opposition to prove its claims.

The mayor rejected every

claim of the City Council opposition and dubbed it as "hypocrisy" because on the one hand it had secured its support in the mayor for the budget session in one-on-one meeting but on the other, it came up with "false claims and allegations".

"I don't know what pushed the opposition leader [in City Council] to address a press conference and make false claims after our meeting," he said.

"We had a very cordial meeting in which I briefed him about the budget proposals. He hadn't brought any document and neither the opposition had filed any suggestions for the budget proposal. Their claims are bundles of lies. It was I who had invited

the opposition leader for meeting to develop understanding before the budget session and took the opposition's advice. He appreciated my initiative and assured his cooperation. But the next moment, he was addressing a presser," said the mayor.

On Friday, Mayor Wahab had held a meeting with Leader of the Opposition in the City Council Advocate Saifuddin at the meeting of the City Council is going to be held on June 24 to present the budget for the next financial year.

However, advocate Saifuddin decided to address a press conference an hour after his meeting with the mayor and claimed

that the meeting had failed to settle the issues between the two sides.

Although a statement issued by the mayor's office after the meeting gave an impression of cordial discussions between the two sides and exchange of thoughts over several issues, the opposition leader spoke otherwise.

He had accused the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party and the mayor of violating the set rules and traditions by ignoring the proposals from the opposition parties and running the housing on "dictatorial terms".

On Saturday, Mayor Wahab came up with his side of the story, negating every claim of

the opposition.

He said that in his meeting, he briefed advocate Saifuddin about the budget proposals that included estimates of Rs2.5 billion for the development of Karachi.

"I apprised him that development work of 210 schemes would be completed this year and also about release of around Rs1.5 billion from the Sindh Assembly to pay the dues of retired KMC workers. We had also agreed that the development schemes for the next financial year would be designed with the consultation of all parties in the opposition. But I wonder how wrongly the picture was painted in the presser," said the mayor.



Amjad Sabri remembered on 8th death anniversary

By Our Reporter

KARACHI: The eighth death anniversary of qawwali maestro Amjad Sabri was observed on Saturday.

Sabri was shot dead on June 23, 2016 by unidentified assailants near his home in Liaquatabad. Later, a military court had sentenced two Lashkar-e-Jhangvi militants to death on charges of their involvement in the murder.

Talking to Dawn, a family member of the late musician said that the Quran khwani was held at his place in Liaquatabad.

Earlier, members of the family visited the grave of the late qawwali in the Paposhnagar graveyard to offer fatiha. Arrangements were also made for the Iqbal.

Amjad, son of renowned qawwali Ghulam Farid Sabri and nephew of Maghbool Sabri, was one of the most sought-after qawwals of the country.

Some of his most famous qawwals were Tajdar-i-Mahmud and Shair-e-Jahid. He was awarded Pride of Performance and Sitara-i-Imtiaz for his meritorious services in the field of Sufi music, according to APP.

NCA, PIFD to open their campuses in Karachi

Education Minister Khalid Maqbool says the two campuses will offer "employable skill-based short courses" to youth of Sindh

Dawn Report

KARACHI: Two Lahore-based prestigious educational institutions in the country — the National College of Arts (NCA) and Pakistan Institute of Fashion and Design (PIFD) — will soon open their campuses in Karachi.

This was announced by Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan chairman and Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui at a press conference here on Saturday.

He was accompanied by the vice chairman of the NCA, PIFD, chairman of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and other senior officials.

The minister said that the NCA and PIFD campuses would offer "employable skill-based short courses" to the youth of Sindh.

Rejecting an impression that the working of the federal education ministry was limited to Islamabad alone, he said that its ambit was spread across the country.

At the outset, he said it was essential for the country to train the youth, who constitutes 60 per cent of its population, for employment and raise the benefit of population bulge.

He mentioned the example of neighbouring countries which had used their giant population as their workforce and achieved technological development.

Similarly, he said, Pakistan also needed to decide accordingly and equip the youth with employment focused skills.

In addition to this, he announced that

courses and centres of the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NATTC) were being increased.

He said that several national and international institutions such as Huawei and Microsoft were being engaged to impart training to the youth of Pakistan.

Further, he said that global trends were changing rapidly and only education could save Pakistan. Therefore, right decisions are the need of the hour for Pakistan, he added.

In a response to a question regarding brain drain, Dr Siddiqui said that it's a positive trend if young people were moving abroad as it will eventually result in more remittances from them and improve the country's global presence.

When asked about his stance on the restoration of student unions, he said that both students and trade unions were very important as these institutions played the role of nurseries for future political leaders.



FEDERAL Minister Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, along with Higher Education Commission chairman Dr Mukhtar Ahmed, speaks at the press conference, on Saturday. —APP

IHC fines appellant for dragging siblings in ‘unnecessary’ litigation

Dismisses appeal against order of civil judge

By Malik Anad

ISLAMABAD: Justice Mianogil Hassan Awanagah of Islamabad High Court (IHC) imposed a fine on an appellant for dragging her siblings in an unnecessary litigation over a property dispute and dismissed the appeal.

Dr Farah Sahail had filed an appeal against the order of a civil judge in which he declared that the disputed house situated in the push sector E-7 was for partitioned and gave verdict in favour of the petitioner's siblings.

Dr Farah Sahail, who occupies the property, impugned the preliminary judgment and decrees dated May 8, 2023 passed by the Court of the Civil Judge, Islamabad, on the inheritance dispute over this house.

The house was constructed on a plot measuring 933.33 square yards by Arjum Ara Sahail and Zarina Zahoor who jointly purchased the land from Mohammad Hossain in 1981.

One portion bearing House No 181-A was in the possession of Arjum Ara Sahail, whereas the other bearing House No 181-B was occupied by Zarina Zahoor. Both these portions have separate gates and a wall between them and constitute the suit property.

After the demise of Arjum Ara Sahail, her share in the suit property was transferred to her four daughters, Dr Farah Sahail, Dr Fouzia Humayun, Huma Sahail and Humaira Sahail.

Zarina Zahoor gifted her share in the suit property to her two daughters Rubina Sadia Rehman and Aashya Zahoor Jan and in this regard, the Estate Management Directorate of the CDA issued letter on October 25, 2016.

The daughters of Zarina Zahoor have remained in possession of House No 181-B to the exclusion of the other co-owners of the suit property.

With regard to House No 181-A, after the demise of Arjum Ara Sahail's husband, it remained in Dr Farah's possession to the exclusion of her sisters. The continuation of this state of affairs over a long period caused her three sisters to file a suit for declaration, separate possession through partition.

Dr Farah contested before the court that the suit property could not be partitioned since it was purchased jointly by Arjum Ara Sahail and Zarina Zahoor.

In order to ascertain the factual position, Justice Awanagah appointed Ch Abdul Hammed, Advocate as a local commission with the direction to submit a report regarding the approximate value of the appellant Dr Farah and her respondent sisters property and share.

The court also appointed Deputy Registrar Umar Farooq as process Mediator in this matter.

An order dated Oct 23, 2023 submitted by the mediator, the contesting parties, including respondents participated in the process of mediation but were not able to arrive at an amicable settlement. Thereafter, arguments of the contesting parties were heard by the IHC.

The court dismissed the appeal of Dr Farah and directed her to pay Rs200,000 to each of the respondents.



FLOWERS on Amaltas trees bloom on a greenbelt along a road in G-8 sector. — White Star

Elevating medical education standards vital for citizens' health: Dar

By Iram Junaidi

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Saturday said that elevating medical education standards was critical for the health and well-being of citizens.

"Our institutions must be empowered to provide top-tier education and training to our future medical professionals," he said while chairing the second meeting of the committee on 'Medical Education'.

He stressed on the importance of nurturing a conducive environment for medical students to enable them to excel and contribute meaningfully to the healthcare sector.

"Our government is committed to supporting the next generation of healthcare professionals and ensuring that they receive the best possible education and training," Mr Dar said, emphasizing the government's dedication to enhancing healthcare through comprehensive improvements in medical training and education and come up with concrete recommendations.

According to a statement, the meeting was attended by National Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Health Dr Malik Mukhtar Ahmad Bharrath, Law Minister Aram Nawaz Tarrar, MNA Dr Nafeesa Shah, Health Secretary Nadeem Melkoth, Pakistan Medical and Dental Council President Prof Dr Riazwan Taj, Higher Education Commission chairman, CPSP president, additional foreign secretary and heads



DEPUTY Prime Minister Ishaq Dar presides over a meeting of the committee on medical education on Saturday. — APP

of prominent public and private medical institutions as well as eminent experts from the medical community.

In his opening address, the deputy prime minister highlighted the essential role of robust medical education in tackling the nation's healthcare challenges.

The discussion focused on improving the quality of medical education in Pakistan, including but not limited to, bringing education in par with international best practices, measures to streamline admission in foreign medical colleges, improving coordination between public and private sector as well as regulatory bodies to ensure uni-

form quality of education.

The next meeting will be held on June 29 after which a report will be submitted to the prime minister.

It is worth mentioning here that, in the third week of May, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had established a 25-member committee to address medical education issues and discuss adjusting students, who returned from Kyrgyzstan, in Pakistani medical colleges.

The committee had to submit its report in 30 days but it (report) could not be finalised till date.

The committee, headed by Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, held its first meeting

in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The members of the committee include Minister for Economic Affairs Ahsan Chaudhry, Law Minister Aram Nawaz Tarrar, PM Coordinator on Health Dr Malik Mukhtar Ahmad Bharrath, MNA Dr Nafeesa Shah, retired Maj Gen Ashraf Kayani, secretaries of ministries of health and foreign affairs, HEC chairman, PMDC President Dr Riazwan Taj, Vice Chancellor (VC) Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University Prof Tariq Iqbal, Dean Riphah Medical College Dr Mohammad Awanagah, provincial secretaries and others.

A member of the committee, wishing not to be quoted, said the committee was considering challenges the public sector and private medical colleges were facing.

"Moreover, quality of education is also being discussed. We are also looking into the deficiency of seats in public and private medical colleges so that the difference of demand and supply could be bridged," he said.

The member said the committee was also looking into the registration process of medical colleges and would discuss the admission of students in medical colleges which were not registered.

"The committee will also devise a policy regarding admission of students in foreign medical colleges and will also analyse how many of them were studying abroad," he said.

It is worth mentioning here that the committee was established after hundreds of Pakistani students returned following violent clashes in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Terrorist attack on army men in Kurram condemned

By Our Correspondent

TAKHLA: District Monitoring Committee Members and former provincial minister Jahangir Khanzada on Saturday condemned the terror attack on army personnel in Kurram district in which five soldiers were martyred.

Talking to newsmen in Attack on Saturday, he commended the patriotism and sense of duty of the martyrs as well as the crucial role of security forces in eradicating terrorism from the country.

"I am son of a loyal soldier Col Shuja Khanzada who laid down his life for this soil and country and I understand grief and sorrow of the families of the five soldiers," Mr Khanzada said.

The soldiers embraced martyrdom after terrorists targeted their vehicle in the general area of Sadka in Kurram district attack using an improvised explosive device (IED), he said.

He offered his heartfelt condolences to the families of the martyrs, praying for the bereaved families to bear the loss with equanimity.

He also prayed to Allah Almighty to give the martyr highest place in Jannah.

Meanwhile, Soggy Anand Sahai was laid to rest in his native graveyard with full military honour.

Pakistan Ordnance Factories (POF) chief Lt Gen Tahir Hameed Shah along with other military officials participated in the guard of honours.

Anand was among five soldiers who laid down their lives after an improvised explosive device (IED) targeted their vehicle in the general area of Sadka in Kurram district.

Soggy Anand's father, Mr Sahai, was a retired clerk at the Convent School.

Police say CCTV cameras of Judicial Complex were out of order on May 29

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The capital police in a report submitted to the district and sessions court claimed that all the closed-circuit TV (CCTV) cameras installed on the District Judicial Complex 45-1114 were out of order on May 29 when Rukhsa Bibi's ex-husband Khawar Manika was manhandled on the court premises.

Police said Daraz that the report had recently been submitted in the court of Additional Sessions Judge Afzal Majoka, after the adjudicator sought CCTV footage of the day.

According to the report, police found out of order all the CCTV cameras installed in rooms and on the premises.

They further said that on that day Khawar Manika appeared before the court of District and Sessions Judge (DSJ) Shahzad Ahmad to record his statement in marriage after libel case.

Reportedly, Manika used foul language against PFI founder chairman and also misbehaved with the judge. This prompted a strong response from the PFI supporters and lawyers who retaliated by hurling water bottles on Manika and physically abusing

him when he came out of the courtroom.

A case was registered at Remna police station under Section 7 of Anti-Terrorism Act along with 324, 504, 186, 500a, 147, 149, 341, 353 and 362 of PPC in response to a complaint lodged by Inspector Imtiaz Ahmed, against six nominated lawyers and 20 to 25 other persons, including women.

Those who were nominated in the FIR, approached the additional sessions judge Afzal Majoka and submitted petition under section CrPC 22-A, seeking directives for the police to produce May 29 CCTV footage.

'Save Gaza' sit-in ends

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The 41-day long 'Save Gaza' sit-in at D-Chowk came to an end on Saturday after Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi assured the participants that the government had no objections to their demands.

According to a press release, the participants of the Save Gaza campaign announced that they were going to end their sit-in following their meeting with Mohsin Naqvi.

Talking to participants of the campaign, the minister said every Pakistani had similar feelings for Palestine and they had no objections to any of their demands.

He said Pakistan was already playing its role in this regard and would also work on the implementation of recommendations made by the Save Gaza campaign.

The minister also offered his condolence to the families of two persons who lost their lives in an unfortunate incident during the sit-in.

Over 400 Sikh pilgrims reach Punja Sahib to observe Ranjit Singh's death anniversary

By Our Correspondent

TAKHLA: The visiting Indian Sikh pilgrims on Saturday termed Pakistan as their second home as some of their holiest places were located on this side of the border.

Majority of the Indian pilgrims, most of them senior citizens, were first time pilgrims.

Talking to newsmen on their arrival at Gurdwara Punja Sahib in Hassanabdal, the pilgrims expressed their immense joy on visiting Pakistan, saying that it was their good fortune that they were visiting the land of their Gurmastars.

A total of 447 Indian Sikh pilgrims arrived in Hassanabdal to offer their rituals in connection with the 185th death anniversary of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, who

ruled over Punjab in the 18th century and was the first maharaja of the Sikh Empire.

Sardar Khuddevant Singh, who was heading the jatha of pilgrims, said the people and government of Pakistan had always been welcoming and had taken good care of the Sikh holy sites which was why the country and its people were so dear to the Sikhs.

"We are feeling happy and comfortable here and we thank the government and the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) for making the best arrangements," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, deputy jatha leader Harjinder Kaur said Pakistan was very important for Sikhs because this was where Guru Nanak Dev was born and died.

She said the death anniversary of Maharaja Ranjit Singh

was an important event in the Sikh religious calendar as he was the first ruler of the Sikh Empire. Mr Kaur said Sikh pilgrims came to Pakistan with the message of love, peace, friendship and harmony.

She expressed gratitude to the government for granting visas to the Sikh pilgrims.

Talking to newsmen on the occasion, Assistant Commissioner Hassanabdal Arif Qureshi said the local administration in collaboration with the ETPB, police and Pakistan Gurdwara Parbandhak committee completed security, administrative and logistic arrangements.

He said over 600 policemen had been deployed for the safety and security of the visiting pilgrims while three cold water, clean washrooms and comfortable sitting

arrangements were ensured for the pilgrims.

Responding to a question about the schedule of the visiting pilgrims, Mr Qureshi said after staying for one day at Gurdwara Punja Sahib, the pilgrims would travel to Nanakana Sahib on June 24. During their stay at Gurdwara Janam Asthan, they will visit Gurdwara Sacha Sauda in Farooqabad on June 24 and then return to Janam Asthan Nanakana Sahib. On June 25, they will visit Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib in Narowal, and after a one-day stay, they will proceed to Gurdwara Rohri Sahib in Islamabad on June 27, before returning to Lahore. The rituals will end with the commemoration of Maharaja Ranjit Singh's death anniversary on June 29 at Gurdwara Dhara Sahib in Lahore.



A PILGRIM recites the Sikh holy book Guru Granth Sahib at Gurdwara Punja Sahib in Hassanabdal on Saturday. — Dawn



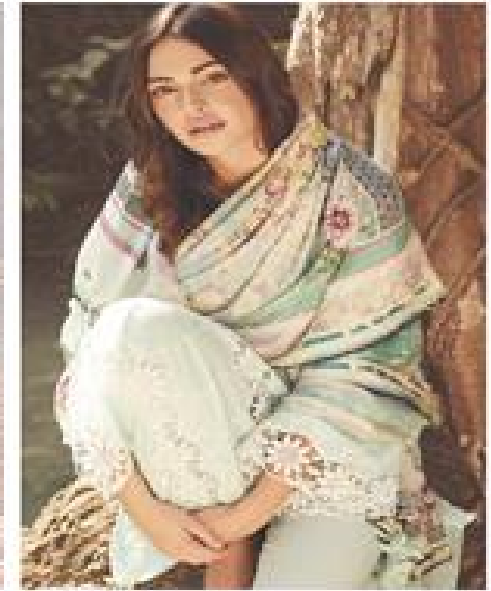
JOURNEY TO NOWHERE

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► STYLE



THE BUSINESS OF FASHION 101

By Maliha Rehman

Brand identity is all about devising a particular mix of colour and embellishments that has an instantly recognisable aesthetic, and keeping a stringent eye on quality, so that the customers keep coming back.

Fads come and go. Brands may rise to the top, indulge in unnecessary braggadocio and, inevitably, fade out. But the ones that last the long haul understand that, beyond the glamour and the accolades, the business of fashion is, ultimately, a business.

One brand that has understood this well is Image Fabrics, the high-street mallmart that was born back in 1999 and which has since been expanding and evolving according to the changing tastes of its customers.

The brand may now be more than three decades old, but it certainly can't be accused of being fuddy-duddy. Its very recognisable design ethos and constant innovations have ensured that it remains a fashion heavyweight. It caters to the *begums* just as easily as to the working woman and the college girl, offering a mishmash of high-end premium apparel as well as entire ranges priced down on sale.

Farnaz Ahmad, director and co-founder of Image Fabrics, points out the key factor that has ensured the brand's popularity: "We never compromise on quality, even if that means that our prices may sometimes be higher than those of our competitors."

Growing up in a business-centric family, over the years, I absorbed so many do's and don'ts that were part of the breakfast table conversation. "Never take customers for fools", my elders would say, "because when you cut corners and bring down quality, they can sense it. They may not be able to put their finger on it, but they will know that something is wrong."

A valuable lesson in the business of Fashion 101 — the entire interview, in fact, could form the crux of a case study. The local high-street is an increasingly cluttered one and customers tend to be fickle — not many brands manage to retain their customer base for as long as Image has and Farnaz lets me in on some of the key factors propelling their business forward.

I am meeting Farnaz and her daughters, Uma Ahmad and Mariam Ahmad — the fourth member. Farnaz's husband Anad Ahmad, is missing — at their head office on Karachi's Sharni Faisal. As we sit in a meeting room, I notice they are all wearing outfits from various Image Fabrics collections.

"Only the fabric is outsourced, from some very reliable suppliers," Farnaz tells me. "The rest of the manufacturing is done in-house."

A lot of brands also outsource embroideries, I point out. "But we don't," she says. "The fabric arrives at the factory once it has been inspected and approved, where it goes through multiple stages of embroidering, stitching, cutting, the addition of details, before the final look emerges."

"There is a beauty to seeing the CAD (Computer-Aided Design) team at work, and for the fabric to pass through the embroidery machine and to see a flower come to life with thread or laser cut-work."

The other gospel essential to Farnaz and her team is the remaining of the brand identity.

"Uma joined the business back in 2014 and, till then, we had only been selling fabric by the metre," recalls Farnaz. "She told me that she would create some designs for the launch of our ready-to-wear line and came up with some ideas. I took one look at them and told her to throw them away. They were designs that may have been trending at the time but they did not reflect our identity."

"I firmly believe that the market doesn't know better until you offer it something better and that's what we would do. Our forte has always been cutwork and Schiffl embroidery. So, if we were to create a ready-to-

Image Fabrics has stood its ground and, in fact, grown by leaps and bounds after more than three whopping decades in the business. It's co-founder and director Farnaz Ahmad provides a primer on the basics of how to create and maintain a brand identity



Farnaz Ahmad

wear line, it had to be true to our roots.

"So I instructed Uma to visit our library of archives and select ten designs from the '90s, add lace to them, stitch them neatly and we would have our new line ready!"

"By 2016, we expanded from fabric to fashion. Mariam joined in and we also plunged into e-commerce."

Did their clientele expand once ready-to-wear was



added to the line-up of products?

"Yes, almost immediately," says Farnaz. "To be honest, our audience had started to shrink. Till then, we had only been manufacturing fabric by metre. Now, we started dabbling with ready-to-wear and, then, we introduced our brown line, Lawankari."

"With fabric by metre, customers have to figure out how much fabric they need and what faces and

embellishments they would want to add to it. With Lawankari, we have done the thinking for you: the shirt from, back, sleeves, dupatta and trousers have already been designed and they just have to be stitched."

She adds: "There was one thing that I was sure of: I wouldn't want to come up with a lawn collection that

FARNAZ AHMAD, PAGE 3

ICON

CINEMASCOPE



IRaH's biggest issue is that, in a mob of dubious, despicable characters, there is no one one wants to cheer for

PACE OVER STORY

In *IRaH*, a Bollywood film made in the UK that makes it to Pakistani cinemas on a technicality, Rohit Roy plays Harit Singh, a multi-millionaire who gets killed on the eve of launching an advanced artificial intelligence-backed application. The app steals every last bit of people's data — including their photorealistic digital likenesses — and uses it to provide "better service."

This Google-like service, called *IRaH* (version 5.0), and its supercomputer data center, nicknamed "the brain", is revolutionary and very much in demand by the English government, the media, and a malicious hood-rearing hacker who has broken into the unbreakable system and uses it to selectively kill key members of *IRaH*'s board, each worth millions.

The lot includes Tiya (Tina Sharma), Jasmina (Kareishma Kotaka), Inayat (Rakshith Bhundarri) and Raft (Aniket Chana) — all relatively bad, immoral, corrupt and uninteresting people in their own right. Harit, also as bad as the others, however is kept alive and made witness to the killings by the hacker.

Harit, who also has a son, a mother and a very shady past, isn't the guy one should be rooting for in *IRaH*, but then again, no one in the film — including the honest officer played by Rajesh Sharma — is worth rooting for...and herein lies the problem.

In a mob of dubious, despicable characters that includes the Russian Mafia's somewhat nice mob-boss played by Nayef Rashid, who should one be cheering for?

That decision-making is alleviated somewhat by director Sam Bhattacharjee and screenwriters Sora Bodinar and Luke Hetherington. Set firmly in a ticking-clock narrative, with the sentient version of the app, and the company's public mock, set to launch in some 40-



odd hours, the plot whizzes between the past and the present in a bid to keep the pace engaging enough to not question the loopholes of the shaky premise.

The tactic works, irrespective of demerit by the unexciting songs and the constricted production budget.

There is little mystery on who the masterminds behind the kidnapping and ransom are, but in the ridiculous, far-fetched scope of the film, that doesn't matter much. *IRaH* is fairly adequate — even good-enough — at times, and it does justice to its techno-thriller genre, the premise and the statement it wants to make against handing over one's identity to artificial intelligence.

Now, only if the cast was better — *Rohit Roy* and *Rajesh Sharma* are the only good actors in the line-up — this would have been a better film. ■

Released by Eveready Pictures, IRaH is rated PG by the South Cinema Board. Other than some brief instances of fake-romanticism, a song featuring dancers with little clothes, and scenes that affirm the sexual indulgence of characters, there isn't much to worry about here. Actually, now that I think about it, keep the kiddies away from this one.

THE GRAPEVINE

By PYT

BLAME SYSTEM



The whole system is responsible for this collapse. We agree. Even certain hosts on TV sound unstable.

The whole Pakistani nation felt utterly dejected when its national cricket team lost a crucial match against India in the ongoing T20 World Cup being held in North America. Social media was full of negative comments against the squad. TV actor and host Anoushey Ashraf didn't like it. She wrote in a message on Instagram: "Let's not just blame the boys. Their performance is a clear reflection of who we are as a nation today. Unstable, disorganised and walking on eggshells all the time."

THE FACE WITH STORIES

Filmmaker Sagib Malik is an ardent admirer of Lolly wood superstar Meera. His film *Flight*, which came out four years ago, had her as the chief protagonist. Last week, the director gave an interview in which, among other things, he said the following about the actress: "She's extremely talented. Her face talks a lot. You don't have to do much with her face. You put her there and her face has thousands of stories to tell." To be honest, it's not just the face. Meera is not a reticent person, she herself has thousands of stories to tell in three languages — Urdu, Punjabi and English.



GAZA, RUFFALO, HOLLYWOOD



When Israel announced on June 8 that four hostages kidnapped by Hamas were rescued, actor Mark Ruffalo wrote these lines on X: "It's so good to see the hostages return. A ceasefire would have gotten many more hostages back and no civilians and children killed. This siege is cruel and senseless. Grinding innocent human beings and their culture into blood soaked rubble and dust, to be buried and forgotten. Four for 274 including kids. It's a sinful equation that keeps repeating." Mark R, you're a true gentleman and a conscientious human being, unlike countless of your Hollywood colleagues.

THE OFFER

What's with Pakistani actors and their talk about getting offers from India? The recent example is of Sonya Hussyn. According to her, in the past, she received three offers to work in Indian movies. One of them, she says, was a version of a Shakespearean comedy, another was a remake of a Sanjay Kumar film, and the third was alongside Emran Hashmi, for which she never had a meeting with the makers of the movie. Aside from the fact that the third film seems to have had no story, given Emran H's reputation for doing certain scenes well, Sonya H probably borrowed from Shakespeare and said, "Forsooth."



WEDDING BELLS



Dubaregi girl Sonakshi Sinha is about to marry her boyfriend actor Zaheer Iqbal. In fact, the wedding is scheduled for the same day this news item will see the light of day, in June 23. The two have been seeing each other for a few years now and, if insiders are to be believed, they have been together since they worked alongside each other in the film *Double XL*. We congratulate the two and wish them a happily married life, whether *double XL* or *dubaregi*!

TWO TIMES HAPPY

Almost a year ago, the acting duo Naomi Watts and Billy Crudup tied the nuptial knot in New York. They received congratulatory messages from all across the globe. But not finding it enough to prove that they have decided to be husband and wife in front of the entire world, on June 8 they had another wedding ceremony in Mexico City, attended by friends and families of the pair. By the way, their three children from their first marriage — Naomi W's two and Billy C's one — were also present on the occasion. Now that's what we call confidence about being second time lucky!



WIDE ANGLE

Inside Out 2 and how this fresh sequel shows teenage anxiety is not always a bad thing

TEENS REGULATING EMOTIONS

By Alana James

When we think of teenagers experiencing anxiety, we're likely to think about it as a mental health concern. But *Inside Out 2* shows that anxiety is a normal feeling and can have a positive purpose — so long as it doesn't take over.

The film is a sequel to the enormously successful Pixar animation *Inside Out* (2015), which tells the story of 11-year-old Riley, who has to navigate moving to a new city while her emotions — personified as Joy, Sadness, Anger, Fear and Disgust — struggle to maintain balance within her mind.

In *Inside Out 2*, we return to Riley's life in San Francisco, where she has made new best friends and is rocking it on the ice hockey rink. Her core emotions are now a well-functioning team. All is going well. Until the puberty alarm goes off.

As with *Inside Out*, the sequel has a lot of fun with imagining our internal processes visually. Puberty throws a literal wrecking ball into Riley's mental headquarters, as the builders arrive to do some remodelling. This is a neat way of showing that puberty not only brings psychological, physical and hormonal changes, but also influences brain development.

In the film, this reconstruction makes room for new personified emotions: Anxiety, Embarrassment, Envy and Insecurity. In reality, we don't suddenly develop extra emotions in our teenage years, but our emotional experiences are more intense and less stable than in adulthood.

The new emotional characters help Riley to navigate the challenges of teenage life. Most of the story takes place at hockey camp, a microcosm of the adolescent social world.



The emotions react to the puberty button | Disney

Riley is about to transition to high school, where she hopes to become a member of the ice hockey team, the Firehawks. At hockey camp, she is torn between her friends from her former school and the desire to impress the older, cooler Firehawks players.

Here, we see how anxiety can play a positive role in our lives. Anxiety takes charge and is shown as a future-looking emotion that helps Riley try to avoid bad consequences.

A big driver for Riley's anxiety is the fear that she could have no friends in high school. This is a reasonable thing to worry about. Peer relationships become increasingly important in adolescence and teenage experiences of friendship are linked to our well-being.

In the world of *Inside Out 2*, Friendship Island (which represents Riley's time with, and love for, her family) is still present, but stands in the shadow of the large and exciting Friendship Island. Riley's actions are full

of typical teenage awkwardness, but Anxiety and the other new emotion characters are working towards meaningful goals.

It is right that we should be worried about the risks of anxiety in young people. Anxiety disorders can develop from early childhood. Generalised anxiety disorder is the most prevalent form among early adolescents.

There is evidence that rates of anxiety in adolescents have been increasing, and that these have long-term impact on a range of outcomes, from school performance to earnings in adulthood.

However, there is a difference between the feeling of anxiety that we see in *Inside Out 2* and an anxiety disorder. Having worries is a typical part of growing up, just as it is a typical part of adult life.

As shown in the film, the problem can arise when anxiety increasingly takes over. A new concept introduced is the development of the sense of self, made up of moments

of beliefs Riley holds about herself which are connected to her memories, such as: "I am a good friend."

Anxiety decides that Riley's existing sense of self is no longer fit for purpose and throws it away, causing Joy and the other original emotions to journey into the depths of the mind to rescue it. And if you want to learn what Riley's deepest, darkest secret is, stay for the post-credits scene.

As a psychologist I appreciated that *Inside Out 2* shows emotion regulation — the ways in which we manage our emotional responses. When anxiety takes over, the core emotions from *Inside Out* are bottled up and suppressed. Suppression can help us to handle difficult situations, such as Riley holding back tears until she is no longer in front of people.

However, research has found that another strategy, cognitive reappraisal, is linked to better psychological outcomes in adolescents. Reappraisal involves thinking about a situation differently, so that you feel a different emotional response, such as seeing a challenge as an opportunity instead.

The old and new emotions must figure out how to work together, arguably reappraising the situation. Joy learns to see the arrival of the new emotional characters differently and recognises that Riley's sense of self needs to evolve and be made up of all of her emotional experiences and memories. Anxiety can play a useful role, so long as it doesn't become overwhelming.

The story arc was at times reminiscent of Joy learning to appreciate the role of Sadness in *Inside Out*, but the plot and added psychological complexity are interesting enough that the sequel still feels fresh. ■

The writer is an Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Reading in the UK

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Karachi's new master plan must take into consideration a whole world of local and global, social, economic and technological change in order to address the myriad and complex issues plaguing the city

A DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR KARACHI 2047

By Arif Hasan



Karachi has had many master plans and, from what one gathers, another one is being constructed. None of the previous development plans have been implemented or even completed on the drawing boards. Their authors claim that this is because the city changes faster than the plan's implementation.

And this is true, because much of Karachi has developed in an ad-hoc manner, except for its formally developed areas, which mainly consist of elite and upper-class residential and commercial settlements and are planned based on European theory and practice. This is not only in terms of physical planning, but also of a societal vision on how people should live, relate to each other, educate their children and manage their health.

Well, this has not worked out too well, as social and demographic conditions changed, but by-laws, zoning regulations and anti-poor bias in planning and policy remained the same as were gifted to us by our colonial masters.

As a result, 60 percent of Karachi households live and work in informal settlements, which try to copy the formal sector design but with much higher densities, smaller lots of plots, narrower streets and up to six to 10 persons per room. In addition, these settlements have no parks, schools and specially planned health spaces.

To plan a city like Karachi, it is important to understand how it is functioning at the time of planning and, luckily, there are a lot of studies that can help us in doing this. Much of these studies were prepared for the previous master plan on various aspects of the city. In the previous two to three decades, academic institutions and NGOs have also added to this knowledge. This article uses the knowledge that has been developed by these studies and the media to identify the needs of Karachi's citizens and the manner in which they can be catered to by creating a vision for the city, as well as suggests a process for implementing that vision.

IMPROVING THE EXISTING CITY

As said earlier, informal settlements contain over 60 percent of Karachi households. It is not possible that, by 2047, new additions to the city will be larger than what exists today. Therefore, the main task of any plan will be to retrofit and improve the existing settlements, and their social and physical infrastructure.

Retrofitting houses will require cross-ventilation, insulation and the prevention of stagnant water within the house, as these are major causes of disease. Settlement retrofitting will also require the creation of open public spaces, schools, a community centre and sports areas. This can be provided by removing existing houses on a small scale and replacing them by ground plus three apartments for those houses that will be affected.

Easily accessible health facilities that are linked to a major hospital are also required, along with mobile clinics. The Union of International Architects, in its 2023 congress, also pointed out that one of the most

problematic issues in healthcare is the difficult-to-reach location of health facilities, even in the developed world.

TRANSPORT ISSUES

Both physical and social planners agree that the major problem that the city faces today is transportation. Dr Norman Ahmed, dean of NED University, has pointed out that the cost of the Blue Rapid Transit (BRT) plan, including the circular railway for Karachi, is Rs 320.6 billion, while

The previous plan's vision was to turn Karachi into a world-class city, meaning that it would resemble a first world city like Dubai, with high-rise buildings, malls and light rail or BRT transportation built through direct foreign investment. This sounds good, but cities that have followed this formula have not been able to solve their transport problems, because of an increase in automobiles.

Pakistan's entire GDP is Rs 84,579 billion. This is irrational, and it will mean taking large loans for construction, maintaining and operating the system.

Meanwhile, Dr Saad-ul-Amin, another academic, has pointed out in a presentation that more than one-third of the population of Karachi travels by three-wheeler Qingshi, for which the government provides no subsidy for the purchase of vehicles or maintenance. Garbage and cargo are also picked up by subsidy-free three-wheelers; he feels that this is a three-wheeler subsidy-free revolution that should be explored for a possible solution.

Every strategic plan also has a vision for the city, which lays the priorities that the development of the city is to follow. The previous plan's vision was to turn Karachi into a world-class city, meaning that it would resemble a

first world city like Dubai, with high-rise buildings, malls and light rail or BRT transportation built through direct foreign investment.

This sounds good, but cities that have followed this formula have not been able to solve their transport problems, because of an increase in automobiles. In 2018, Karachi's vehicular transport increased to 900 vehicles per day, Delhi's to 1,440 per day and Bangkok's to 1,750 per day. This is because of easy bank loans for the purchase of vehicles and the pressure from a powerful road and petroleum nexus. Karachi will have to deal with this powerful nexus.

According to a study done by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in 2004, the majority of travel trips in Karachi are on foot and some of them are of very large distances. People make these trips mostly on the roads where the footpaths either do not exist or are in a bad state of repair, or are encroached upon by billboards, ad-hoc trees, and disorganised spaces for hawkers. Therefore, it is safe to say that the vision for Karachi should be for a pedestrian and commuter-friendly city.

Women especially find unsafe making pedestrian trips after dark, because of the absence of properly defined pavements and street lights. Some of the walking trips are already very long and, with safe, well-lit pavements and benches for waiting and clean toilets, they can be increased both in number and length.

This is especially true of intercity areas and streets leading to Sharni Road and Nazimabad Avenue. This will not only reduce the cost of commuting but also create safe spaces for walking, which the younger generation of women in Karachi demand in most surveys.

Transport affects the lives of Karachi residents in many ways. Karachi Urban Resource Centre surveys show that women often have to give up the possibility of a good job just because of the non-availability of affordable transportation. They also often have to forego the possibility of higher education because of the cost of commuting.

Because of the cost of education, parents have to decide as to which child should be given and which child should be denied education. These issues create conflict between families and lead to social instability. All this while over 700 Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) school buildings, most of which are vacant, with paid teachers but no students. The revival of these and similar abandoned institutions should be seriously considered.

THE PARKING DILEMMA

As mentioned earlier, congestion and traffic on the roads affects everybody in Karachi. Car and motorcycle parking is also a major issue, and so is the parking and terminals for public transport, especially along the existing Green Line corridor, and it will be the same for other corridors as well. Parking for public sector BRT and circular railway stations must be

MASTERING KARACHI'S 'MASTER PLAN' 2047

KARACHI DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2047, PAGE 1

provided so as to facilitate the change of transport modes and consumers.

Providing space for parking today is taken care of by private entrepreneurs and the KMC to occupy and manage any space that is available for parking against a reasonable cost for a day of around Rs 1,000 a month. Can this be integrated into some sort of system?

It has been noticed that, parallel to some very busy streets, there are streets and areas that are not congested at all, and through traffic re-organisation, a lot more space can be created for parking. It has been suggested that a spatial re-organisation of the city needs to be done, especially where problems are most intense, and parking in the basement under the roads should be created.

Our city is full of flyovers and underpasses — whenever there is traffic congestion, we build an underpass or a flyover to solve that problem. According to traffic engineers, that is the most expensive and least effective of solutions. What is required is a proper traffic management plan. Manhattan has more vehicles than Karachi, but it does not have so many traffic jams or underpasses and flyovers — it has a lot more management.

KARACHI'S STREET ECONOMY

Karachi also has a well-organised street economy. It is estimated that there are 150,000 hawkers in the city, who individually earn Rs 4,000 per day or Rs 219 billion per year as retailers. This does not include the supply and manufacturing chains, which are perhaps larger and make more than what the retailers earn.

These hawkers are often removed from the pavements by the Karachi administration with the help of the police and rangers and without any compensation or space for relocation, thus causing immense losses to the hawkers, middlemen and manufacturers. This is a huge loss to Karachi's economy as a whole, and especially to Karachi's informal economy.

It is necessary to provide these hawkers with secure spaces that they can rent from the state. These spaces should be provided in an aesthetic manner and should not obstruct pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Studies and designs have shown that this is possible.

Meanwhile, informally both settlements should not be bulldozed without alternative housing being built for their residents at a location where they can conduct their businesses and have access to social facilities. A cut-off date should be set for this through negotiations between the hawkers' associations and Karachi's administration. In planning new settlements, space for the working class population should be allocated and the methodology to acquire it should be formulated.

It should be mentioned here that the organisations linked to the hawkers' supply chain import tea from Sri Lanka and Kenya, dry fruits from Afghanistan, and exotic animals and birds from Singapore and Latin America, and eggs from all over Pakistan.

Bazaar (Thrift) bazaars have been established all over Karachi, with the increasing participation of women, which should be promoted. There are also a number of book bazaars all over Karachi, which are very popular and, in the absence of space, they are forced to use pavements to function, which the administration makes difficult. Such bazaars are very popular with Karachi's middle class intellectuals and affordable for students and teachers.

SUPPORTING THE INFORMAL ECONOMY

The informal economy manufacturing chain requires cheap energy and training in manufacturing items. It caters to the low income and lower-middle income communities today but, tomorrow, it will have to cater to changes in technology, especially for students of colleges and universities. This informal supply chain makes items cheap enough for students to purchase, without which the teaching of many technical subjects would not be possible.

A very important part of this huge manufacturing and retailing enterprise is the manner in which it is funded. The loans required for commencing non-technical businesses are between Rs 100,000 to Rs 150,000, which does not include payment for a space on the pavement, which varies depending on the location of the space.

The rest of the finance required can be had from lenders in the market, at an interest of eight to 10 percent per month or from other persons employed in the same field or from shops before whom the retailer establishes a stall. Shopkeepers feel that with hawkers on the pavements before them, they increase their business.

Without this informal loan system, much of the jobs and finances of Karachi would not be generated. For giving and taking, only an oral agreement is often required, provided it is done in the presence of someone respected. It is also not uncommon to negotiate a loan by mortgaging some belongings, such as a motorcycle.

Small *diyas* (grocery) shops in the neighbourhood also provide loans to their clients, which are repaid at the end of every month. Without such credit facilities, running a household in Karachi would be very difficult.

Attempts at establishing micro-credit companies have not been successful because of the formalities involved at a high rate of interest. In addition, cultural familiarity with the established system is also a major reason for the failure of the more formal systems.

THE SEARCH FOR A ROOF

According to surveys by the Karachi Urban Resource Centre (URC), most people in Karachi feel that, if they are poor, it is because they do not own a roof over their heads.

For acquiring a house, there are also well-established processes. You can buy a plot informally at the periphery of the city, where land is cheap, and make a shack. However, land has become so expensive that an increasing number of people cannot afford this option, so they are forced to rent rather than purchase on the periphery, where there are no physical and social amenities.

There are also travel and time costs related to living on the periphery, such as travel to workplaces or to



Bumper-to-bumper traffic on M.A. Jinnah Road: simply building more underpasses and flyovers is not the solution to Karachi's traffic congestion problem | Af F

schools for children. The other option is to buy or rent in a multi-story *katchi abadi* (informal settlement) apartment block, nearer to the city centre. This is an expensive option since rents are high, but one saves on time and travel costs. Such apartments can be purchased on *peppol* (goodwill money) and in instalments.

All low income areas in the city have doctors but surveys suggest that they are "spasms." Government clinics and hospitals are in inappropriate locations and medicines and doctors are very expensive. As a result, there is an increasing reliance on alternative medicine, which is relatively much cheaper. Would an investment in promoting alternative medicine institutions help the Karachi of the future? There is also an absence of ambulances, because of which many lives that could be saved are lost.

Narrow lanes and high rise and congested apartments also create a "heat island" effect, due to which a number of senior citizens die every year. Research is required on how to reduce heat on the external walls and roofs of the houses and to make this solution affordable to the people.

Apart from the homes, the settlements themselves also need retrofitting, in the form of planting of trees, paving the streets with materials that do not absorb too much heat, and creating spaces for men and women to gather and sit in pleasant locations. Paving the wider roads into jogging tracks or linking them up with the nearest transport routes is a possibility.

A NEW GENERATION'S ASPIRATIONS

However, the most important change that has taken place in Karachi since the preparation of the last master plan is that a new generation has grown up, and it is very different from the previous generation, especially the women.

URC conversations and surveys tell us that the extended family has or is in the process of breaking down. Census data tells us that both women and men get married at a much later age and that they do not wish to live with their parents. Increasingly, they want to marry of their free will and interaction between men and women is becoming much easier than before. This is changing the demographic make-up of the city.

There are far more women students and teachers (right down from primary school to university) than men. The number of women workers in factories and independent entrepreneurs has increased substantially. Surveys by Dawood University students show that in

parkes, even in *katchi abadis*, women want space for playing cricket, yoga classes and exercise machines.

There is a great demand for specially designed women's toilets in public places. And women want space for walking in a safe environment. All this is bringing about a large change in the aspirations of the young people and desperately needs to be catered to. For example, space for women in public transport will need to be increased.

THE BATTLE OVER LAND

The seaford and beaches of Karachi are being consumed by real estate developers and the military authorities for their enormous housing estates. They need to be protected and so do the islands off the coast.

The recent proposal for handing over 6,000 acres of land along the coast to the Defence Housing Authority (DHA) should be resisted. Any proposed development should be publicly exhibited so that the people of Karachi can give an opinion on the subject.

The Kirthar National Park to the north and west of Karachi is of a significant ecological asset of the Karachi region and its flora and fauna should not be allowed to be destroyed through the development of insensitive tourism. For this, a regional development plan for the city and its environs needs to be prepared and implemented. This is not an easy undertaking, since much of the Karachi environs have already been or are being developed without such a plan.

Water, sewage, solid waste management and power are all issues that have been discussed in great detail. Both by the media and the state agencies, and proposals for their solutions have been put up for them from time to time. The impediments to their implementation and the excessive costs to Karachi households should be identified and removed.

THE NEED FOR RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

The participation of the people of Karachi in planning and delivery should be guaranteed on the basis of the work carried out by the Orangi Pilot Project, and currently being carried out by the Orangi Technical Training Resource Centre in collaboration with Orangi communities. For solid waste, the potential of an existing, successfully functioning, informal waste management system should be recognised and work with it should be devised.

The design and implementation processes of all these

utilities should be modified, taking into consideration climate change factors, especially those related to flooding and coastal land reclamation and development.

In Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's time, an Urban Metropolitan Training Centre was established to carry out research and training of bureaucrats and municipal councils, to relate policy and its implementation to ground realities. There was also a very active Karachi Development Authority (KDA) Masterplan Group of Officers that created the knowledge required for a city master plan, which had to be prepared every 10 years.

Without such institutions of research and development, much of what has been proposed in this article would be difficult, if not impossible, to carry out, especially in an era of climate change and rapidly developing new technologies, such as AI and stem cell applications.

Karachi's rich heritage has been mapped by the NEED University Heritage Cell in detail. Its problems are well known by the Sindh Culture Department. These include social, political, technical, legal and administrative problems. The Sindh Conservation Act has sufficient flexibility in it and its technical committee has the knowledge to deal with these issues. However, this cannot be done without the support of the Sindh Culture Department, the creation of an autonomous heritage cell within the department, and the support of local people and organisations.

Much of the heritage properties are on private land, and thus the pressure from the real estate lobby for purchasing and demolishing them and constructing commercial buildings on them is considerable, and is often backed by bureaucrats and politicians.

However, for an effective heritage programme, you need conservationists and technicians, and for that, you need both relevant academic and technical institutions, which we do not have. The creation of such institutions, their nurturing and their relationship with the field, is desperately required.

SELF AND THE CITY

However, perhaps the most important thing for the future of Karachi is to create a sense of belonging of the people to the city. A museum of Karachi city, its origin and its development is required, which can be visited by students and citizens to create such a sense of belonging.

In addition, new plans and reasons for their being proposed should be exhibited to the citizens, so that they can understand and give their opinions regarding the future of their city and of the neighbourhoods in which they live.

For instance, why has the sea at Clifton beach been pushed back for more than a half kilometre? What impact will this have on the coast and on the citizens of Karachi and how will the land being acquired in the process be used? Why has construction on the Bahria Icon tower and on the Red Line MRT stopped? What is the Kirthar National Park? And should 6,000 acres of land along the coast be handed over through the Defence Housing Authority for the development of a housing colony?

Such questions and a search for their answers will keep the citizens, especially those belonging to Generation Z, involved, not only with the development plans of the city, but also with its politics. After all, they are the future, not only of the city but also of Pakistan.

But for such discussions and assemblies, both physical and institutional spaces are required and the development plan of Karachi should see to it that such spaces are created. ■

The writer is an architect and urban planner. He can be reached at urfaham37@gmail.com or www.urfaham.org



Stalls set up on Mir Karam Ali Talpur Road in front of Empress Market in Saddar: It is estimated that there are 150,000 hawkers in Karachi, who individually earn Rs 4,000 per day | White Star

► EXHIBITION

Natural elements and spiritual connections take centre stage in Sayeda M Habib's artworks



CNR

HALLOWED GROUND

By Amna Nizar

Sayeda M Habib's latest exhibition 'Mini', displayed at Canvas Gallery in Karachi, is an exploration of the interconnectedness between the spiritual and the terrestrial, serving as an endavour that seeks ancient wisdom with contemporary artistic expression.

The series encapsulates Habib's philosophical engagement with the natural world, reflecting her reverence for *mini* (earth) as both a material and a metaphor for creation and existence. The central ethos of the exhibition is underpinned by a verse from Sura al-An'am in the Quran, which speaks to the creation of humanity from clay, thus highlighting a theme central to Habib's work — the sacredness of the earth.

Habib's process involves the use of natural hand-ground pigments derived from rocks, and her technique of allowing wet clay to dry naturally on plates reflects a deep engagement with the material's intrinsic properties. This method mirrors natural processes, where receding waters leave sediments exposed to the air, hence creating intricate topographies in the process.

This phenomenon is vividly captured in Habib's *Landscape* series, where horizontal ellipses framed by blues and greens evoke aerial views of landscapes, rich with the patchwork of cultivated land.

The artist's exploration of sacred symbols and natural forms is evident in her compositions, which often feature oval boundaries. This shape is significant, as it represents wholeness and continuity, aligning with the artist's view of the earth as a sacred space where the celestial and the subterranean meet. This is most apparent in

the *Sacred Earth* series, where the cubical Ka'aba lies at the heart of each painting, like an ever-fixed mark, all while the world and nature change around it.

Her painting *Chi* is a visual meditation on the concept of life force, capturing the dynamic flow and vitality that permeates all living beings. Through the interplay of vibrant hues, intricate geometric patterns and an idyllic garden setting, Habib translates the invisible currents of energy into a tangible, visual experience.

In contrast, *Water of Love* explores the fluidity and depth of human emotions, using softer, more organic forms and a calming palette to evoke the nurturing and transformative qualities of love. Both paintings showcase Habib's ability to merge the abstract with the elemental, creating works that resonate with both spiritual depth and aesthetic harmony.

Habib's artworks *Underworlds I/II* delve into the metaphysical realm of the hidden, or *basim*. Here, darkness is not to be feared but is embraced as a gestation chamber for life, a mystical counterpart to the realm of light. The semi-formed shapes in these works hint at nascent bodies, roots and rivers, hence presenting a narrative that celebrates creation's nourishing aspects.

By grounding her art in ancient wisdom and natural materials, Habib creates a powerful testament to the enduring bond between humanity and the earth. This collection highlights the beauty and complexity of the natural world, while also calling for a deeper awareness and respect for the ground beneath our feet. ■

'Mini' was on display at Canvas Gallery in Karachi from May 28-June 6, 2024

The writer is an artist and educator

EOS

ARTSPEAK



Reinventing Libraries

Many libraries across the world have been transformed into community spaces that offer much more than books — unfortunately, the same cannot be said of Karachi's libraries

By Durriya Kazi

Architect Ray Johnston said, "Libraries serve as the living room of the community." Gone is the image of a daunting academic environment with stern librarians. Instead, libraries are envisaged as public meeting spaces, with cafes, indoor lounges and courtyards, inviting for all ages.

Observing the lure of the competition — shopping malls — that have become the new family public spaces with play areas, a cinema and eating places alongside shops, architects thought to bring similar dynamics to libraries. However, unlike malls, libraries are not intended to generate revenue and instead offer something of value to their users.

Libraries are important repositories for the preservation of the history of the world and human thought, but also, as author Neil Gaiman says, to preserve truth. As he puts it: "Google can bring you back 100,000 answers. A librarian can bring you back the right one." Libraries can additionally build communities, bringing together diverse social circles and age groups. Surprisingly, millennials are more likely to use libraries than any other age group, despite being almost physically attached to Google.

The closure of libraries and a dwindling numbers of visitors prompted the need to redesign and reinvent library spaces as multi-purpose community spaces. This new generation of libraries has conference rooms, classes on a range of topics and training in skills from quilting to digital 3-D modelling. They may have film screenings, yoga, poetry readings or board games. They may offer mother and child activity and

reading areas, citizen's information centres, spaces for social gathering, or simply a retreat from the cacophony of life. They aim to make learning enjoyable and to stimulate curiosity.

In a way, this new thinking is actually a return to the older systems of community-based learning. The Greeks discussed philosophy in the Agora — a marketplace. Sufi study circles took place in gardens and street corners and, at a more ordinary level, elders handed down oral traditions to be memorised by the younger generation gathered around them.

What role could libraries play in a country where half the population is only functionally literate with little motivation to go to school and an education that focuses on earning certificates and degrees rather than the love of knowledge?

Technology today has made access to knowledge possible even for those who cannot read. Systems developed for the visually impaired, such as audio books, text-to-voice and voice-to-text systems have opened up possibilities of educating the illiterate.

Translation software enables learning from different language sources. Children are able to navigate computer and phone screens using icons. Virtual assistants, such as Siri and Alexa, and GPS devices are widely used. Oral recording, such as those done by the Citizen's Archive of Pakistan, enable people to add to the history of their times, even if they are not adept writers.

Teaching through pictures dates back to the time of cave dwellers. The credit for the first use of pictures in a book to tell a story rather than supplement a text goes to the 19th century illustrator Randolph Caldecott. Today, graphic novels and animations are

commonplace, and they are used not just for entertainment but to transfer knowledge. Film is a powerful way to convey knowledge through images.

More than 800 million people in the world are illiterate and many more have a limited level of education. For a country to prosper, education is a cornerstone of development and progress, enabling homegrown solutions to homegrown problems, rather than imported solutions that rarely succeed.

The concept of libraries without shelves is not an alternative to reading from books, but rather a way to draw people into the world of education and, for some, an impetus to take the next step of learning how to read.

Karachi has two libraries that were envisaged as community spaces, largely funded by local philanthropists. The Frere Hall library is situated in a large garden and part of a magnificent community hall. On a more intimate scale is the Khadija library and community hall. Both have a history of events that ranged from cultural activities, political and religious gatherings, to simply being places for friends to meet.

Today, these libraries are dusty unloved spaces, waiting to be noticed, waiting to share their treasures. Imagine the libraries spilling out onto the grounds through activities such as storytelling, book reading, discussions, film shows or interactive theatre, making learning enjoyable for all ages.

As the blues singer B.B. King said, "The beautiful thing about learning is, no one can take it away from you." ■

Durriya Kazi is a Karachi-based artist. She may be reached at durriyakan09@gmail.com

SMOKERS' CORNER



The Madness of Crowds

Irrational beliefs and existential anxieties have not only fuelled destructive acts by individuals but have also been exploited by leaders to present themselves as messianic saviours

By Nadeem F. Paracha

In November 1979, around 600 armed men seized the Grand Mosque in Mekkah. The group was led by Juhayman al-Utaybi, who wished to kick-start an apocalypse prophesied in certain obscure Islamic traditions. The prophecy foretells the arrival of the 'Mahdi', a figure who will emerge at the 'end of time' to rid the world of sin.

Utaybi didn't have to wait for a Mahdi, though. Apparently, the Mahdi was already with him in the shape of one Abdullah al-Qahatani. Qahatani had claimed to be the Mahdi before the mosque's seizure. During the fighting that ensued, Qahatani announced that modern weapons can't kill him. So, when Saudi and French commandos stormed the mosque, Qahatani rushed out to pick up a grenade thrown by a Saudi soldier. But when the grenade went off in his hand, the clearly delusional Qahatani was blown to bits.

The archaeologist Sam Chaltis calls such delusions the "bullets to water belief complex." This 'complex' has been rather common among African tribes. According to Chaltis, during uprisings against European colonialists in Africa in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many tribes believed that certain traditional medicines and magic could render bullets impotent. Hundreds of African tribal warriors were cut down after they put themselves in the line of fire, believing magic spells and traditional medicines would turn bullets to water.

Such beliefs are still prevalent in various societies. In their examination of superstitions and magic associated with conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo, political economists Nathan Nunin and Raul Sanchez de la Sierra wrote that, despite the fact that fighters 'protected by magic' die, their deaths are blamed on the fighters because, supposedly, they did not properly follow the set of conditions required by the magic/medicine to work.



Illustration by Akim

Nunin and Sierra noted that fake accounts of bullets bouncing off after hitting the fighters' bodies encouraged more and more young men to join militias formed by villages to ward off armed intruders.

Similar strategies were used in the 1980s by some groups who were assigned to recruit fighters for the 'jihad' against Soviet troops in Afghanistan. For example, many militant and mainstream Islamist outfits in Pakistan published pamphlets that spoke of incidents in which Islamic insurgents, after running out of ammunition, blew up Soviet tanks by simply jumping in front of them and shouting "God is great".

All this is the outcome of 'magical thinking'. Magical thinking is when a person believes their thoughts, feelings or rituals can influence events in the material world. Magical thinking is naturally prevalent in children. But in adults, it is often triggered by fear, feelings of vulnerability, or even by an inferiority complex.

It provides them an imagined sense of power, conjured up from

irrational beliefs. It can be harmless if it momentarily eases a person's anxieties and doesn't lead to disruptive behaviour or serious self-harm. 'Life coaches', for example, often shape innocuous forms of magical thinking to increase the self-esteem of their clients.

But, of course, if it leads to people believing that bullets and grenades can't harm them because they have certain magical or divine powers, magical thinking can then mutate into becoming a more disconcerting delusion.

On a collective level, it can also lead to "the madness of crowds." This phrase was first popularised by the 19th century Scottish journalist Charles Mackay in his 1881 book *Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds*. Mackay explored various examples of mass hysteria or 'collective madness', to demonstrate that the human mind can be susceptible to irrational beliefs and deception.

In 2023's *Decoding Delusions*, the clinical psychologist Richard Bentall

explains the 'madness of crowds' as the outcome of "national delusions." Such delusions can become viral and make whole societies start believing in "absurdities." One of the examples given by Mackay was the 16th and 17th century witch-hunts in Europe.

Bentall provides other examples, which include a belief in the pseudo-histories that gave rise to Nazi ideology, or the belief that the 1969 moon landing was fake, and the widespread belief in an assortment of conspiracy theories on the internet.

To Bentall, national delusions are triggered by "existential anxieties." He calls forces that exploit these anxieties "belief entrepreneurs." The exploitation can be done to achieve certain political goals as well. In this regard, 'belief entrepreneurs' compound existential anxieties in a society, "foreseeing" the coming of a collapse and chaos.

They present themselves as leaders who will save society from the coming apocalypse, but only if they are allowed to rule as they please. If they succeed in bagging enough followers, they then

begin to be seen by their followers (and maybe by themselves) as the figurative bulletproof folk on a messianic mission.

In a TV ad funded by India's Congress Party just days before this year's parliamentary elections in the country, a kid is shown bursting a large balloon with a pin. On the balloon is the image of Narendra Modi's face. After the anti-climatic performance by Modi's BJP in the elections, an Indian reposted the ad on X and wrote, "Alas, he's human."

The message in this was that Modi is no messiah, nor a deity who cannot bleed. A simple pin can deflate his larger-than-life image — an image shaped by magical thinking that had eventually led to the 'madness of crowds' syndrome.

Pakistan's Imran Khan is also viewed as a kind of a messiah. He's a brilliant 'belief entrepreneur', who had convinced a large number of people that the country was on the verge of a collapse due to the 'corruption' of his opponents. However, Khan's bubble finally burst in April 2022, when he was ousted from power through an act of parliament. But he bounced back.

The economic downside which, ironically, his own government had set off, gave his belief-entrepreneurial skills the material to once again exploit existential anxieties and rekindle his messianic connection with his supporters.

Khan's bulletproof image is as symbolic as Modi's was. Khan's most recent 'enemies', the military establishment, tried to spoil his 'messianic aura' by exposing a series of sexual scandals he was allegedly involved in. But what they don't understand is that populist political messiahs are often a surreal mix of piety and partying.

The 'madness of crowds' in this regard means feeling protected by the messiah's displays of piety, and enthralled by his sexual/romantic escapades. No wonder then that many of Khan's admirers are often heard saying that, even at 71, he's still 'handsome'. ■

B&A

BOOKS & AUTHORS

► NON-FICTION

The memoirs of one of the most respected journalists and editors in the Pakistan documents 80 years in Mahmood Shaam's life and that of the country, but one comes away with the feeling that much has been left unsaid

A history of the era



Shaam Bakhtair
By Mahmood Shaam
Atlantic Publications
ISBN: 978-696-601-512-3
860pp.

Reviewed by Waqas Ali

Autobiographies of men of stature are not just descriptions of the events that took place in their lives but also of the era they lived in, along with an analysis of those events. And they also serve as documents that complement the history of that age.

Such is the autobiography of Mahmood Shaam, a veteran journalist and poet, with over 60 years of experience in the news media.

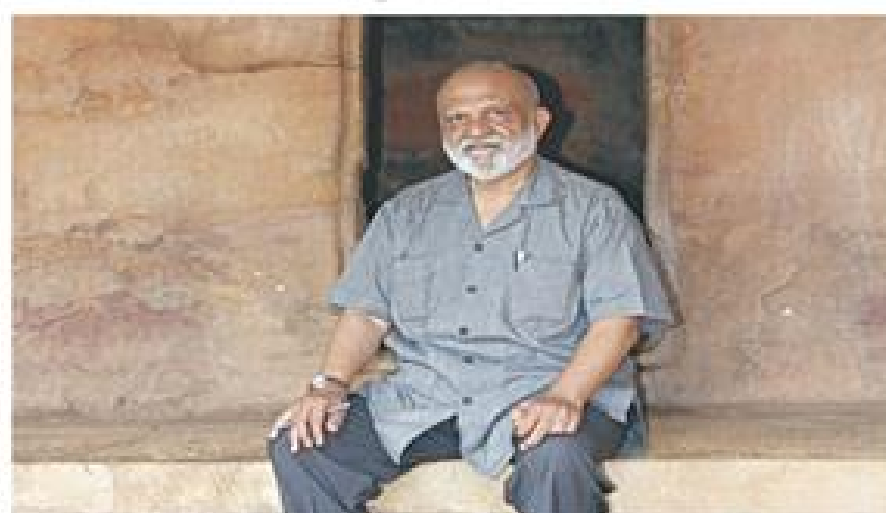
Titled *Shaam Bakhtair*, this voluminous book of more than 800 pages tries to capture 80 years of Shaam's life. It begins with him saying in the first few pages that he finds nothing beautiful in his childhood, which 'normally' is a joyous and beautiful time in one's life. But that is understandable in his case, as his childhood witnessed severe trauma during the 1947 partition of the Subcontinent.

And as it is about the important events of the life of a journalist having such vast experience, the autobiography naturally contains information and facts that are important and not known by most people.

Shaam's story begins with his migrating to Pakistan in 1947. He writes about sitting in the bogie of a freight train along with his mother, which had been forcibly halted. They heard shouts of a riotous mob from either side and soon there was blood everywhere. But there was also respite, he says, as it was a journey from slavery to freedom which, however, still remains a dream for him in this country, as we learn later in the book.

Shaam's family arrived in Lahore and settled down in Jhang, a city where he received his school and college education, and which played a big part in shaping his personality and laying the foundations for his career as a writer and journalist. Gradually, despite difficult financial circumstances, he managed to get into Government College Lahore (Government College University now) and, during this time, he also got his first job, as a proof-reader.

As he was quite interested in reading and writing from the very beginning, Shaam started writing for



Mahmood Shaam

Uda magazines. And so gradually began his career in journalism, a journey from being a sub-editor at different newspapers to becoming a reporter and, finally, the editor of *Jang*, the largest and one of most influential Urdu news publications of the country.

During his career, he saw both highs and lows, which he documents in some detail. He also remained connected with many influential personalities of the time. And being a journalist of such stature, Shaam also interviewed a number of prominent personalities from within Pakistan and abroad. He also travelled in multiple countries in all continents, which are detailed in the book and sometimes makes it read like a sort of a travelogue.

As for his analysis and opinions in the book, he makes us aware, from the very beginning, of how powerful people and the 'establishment' took hold of the country and its affairs. They did what suited them best and have been doing so ever since.

Shaam also talks about how religion was brought into the country's politics, how it was misused and how all of that brought issues such as extremism, violence and polarisation in society. Furthermore, all of those issues were left unresolved, he says — the negative effects of which the Pakistani

nation is still facing.

In a chapter on violence based on ethnic and linguistic issues, particularly in Sindh, he draws a disheartening conclusion as he writes: "After spending 77 years together, we [the people of Pakistan] are still very far away from each other. The distance is the same as it was in August 1947. It is a painful reality."

As a journalist, Shaam also visited East Pakistan during its turbulent relationship with the western wing of the country, and has included in the book a chapter about it that is worth reading. It can be helpful especially for those who are interested in doing research on the events and happenings that led to the 'fall of Dhaka'. The events described by Shaam are his own personal observations.

Censoring newspapers and banning their sale in certain areas was a common practice during dictatorships in Pakistan and Shaam has written about how the media coped with such issues.

There are two sections on the Muttahida Qaum Movement (MQM) and its leader Ahuf Hussain's rise and fall, in which he talks about the violence that took place in Karachi. Shaam's opinion is that Karachi was deprived of competent leadership and made unstable just because of wrong policies and

the carelessness of those in the corridors of power.

Shaam also questions, at different points, the legitimacy of the armed forces' intervention in politics. He has quoted a speech by former president and prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto that he delivered at Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's mausoleum on September 11, 1971. During the speech Mr Bhutto is quoted as saying: "Ye mere Quaid, hum ye jama'at ki raat kab khom kregi? Humaray Quaid, kya aap ne Pakistan ki ilye banaya tha ke ye jama'at hum par hukoomat karay rahen? (O my leader, when will the night of these generals end? Did you create Pakistan so that these generals would keep ruling us?)"

Shaam's own views are also pretty much the same, he writes. "The armed forces have become the strongest pillar of the state. The Constitution, judiciary, executive legislature and even the media collectively cannot equal the power of the army. It has become a state within a state."

There is a chapter each on Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, former presidents Gen. Yahya Khan and 'Field Marshal' Ayub Khan, the 1965 war and many other important events that occurred in Pakistan's history. Being a poet, he also often uses poems and couplets to express his views and to lament over things.

It would be relevant to also say a word about the book's style and diction. Although the language of the book is simple, it still feels like whatever Shaam has written could have been done best in fewer words, or by being more careful about the choice of words. The overall arrangement of events and chapters, too, could have been done in a better way; it appears somewhat arbitrary.

And last but not least, despite the fact that Shaam criticises the corrupt practices of politicians, judges, the establishment and bureaucrats, and points out their faults, one gets a strong feeling that much has still been left unsaid. One expects more from a person like him, especially facts that could have revealed hidden matters. It cannot be that an extremely well-connected journalist like Shaam would not know more than what he pens down.

There should have been an effort by the writer to expose all those people whose actions have severely harmed democracy and hampered progress in this country and have pushed society to extremism, violence and poverty, among multiple other menaces.

Nevertheless, everyone understands, especially now, as to how difficult that can be for a writer in Pakistan. ■

The reviewer is a member of staff.
X: @WaqasAliRangila

► FICTION

A novel provides a gripping exploration of the complexities of war in Yemen, and captures the raw experiences of humanitarian work on its frontlines

The brutal cost of war



Guns and Almond Milk
By Mustafa Marwan
Interlink Books
ISBN: 978-9623711054
234pp.

Reviewed by Sara Danial

Centred around war, *Guns and Almond Milk* offers a raw glimpse into the complexities of human experience amid chaos.

It is a fast-paced, unrelenting thriller that delves into the brutal realities of war and the various reasons individuals choose to get involved in certain situations, whether as medical personnel and nurses, soldiers for war or immigrants. At the same time, it is a reflection of stark themes such as remorse and atonement, occasionally peppered with humour and sarcasm.

The vivid descriptions of a medical team's journey through Yemen's desert, facing danger at every turn, gives a clear picture of what a war-torn country goes through, especially at the grassroots level. The same moments and the element of suspense keeps the reader hooked. Throughout the story, there is a sense of urgency and vulnerability, leaving one eager to unravel the characters' fates amid the relentless cycle of war injuries.

Especially with everything going on in the circuit of geopolitics, *Guns and Almond Milk* emerges as a resonant read. The novel's narrative reflects largely on the harsh realities faced by Yemen's youth, highlighting the human cost of conflict.

The book is a first-person narrative account by the author Mustafa Marwan, though he has been given a fictional name in the story. Mustafa is an Egyptian professional, an aid worker, educator and author. His academic background spans pharmacy, public health and management. With over 10 years of involvement in humanitarian efforts, he has worked in numerous conflict areas globally, including several nations during the Arab Spring, witnessing both their peaks and troughs.

The novel begins with Adam Ulsney (a name given to him by his Egyptian parents to integrate religious elements into English culture after immigration to the UK). After his father gets into a fight with some skinheads who call him a "dirty Arab Muslim", and is eventually arrested, Adam is brought to an orphanage, where he is adopted by Mike and Ruth Archer. Adam becomes Luke Archer and grows up to become a doctor, who works in various conflict zones and faces numerous challenges both professionally and personally.

The narrative is presented from his perspective, detailing his experiences, reflections and interactions with others in the midst of the chaos and dangers of war-torn regions. The head nurse Anne, a Swiss emergency doctor Rachel, and French surgeon Emmanuel (fondly called Mami) — and the youngest in the lot — are all part of his humanitarian team.

The story, oscillating between early to mid-2000s and present day in Yemen, follows this medical team travelling through Yemen's desert to Aden's only functioning hospital, facing both the perils of roads and a high-speed race.

They encounter a tense checkpoint guarded by soldiers, which is abruptly destroyed by an explosion. The team continues their journey, reaching the hospital, where they treat various severe injuries. A poignant moment unfolds with a young soldier determined to return to battle despite a fresh wound — a harsh reality faced by Yemen's youth.

"Something is very wrong with the youth in this country," Luke muses. "They show themselves in harm's way as though they've never heard of death — or life. Most of them have the faces of the too young, and the eyes of the too old."

A parallel story takes place in the early 2000s, where Luke reveals his struggle with fitting in when his family immigrated to the UK. Refusing alcohol and reluctantly trying weed, the narrator recalls his complex identity crisis and painful past.

The bullying intensified post-9/11, complicating his school life. Despite offers from a drug dealer and a radical religious group for protection, he chose to stay independent, navigating his hardships alone. He meets Erikhart, a retired venture capitalist with a fascination for psychedelics and an interest in palmistry, sparking a friendship and revealing a hidden room in his home.

Meanwhile, the medical team members reminisce about the good old days of Yemen. The country had fertile land and historical resilience. Now, despite its rich past, Yemen is plagued by malnutrition and war, and pondering over the balance of power and the inevitability of conflict.

The control over Aden is maintained by the Golden Bell Brigade, headed by Gen Mansour Rahimi, a hardcore militant supported by Gulf countries, and largely disconnected from the reality of Aden. He is "the precious puppet of foreign powers, who has never walked the streets of Aden, but only observed them from the balconies of his big estate or through the bulletproof glass of his armoured car."

He also controls the hospital. The team decides to make a risky trip to their residence for essentials; they find that the streets are desolate, and tension is high; their residence has been ransacked. While returning to the hospital amid heavy shelling, they witness a

THE BRUTAL COST OF WAR, PAGE 07

► EPICURIOUS



By Faisal Quraishi

The impressive exterior and interior of this 'modern European restaurant', along with its menu, is a rarity in the heart of Karachi's Saddar area. Easy accessibility and moderate prices make it a welcome culinary addition

THE BRASSERIE EXPERIENCE

The iconic Hotel Durrani on Sarwar Shaheed Road in Karachi's Saddar area underwent a rather drastic and thorough renovation some time ago, which also eventually led to the opening of its fine-dining restaurant, Karachi Brasserie.

In social media page describes it as a "modern European restaurant", which actually dovetailed with my experience when I visited it with a bunch of friends one pleasant evening last month.

For one, parking was not an issue. After finding space right in front of the eatery, we were ushered, by a rather friendly doorman, into a large space with French windows that was chilled to perfection. The modernistic setting and smart furnishings provided the ideal ambience, made better as it was sparsely occupied by diners at that time.

The server took our order of cocktails — Apple Mint Cooler, Electric Blue and Mint Lemonade — that arrived in no time at all, and justified their names in taste and look.

The appetiser, Mediterranean Salad, was fresh and tangy, with strips of grilled chicken adding to the green summer perfection. The Chilli Prawns, however, failed to impress because of their minuscule size and sparse numbers.

Over to the main courses, and the Beef Steak Sandwich, Parmesan Crusted Chicken, Fettuccine Alfredo and Trio of Sliders ticked all the boxes in terms of a freshness in flavour, presentation, wholesome taste and texture.

Not one to shy away from dessert, our order of Tiramisu and Dark Chocolate Tart spoke volumes of the chef's prowess with all things sweet and savory.

All in all, the visit to Karachi Brasserie turned out to be a rather enjoyable 'fine-dining' experience in the heart of downtown Saddar — a location that is not known for such restaurants. It was indeed a wonderful discovery and The Brasserie is a welcome addition to the culinary landscape of Karachi.

The writer is a member of staff.
E: faisal_quraishi



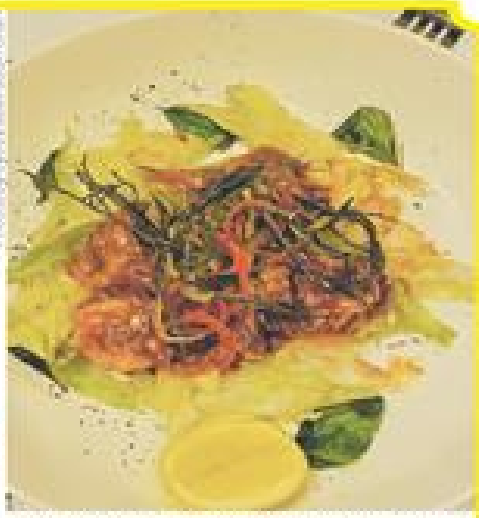
The snazzy interior of Karachi Brasserie



Trio of Sliders in all their beefy glory



The crunchy Mediterranean Salad with grilled chicken strips



The plate of Chilli Prawns that failed to impress



Nothing better than a perfectly made Tiramisu

► GARDENING



By Dr Khwaja Ali Shahid

The apple gourd or tinda often gets a bad rap in popular perception. In reality, it is one of the most healthy vegetables to consume

SWIPE RIGHT ON TINDA

In a recent family discussion, the elders pointed out how the children in the family would not always like their vegetables. They even gave suggestions, to the next generation of parents, on some creative ideas so that their young ones appreciate and consume more vegetables and fruits as part of their diet.

I argued with my mother and reminded her that I was an obedient child and claimed that I would eat everything that was put on my plate. In response, she listed a number of foods that I complained about as a child. The list had a number of vegetables and apple gourd was on top of this small list.

Let me tell you, though, that my dislike for apple gourd was based on rather flimsy reasons, which persisted well after my teens.

One of the reasons was the pejorative use of Tinda, which is Urdu for apple gourd. Students at our school would tease and mock a fellow student by calling him tinda. Similarly, one of my neighbours, whom I never liked, was referred to as Miss Tinda, as she would buy large quantities of it from the vegetable sellers. Due to this negative association, I started believing that apple gourds were bad.

The way the vegetable was cooked in my house didn't help either. It was prepared in the lightest of watery gravy, no cater to the needs of my grandmother. It included two to four halves of apple gourds per serving, negligible spices and minimal oil, a small piece of meat within and served with a *chapatti*, or flat bread of whole wheat.

For me, the recipe and taste suggested that it was a meal for patients with gastric issues. I would realise much later that it was one of the healthiest food options in our local gravy-based cuisine.

Compared to fried food items and hydrogenated oil-based, protein-rich meats, the light apple gourd meal — in thin, watery gravy — is one of the most refreshing and relaxing meal options to consume. And, yes, it is extremely

Blackened seeds are used to grow apple gourd plants.
(Photos by the writer)

An apple gourd that is ready to harvest

beneficial for almost all categories of patients as well.

The result of the negative association was that apple gourd was one of the last gourds to be consciously grown and planted in our small backyard. Its scientific name is *peperurhus fistulosus* and it is also referred to as Indian round gourd, round melon, Indian squash and Indian baby pumpkin. Needless to say, this vegetable is more famous in the Subcontinental

region and relatively unknown in the developed world.

The vegetable, when immature, has white, softer edible seeds. It is also the time of the vegetable's growth lifecycle when it is harvested commercially, as its seeds are consumed when they are soft and white.

However, the seeds that are used for growing apple gourd vine are neither soft nor white in colour. These seeds become hard-shelled and black in

colour as the vegetable matures. The blackened seeds are then scooped out from the apple gourd and kept aside in dry conditions.

Since it is a summer crop, the best time to sow apple gourd seeds is when the winters have just subsided. The ideal temperature for the germination of the seeds would be around 25 to 30 degrees Celsius.

It is better to opt for a seedling tray or to sow the seeds in paper cups. A potting mix made up of nursery soil, along with any organic compost in limited quantities, can be used to work as a potting medium for the seeds.

Since the seeds are hard-shelled, one may go for any of the seed stratification techniques. The seeds can be kept in a refrigerator or submerged in water overnight, before the actual day of sowing seeds. Alternatively, the hard shell could be treated and warmed mechanically, so that the outer coat of the seed can easily be broken by the germinating plant.

When sowing the seeds in soil, it is necessary to place it at a depth that is at least twice the length of the seed. It is believed that the pointy, narrow end of the seed should be facing upwards. However, I prefer to place the seeds horizontally flat.

One key factor when sowing seeds till germination is to ensure that the soil remains moist throughout and never dries up. Depending upon the seed quality, watering protocol and temperature, the seeds are likely to germinate within one to two weeks of sowing.

In my upcoming articles, I will elaborate further on managing the apple gourd plant, from being a seedling to a mature creeping vine, the eventual harvest procedure, the fertiliser needed at different stages and the likely pest attacks, with their remedies as well. I will also touch upon the health benefits of consuming this wonderful vegetable as well as

Please send your queries and emails to doctor2020@hotmail.com. The writer is a physician and a host for the YouTube channel 'DocTree Gardening' promoting organic kitchen gardening.

EOS

ADVICE



AUNTIE AGNI

'How Can I Support My Cricket-Mad Friend?'

Dear Auntie,
I seek your guidance on behalf of my dearest friend, who is currently facing a significant career dilemma.

We are both fresh civil engineering graduates, but my friend has always been more passionate about cricket than engineering. Throughout our time at university, he dedicated a considerable amount of his time tracking everything related to cricket, which unfortunately reflected in his grades. Our campus was in a remote area, limiting his opportunities to explore this passion further.

Recently, I encouraged him to consider a career path, either in engineering or by preparing for the CSS exams. To my surprise, he confided in me that his true aspiration is to pursue a career in cricket.

He has not shared this with anyone else, not even his family, who are very traditional and may not support his dreams. Coming from a middle class background with financial constraints, his family is likely to prioritise a stable and conventional career.

At 23 years old, my friend is at a crossroads. I want to support him in following his passion, but I also worry about the uncertainties and challenges of a career in sports, especially given his family's expectations and financial situation.

Could you please advise on how best to support my friend in this situation? How can he balance his passion for cricket with the need for financial stability and family expectations? Any guidance on how to have this conversation with his family or on potential pathways that combine his love for cricket with practical career considerations would be greatly appreciated.

Concerned Friend.

Dear Concerned Friend,
Your friend's situation is a challenging one but, with the right approach, he can find a way to balance his passion with practical considerations.

Your friend needs to have an open and honest conversation with his family about his passion for cricket. While this might be difficult, approaching the topic with a clear plan can help. He should emphasise that his love for cricket is not just a hobby, but something he is seriously considering as a career path.

It might help to provide examples of how others have successfully pursued similar paths, particularly those who have combined their passion for sports with education or other careers. Your friend should also consider looking into career opportunities that align with his interest in cricket and also provide financial stability.

Sports journalism is one such field. With his deep knowledge of cricket, he could explore opportunities in sports journalism or cricket commentary. Another way to pursue his passion could be through sports management or administration. If he has a knack for teaching and mentoring, he could consider becoming a cricket coach. He could also combine his engineering degree with his passion for cricket and work on the design and maintenance of sports facilities.

At the same time, your friend should work on building a support system outside of his family. This could include mentors, friends (like you!) and just professionals in the sports industry.

When he discusses his sports aspirations with his family, it will be helpful for him to present a balanced plan. For example, he could propose working in a stable engineering job, while simultaneously pursuing opportunities in cricket.

Encourage him to take small steps towards his goal, such as enrolling in cricket coaching courses, starting a blog or YouTube channel about cricket, or networking with professionals. ■

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



AFTER THE PAKISTAN CRICKET TEAM'S IGNOMINIOUS EXIT IN THE FIRST ROUND FROM THE T20 WORLD CUP, SOME THOUGHT FORMER CAPTAIN MISBAHUL HAQ HAD THE RIGHT IDEA FOR A REACTION. GIVEN THE WAY THE TEAM HAD PLAYED IN THE FIRST THREE MATCHES, HOWEVER, OTHERS THOUGHT THAT WAS THE WAY FANS SHOULD HAVE WATCHED FROM THE BEGINNING.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

EXPANSION OF RESCUE-1122 SERVICES ON MAJOR HIGHWAYS/MOTORWAYS

Staff Urgently Required for Highway Rescue Operations

SFERP is the World Bank funded project in which Institutional Strengthening (Rescue-1122) is one of the major components to cater the emergency on major Highways & Motorways. 16 satellite stations are developed. For operationalizing these satellite stations following staff is urgently required to be posted at MAJ, HSI, HSSO.

No.	Name of Post	No. of Post	Place of Posting	Eligibility Criteria
01	Paramedical / Emergency Medical Technician (PPT-05-04)	005	Major Highways of South Province, (Satellite Stations-MAJ, HSI, HSSO) (Not Transferrable)	- Training or Professional Degree or Diploma (and Licensing from a recognized Board, Council or University) - At least 05 years of experience in any emergency rescue organization / public sector / hospital / ambulance service / emergency / trauma care setup - Age: 20-42
02	Driver (PPT-07)	005	Major Highways of South Province, (Satellite Stations-MAJ, HSI, HSSO) (Not Transferrable)	- Must be L/H/Motor Car License. - Preference shall be given to Malakandian and having relevant experience - Age: 20-55 Years
TOTAL POSTS		010		

Notes: Candidates will obtain LT's waiver during 6 months of Probation Period in case of applying / joining Motor Car License.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES:

- Emergency Services officers cadre personnel are expected to be Physically & Mentally fit and having upright character to undergo & manage various challenging situations like accidents & trauma emergencies and call to hot spot establishments. Showing actively uncooperative & patterns to nearby hospitals under medical supervision, building collapse, water & flood rescue, drug and racism, fire, flood & the building rescue & evacuations, accidents on railway tracks etc. Therefore, it is pertinent to mention that candidates should have required qualifications & previous experience to manage emergency rescue operations & save hospitals critical victims of emergencies & disasters.
- Final selection of candidates shall be made after completion of successful training. During training a test honorarium shall be provided by the project to the trainees according to cadre specific. Dropped off candidates during any step of their selection shall stand nowhere, waiting candidates shall be called next in turn.
- Physical fitness will be assessed as per recruitment policy.
- No Age relaxation.

Medical Screening Note: Candidates having physical deformities or weight more than 450 lb or others (STP/Cat) having poor Mithness or old over 50 or having Hepatitis (SAC), HIV, AIDS or STD are not suitable to work for emergency services. All tests shall be performed at designated hospitals and laboratories for which bills shall be uploaded on SFERP & PPS submitted after Written, Psychological & Physical screening tests.

- Candidates are required to send photographs of their documents mentioned in checklist of application form as per criteria mentioned against each post.
- Candidates already in government services must apply through proper channel.
- No. of posts can be increased / decreased.
- Only completely filled applications fulfilling the complete criteria shall be accepted. All the documents are accepted provisionally and offer of appointment is subject to verification of documents, Police verification, Successful completion of training and clearance by the medical board constituted by SFERP.
- Written and psychological / aptitude tests of applicants shall be held at designated places after physical fitness test is mentioned on that list. All bills which can be downloaded from PPS testing service website as per schedule (which will communicated later). Original (SAC) and two full size are mandatory for the test. Candidates are not allowed to bring all photos to the examination centers. Change of test center category is not allowed. Any amendment will be communicated through PPS Testing Service website / online portal.
- Candidate can apply against one post only.
- Candidates qualifying written / psychological / aptitude / physical / test shall only be eligible to participate in further recruitment process.
- At the time of interview candidates shall present original documents.

along with three sets of attested copies of all the relevant documents and no passport size photos and one attested self-declaration issued by the designated Hospitals regarding their physical examination (Weight, height, chest, weight and physical deformities and laboratory test for Hepatitis BAC, HIV and STD at the time of physical test. Candidates have to verify their eligibility as per advertised criteria. The candidates selection / appointment shall be conducted at any stage of recruitment or training and even after appointment, in case any information is found to be missing, false, or forged.

- No relaxation in age or qualification shall be provided to any individual.
- In case of the large number of applicants, only applications will be processed / interviewed others shall be considered.

If any candidate has any complaint at any stage of recruitment, he / she may contact at info@sdps.gov.pk

HOW TO APPLY:

- Please download the Application Form and Deposit Slip from PPS Website: www.pps.gov.pk
- Pay the prescribed fee in any of the country wide online branches of HBL and UBL and to up the Application Form properly.
- Please send the filled up Application Form along with paid copy of the PPS Deposit Slip in original in PPS Headquarters, 3rd Floor, Adani Plaza, F-7/4-Haq Road, Blue Area, Islamabad
- PTS shall not be held responsible for late delivery of application forms through Post / Courier services.
- Application Forms improperly filled-up, incomplete without paid copy of deposit slip, "handwritten post where option for selection of post is already available" and submitted by hand will not be entertained.
- Deposited amount is Non-Refundable / Non-Transferrable.
- Last Date for Submission of Application Form is 15-07-2025.
- Application received after expiry of the Last Date will not be entertained & short staffed insights.

For Further Information and Contact:

UAN: 051 111 111 787

Pakistan Testing Service (PTS)

Adani Plaza, 3rd Floor, F-7/4-Haq Road

Blue Area, Islamabad

Web: www.pps.gov.pk Email: info@pps.gov.pk

(PROJECT DIRECTOR)
SINDH FLOOD EMERGENCY
REHABILITATION PROJECT (SFERP)

PMH 1803



BASIC MEDICAL SCIENCES INSTITUTE JINNAH POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL CENTRE KARACHI-75510

ADVERTISEMENT FOR M.PHIL AND Ph.D ADMISSION, 2024

Applications are invited for admissions in M.Phil programs in the Basic Medical Sciences Institute (BMSI) for the subjects of Anatomy, Microbiology, Pathology, Pharmacology and Physiology. Applications are also invited for admissions in Ph.D Microbiology and Pathology.

NOTE:- All degree programs are affiliated with the University of Karachi.

ELIGIBILITY FOR M.PHIL:

- Candidate must be (M.B.B.S.) only.
- One year House job/certificate as recognized by PMDC/PMC for M.B.B.S. degree holders.
- Valid PMDC/PMC Registration.

REQUIREMENTS: Attached copies of the following documents/certificates should be attached while submitting application form:

- Four recent passport size photographs.
- Matriculation Certificate & Marks Sheet.
- Intermediate Certificate & Marks Sheet.
- M.B.B.S. degree with Consolidated Marks Sheet.
- House Job/Job Certificate.
- Valid PMDC/PMC Registration.
- Two years valid teaching experience certificate from the Principal/Registrar of the College/Institution/University.
- Copies of Research Papers/Publications.
- Domestic.
- Valid Computerized National Identity Card.
- Copy of First Invoice.

MERIT: Admission shall strictly be on merit basis.

The admission will be granted on the basis of Test and Interview by the Departmental Research Committee of the concerned department. Guidelines for interview stage are given in Annexure-1.

All candidates will be required to appear in the Entrance Test (SET) conducted by Education & Training Section, JPMC. This is mandatory for all the candidates.

- The test shall comprise of the following sections:
 - Section I Subject Knowledge 80%.
 - Section II English and Communication Skills 20%.
- Candidates will be required to score at least 50% Marks in each section to be eligible for consideration for the interview.

Note: Qualifying the admission test is not guarantee for admission.

- All the students who qualify the test will be required to appear in person for an interview to be conducted by the respective Departmental Research Committee (DRC) to finalize the admission procedure.
- Two years teaching experience will be preferred in the relevant subject field from a recognized medical institution/General College/University on the closing date of the submission of form.
- Further merit marks will only be awarded to candidates who have published research papers in PMDC/PMC/WHO recognized journals.

Provisional Admission for M.Phil:

- Applications for provisional admission will be considered on the basis of eligibility, merit, availability of seats and supervisors.
- Final admission list will be prepared by the DRC according to the following formula:
 - The Marks obtained in pre-provisional degree examination will be given 50% weightage.
 - The Marks secured in the Entrance Test (SET) will be given 30% weightage.
 - The Marks obtained in the interview will be given 20% weightage.
 - Distribution of interview Marks are given in Annexure-2.

Duration of M.Phil (Minimum 2 and Maximum 4 years) from the date of provisional admission. No further admission will be possible.

M.Phil (With Course and Research Work):

- All selected candidates will be required to complete the required course work from respective departments within stipulated time frame.
- Candidates are required to attend at least 75% classes of each course.
- The student has to pass the course work with CGPA 3.0 or more.
- A student who will be declared short of CGPA shall improve it in the next available single chance by appearing in two courses having less than 75 Marks i.e. Grade B. If the student fails to attain a CGPA of 3.00 or more even after improvement chances, after one year or overall within three years, failure will be given only a First Graduate Diploma (FGD) instead of M.Phil degree. Minimum 3.5 CGPA is required for Post Graduate Diploma.
- After passing the course work with CGPA 3.0 or more, the student will be required to apply through proper channel for confirmation of admission and approval of research proposal within one year.
- The student will submit a research proposal according to approved format of the BMSI through proper channel along with a copy of the Marks Certificate issued by the University Examination Section.

ELIGIBILITY FOR Ph.D:

- M. Phil in the relevant subject.
- C.G.P.A. should be more than 3.5.
- Fifty (50%) passing Marks in Entrance Test.

MERIT:

- Fifty (50%) percent passing Marks in Entrance Test of relevant subject.
- Post M.Phil experience in the relevant subject.
- At least 2 research publications in PMDC/PMC/WHO recognized journals.
- Interview before the Departmental Research Committee (DRC). Distribution of interview Marks are given in Annexure-3.

Duration of Ph.D (3 to 6 years) from the date of provisional admission.

REQUIREMENTS: Attached copies of the following documents/certificates should be attached while submitting application form:

- Four recent passport size photographs.
- Matriculation Certificate & Marks Sheet.
- Intermediate Certificate & Marks Sheet.
- M.B.B.S. degree with Consolidated Marks Sheet.
- House Job/Job Certificate.
- Valid PMDC/PMC Registration.
- Two years valid teaching experience certificate from the Principal/Registrar of the College/Institution/University.
- M.Phil degree & Marks Sheet.
- Copies of Research Papers/Publications.
- Domestic.
- Valid Computerized National Identity Card.
- Copy of First Invoice.

NOTE: Qualifying the admission test is not guarantee for admission.

SCHEDULE OF ADMISSION: Application forms will be available from the Accounts Office of JPMC on payment of Rs. 5000/- for submission form including entrance test fee. Candidates have to submit completed forms along with fees required documents duly attested by a Gazetted Government Officer (G.O) or officers/employees who are Government servants in Medical College/other institutions/universities should apply through proper channel, while submitting advance copy of the application, that must reach on time by the Executive Director's Office, JPMC, (for information only). The Provisional Offer letter will be issued only to the first five candidates who are on merit list in respective subjects. Admission is subject to confirmation, if no one deposits on time, then the admission shall be offered to the next waiting candidates on merit list.

- Forms will be issued from Accounts Office, JPMC, Karachi after appearance of advertisement in the press on Sunday 21-04-2024.
- Last date for submission of Application Form is 15-07-2024 and to be submitted in Ph.D Section of Administration Office of JPMC between 09:00 am to 02:00 pm.
- Initial scrutiny of documents will be done by the respective Departmental Research Committee (DRC) before submission of admission form in Education & Training Section.
- Admission Card will be issued from the Education & Training Section on 17-07-2024.
- Entrance Test will be held on 21-08-2024.
- Result will be announced on 05-09-2024.
- Interview candidates will be called for interview on 22-09-2024.
- Payment of first year fees has to be made at the time of joining.
- The course will commence from 24-09-2024.

NOTE: Submission of false certificates is liable for further disqualification. The selected candidate must submit an Affidavit mentioning that he/she will not be involved in any political activity. Candidates who wish to cancel their admission can do so within 15 days of their joining, however, fee is non-refundable.

(PROF. DR. SHAHED HANIS)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

پروفیسر ڈاکٹر شہد ہانی



Registered Office: CUS-4 State Life Building # 10, Abdullah Haroon Road, Karachi, Pakistan. Phone: 021-35500575/76, Fax: 021-35500576/77. E-mail: info@thattacement.com

TENDER FOR SALE OF SCRAP

Sealed quotations are invited from interested parties for the sale of scrap material including high-quality M/S Material, Oil Well Lab Equipment, DG Set, Old Vehicles, FO Tanks, Raw Mill Classifier, and more, available on an "As is and where is basis". Firms or individuals with a valid NTN and registered with FBR and SRS are eligible to participate in this tender.

Interested firms or individuals may inspect the materials at Thatta Cement Factory, Ghulamullah Road, Malir, District Thatta, Sindh, during working hours from 08:30 AM to 04:30 PM, Monday to Friday.

Quotations, along with a Pay Order or Demand Draft of 10% of the quoted value (refundable) in favor of Thatta Cement Company Limited, should be submitted at Thatta Cement Company Limited, CUS-4, State Life Building No. 10, Main Abdullah Haroon Road, Karachi. The submission of bids will commence on July 1, 2024, and will close on July 10, 2024.

Successful bidder will have to deposit the remaining amount of the tender within 7 working days else 10% refundable amount will be forfeited.

The company reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without providing any reason.



(BEFORE SPECIAL JUDGE) ANTI-TERRORISM COURT KASHMIRE AT KANDHKOT

Special Case No.52/2024

The State
Versus
Sarwar Ogahi & Others

Crime No. 14 of 2024
Under Section 324, 325, 392, 499,
440, 148, 149 PPC & 67 ADA
Police Station: Kandhkot

Whereas, the accused namely 01. Sarwar a/o Shereef, 02. Asif a/o Ghulam Nabi, 03. Saeed a/o Akbar, 04. Sahab a/o Jagan, 05. Saffar a/o Arbab, 06. Naimatullah a/o Younis, 07. Manpoor @ Gato a/o Kamal, 08. Asghar @ Laloo a/o Muhammad Shaban all by Caste Ogahi R/o Phulal Band Village Khair Muhammad Naseerani 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.P.C read with section 19(10) of Anti-Terrorism Act 1997 be issued with directions to the above named accused persons to appear before this court at Subordinate Court Building Kashmir 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 06th day of June, 2024

(SPECIAL JUDGE)
ANTI-TERRORISM COURT
KASHMIRE AT KANDHKOT

RP-APP, 2024/24

(Signature of the Judge)



DR. PANJWANI CENTER FOR MOLECULAR MEDICINE AND DRUG RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES UNIVERSITY OF KARACHI, KARACHI-75270

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

No. CED/130/09072024

Sealed Tenders/Bids through Single Stage, Single Envelope Tendering procedure are invited on prescribed Tender Form, from the interested Suppliers/Contractors registered with Income Tax, Sales Tax, SRS and PEC in Category C-6 or above with Specialization Codes ME 01 and ME 06 for the following work:

Operation & Maintenance Services of HVAC SYSTEM Installed at Different Buildings including Autoclaves and Kill Tank at PCMD, ICCBS, UNIVERSITY OF KARACHI

Further detail of Work with Quantity, Terms & Conditions are contained in the Tender Form, which may be obtained on Written Request with Income Tax, GST, SRS and PEC Registration Certificates from 24th JUNE, 2024 along with Original Deposit Slip or Online Transaction Receipt of Payment of Rs. 1,500/- (one thousand five hundred) in United Bank Limited Account No. 2014807301 entitled "International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences Tender Account" from our Civil Engineering Department, ICCBS, University of Karachi up to 08th JULY 2024 during Office Hours on any Working Day.

1. 2% Earnest Money of the Total Bid Amount must be submitted latest by 11:30 am on 08th JULY, 2024 in the shape of Pay Order/Bank Guarantee in favor of "International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences Tender Account" along with the relevant Documents mentioned in the Tender Documents and Company Profile. No Bid shall be considered without Earnest Money.

2. The Bids shall be opened on the same day at 12:00 Noon in presence of the Bidders or their Representatives, who wish to be present. In case of any Holiday or Disturbance the Tenders will be received and opened on the Next Working Day as per same schedule.

3. The Successful Bidder who refuse to do work after accepting the Work Order, their Earnest Money shall be forfeited as a Penalty.

4. Competent Authority may reject all or any bid subject to relevant provisions of SPP Rules.

5. This Bid Advertisement can also be browsed at ICCBS Official Website www.iccs.edu and www.pcsmindh.gov.pk.

For detail or any information, contact:
Mr. Basim Jabeen
Sr. Civil Engineer, ICCBS
Tel: (021) 111-222-282 (Ext. 305)
Email: enrg.basim@iccs.edu

DIRECTOR

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 **Compliance** based at **Karachi**.

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

01	Position / Job Title	Unit Head – FATCA / CRS & Financial Institution's Review (AVP / VP)
	Reporting to	Wing Head – AML / CFT Governance and Analytics
	Educational / Professional Qualification	- 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	Minimum 07 years of banking experience including 04 years in Compliance preferably in the area of FATCA / CRS or AML / CDD review / advisory
	Other Skills / Expertise / Knowledge Required	- Good knowledge of general banking, Anti Money Laundering (AML) / Counter Financing of Terrorism (CFT) related laws, rules and regulations - Knowledge of banking services / products - Good communication, interpersonal and analytics skills - Effective team player - Proficiency in MS Office (preferably in MS Word, MS PowerPoint and MS Excel) - Good reporting and presentation skills - Ability to prioritize and accomplish task with strict deadline
	Outline of Main Duties / Responsibilities	- To provide compliance advisory after review of documents submitted by business in line with the EDD performed on Financial Institutions & Money Service Business (MSB) at time of onboarding and annual renewal - To respond to the queries raised or adverse news highlighted by correspondent FI / tie-ups - To respond to AML / CFT questionnaires received from local banks, international banks, MSBs and other organizations - To coordinate with Operations Group and other relevant groups to obtain the data related to FATCA / CRS reporting - To process and compile the data related to FATCA / CRS reporting - To perform reporting of FIATCA and CRS as per the defined timeline. Also, renew FATCA digital certificate as per IRS directives - To perform any other assignment as assigned by the supervisor(s)
02	Position / Job Title	Unit Head – Compliance Testing (AVP / VP)
	Reporting to	Wing Head – Monitoring and Quality Assurance
	Educational / Professional Qualification	- 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	Minimum 07 years of banking experience, out of which 04 years in Compliance and / or Controls and / or Audit and / or Treasury function
	Other Skills / Expertise / Knowledge Required	- Strong interpersonal and communication skills - Strong MS Office Skills - Should be able to lead teams of reviewers / auditors and meet the timelines
	Outline of Main Duties / Responsibilities	- To supervise and perform compliance reviews through a combination of on and offsite methodologies to assess compliance with the applicable regulatory instructions, requirements or guidelines to identify the areas of non-compliance and follow up till closure - To act as Subject Matter Expert (SME) of trade related transactions / testing and supervise review - To provide guidance to the staff for retesting of SBP Treasury Code of Conduct, various regulatory returns - To assist Wing Head for devising annual assurance plan covering key areas as per CFM guidelines and closely working with CFM team, carry out re-testing of RCSAs as per approved plan and given methodology - To supervise or conduct basic compliance related verification, use data for analysis and test embedment of controls in response to penalties, evaluate the revised process in close coordination with CFM - To prepare reports / dashboards and analysis of the control gaps / non-compliances for senior management - To follow up identified gaps during on-site, offsite reviews, RCSA re-testing exercise with the relevant units for timely rectification / closure - To maintain an updated dashboard of the status of (planned / unplanned) assignments against the plan for ready reference - To perform any other assignment as assigned by the supervisor(s)
03	Position / Job Title	Unit Head – SBP Coordination Wing (AVP)
	Reporting to	Wing Head – SBP Coordination
	Educational / Professional Qualification	- 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	Minimum 07 years of banking experience, out of which 04 years in SBP Coordination and / or Inspection or Regulatory Compliance
	Other Skills / Expertise / Knowledge Required	- Good command over MS Office - Sound communication skills
	Outline of Main Duties / Responsibilities	- To act as a focal person / liaison officer with State Bank of Pakistan on matters related to SBP coordination - To act as contact person internally and should be able to maintain strong relationship with all internal stakeholders - To coordinate between SBP and internally for requests regarding information, clarifications or extension in timeline and guide internal stakeholders - To be able to interact at senior level and clarify the requirements / queries in a clear and concise manner - To be able to ensure that staff followed relevant policies and procedures in letter and spirit - To maintain and keep track of the data / MIS for monitoring related to the coordination matters and ensure adequate and pre-emptive escalations to direct supervisor - To ensure that adequate checks are performed and clarity is obtained before submitting the final information outside of the bank - To perform any other assignment as assigned by the supervisor(s)
04	Position / Job Title	Manager – FATCA / CRS & Financial Institution's Review (OG-II / OG-I)
	Reporting to	Unit Head
	Educational / Professional Qualification	- 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	Minimum 03 of years banking experience including 01 year in Compliance preferably in the area of FATCA / CRS or AML / CDD review / advisory
	Other Skills / Expertise / Knowledge Required	- Good knowledge of Anti Money Laundering (AML) / Counter Financing of Terrorism (CFT) related laws and regulations - Basic knowledge of banking services / products - Good communication, interpersonal and analytics skills - Effective team player - Proficiency in MS Office (preferably in MS Word, MS PowerPoint and MS Excel) - Good reporting and presentation skills - Ability to prioritize and accomplish task with strict deadline
	Outline of Main Duties / Responsibilities	- To provide necessary coordination / support on FATCA & CRS implementation effort within respective functional area - To maintain and update MIS pertaining to FATCA & CRS reportable data - To provide compliance advisory after review of documents submitted by business in line with the EDD performed on Financial Institutions & MSB at time of onboarding and annual renewal - To respond AML / CFT questionnaires received from local banks, international banks, MSBs, and other organizations - To perform any other assignment as assigned by the supervisor(s)
05	Position / Job Title	Officer Compliance Risk Management (OG-II / OG-I)
	Reporting to	Department Head – Compliance Risk Management
	Educational / Professional Qualification	- 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	Minimum 03 years of banking experience, out of which 01 year in Compliance and / or data analytics and / or control function of a bank
	Other Skills / Expertise / Knowledge Required	- Good interpersonal communication - In-depth knowledge of local regulatory requirements - Proficient in Microsoft Office suite including excel, power point and power BI
	Outline of Main Duties / Responsibilities	- To prepare compliance control sheet for all new circulars and disseminate it to relevant functions - To follow up and track implementation timelines of the regulatory requirements with different functions - To follow up with the relevant function to maintain MIS for the control mapping against new regulations or where there are changes in the existing regulatory requirements - To prepare MIS and maintain detailed compliance risk reports of the overdue, not yet due items along with analyses of the validation failures - To maintain regular coordination and follow up within Compliance and with relevant independent function for the results of the compliance reviews and maintain validation results in the form of reports - To perform analysis of various themes coming out of the validation results - To perform analysis of regulatory related system data either on excel or on business intelligence tool or on any other application as and when requested - To manage and update regulator repository of all circulars / guidelines / Prudential Regulations etc. on timely basis - To prepare monthly compliance bulletin and disseminate to all staff - To prepare compliance risk management updates for management committee meetings - 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.siddatryder.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.

06P/June/2024

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 **Retail Banking** based in **Karachi**.

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

01	Position / Job Title	Product Manager – Secured Running Finance (SRF) - Liquid Security (AVP / VP)
	Reporting to	Divisional Head – Consumer Finance
	Educational / Professional Qualification	- Minimum Graduation or equivalent from a local or international university / college / institute recognized by the HEC - Candidates having a Master's degree in Finance and / or relevant field would be preferred
	Experience	- Minimum 05 years of banking experience, out of which at least 02 years of experience in Consumer Financing and / or SME Financing and / or Commercial Financing - Candidates having working experience in a similar role for a large scale organization(s) / bank(s) would be preferred
	Other Skills / Expertise / Knowledge Required	- Well versed with consumer related SBP PRs - Good understanding of Secured Running Finance product - Excellent communication and interpersonal skills - Ability to develop product and policies - Team management / leadership skills - Knowledge of KYC / AML guidelines - Report writing and analytical skills - Proficient in MS Office suite (Outlook, Excel, Word, Power Point)
	Outline of Main Duties / Responsibilities	- To lead and devise workable strategy and plan for the launch and management of Secured Running Finance (SRF) - Liquid Security product with business objectives and deliverables - To develop policies, update product program of SRF - Liquid Security, and propose product features / propose enhancements to ensure that the Bank maintains its market leadership over competitors and stays aligned with the competitors - To constantly review and contribute in development of existing loan application system for its improvement and implementation after successful UATs - To update changes in SRF - Liquid Security product policy in-line with the Bank's SOPs and SBP Regulations - To issue policies and procedures of secured running finance to the field after obtaining approvals from all the stakeholders - To prepare budget, develop and suggest strategies and action plan to increase product reach and product profitability thereof - To assist in conducting training sessions about product launch / enhancements - To ensure strict compliance with all regulatory guidelines such as SBP's Prudential Regulations as well as Bank's internal policies - To engage with recovery teams for overdue / defaulted loans - To coordinate with team on the regular / Non - Performing Loan (NPL) targets and provide clarification on various matters related to the product - To prepare / issue memos and presentations related to product for the Management review - To review draft policies / framework documents received from different groups and recommend amendments (where required) - To assist in designing themes of print / electronic, digital and social media campaigns for the product with the Strategic Marketing Division - To perform any other assignment as assigned by the supervisor(s)
02	Position / Job Title	Product Manager – Advance Salary (Personal Loans) (DG - I / AVP)
	Reporting to	Wing Head - Advance Salary
	Educational / Professional Qualification	- Minimum Graduation or equivalent from a local or international university / college / institute recognized by the HEC - Candidates having a Master's degree in Finance and / or relevant field would be preferred
	Experience	- Minimum 05 years of banking experience, out of which at least 02 years of experience in Consumer Financing and / or Personal Loans and / or Product Management (preferably in a large scale organization(s)) - Candidates having experience in product development and / or financing advance salary (Personal Loans) would be preferred
	Other Skills / Expertise / Knowledge Required	- Well versed with personal loan policies - Sound knowledge related to consumer banking - Excellent communication and interpersonal skills - Ability to develop products & policies - Strong knowledge of SBP Prudential Regulations and KYC / AML guidelines - Proficient in MS Office suite (Outlook, Excel, Word, Power Point)
	Outline of Main Duties / Responsibilities	- To provide support to the Management for promoting growth in Advance Salary Loan (personal loan) category which is aligned with industry best practices - To constantly review and develop existing loan application system for its improvement and implementation after successful UATs - To conduct routine inspection of operational issues related to Advance Salary Loan (personal loan) - To manage work-flow, analyse the product data and support supervisor in automation initiatives - To maintain portfolio of personal loans by avoiding additions to watch list and / or Non- Performing Loans (NPLs) and proactively take steps for reduction and non-accrual of product's NPLs - To have a strong follow-up mechanism for the closure of relevant complaints - To keep abreast with all regulatory guidelines (such as SBP's Prudential Regulations) as well as internal Bank's requirement (including credit policies) and ensure strict compliance - To maintain MIS of portfolio for reporting and monitoring purpose - To assist various stake holders in developing Service Level Agreement(s) (SLAs) related to products - To review and develop product program / product paper of personal loan (Advance Salary) - To assist supervisor for development / revision of product programs of new / existing products - To review policy paper / framework / documents provided by supervisor for feedback - To assist supervisor for issuance of policies and procedures related to advance salary loan (personal loan) to the field after obtaining approvals from all the stakeholders - To support supervisor in providing trainings related to personal loan products to field staff - To maintain and update monthly SCA and profile data reconciliation activity - 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.sidsaflydes.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.

MAKE YOUR BUSINESS GROW.
ADVERTISE IN

DAWN INDUSTRY SUPPLEMENTS

Chief Manager Supplements in Pakistan's Leading & International on UMR, 11 S-44-777

DAWN
the complete
newspaper

RAISE YOUR COMPANY'S
PROFILE
ADVERTISE IN

DAWN

COUNTRY SUPPLEMENTS

Chief Manager Supplements in Pakistan's Leading & International on UMR, 11 S-44-777



The Ismailia Youth Services

Career Opportunity

The Ismailia Youth Services (IYS) seeks applications from dynamic and talented individuals for the Principal position at Piroo Ali Higher Secondary School, Mait, Karachi.

The Principal will provide leadership to the school, develop goals and objectives, and prepare strategies to achieve those goals. The role includes leading and supervising the school management team and faculty to improve the quality of education and learning outcomes.

The ideal candidate must hold a Master's degree, preferably in Education, with at least 5 years of experience in school management. Candidates with a B.Ed/M.Ed. will be preferred.

Interested candidates meeting the criteria can email their CV with the position applied for in the subject line to recruitment@iys.edu.org by July 5, 2024.

IYS is an equal opportunity employer, and females are encouraged to apply. IYS reserves the right to reject any application or cancel any position without providing a reason. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for an interview.

Human Resource Department
021-34179004

HRSG DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?



Our client, **Nal Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGC)**, is looking for a well-qualified, dynamic and experienced professional to lead the Company as the:

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER / MANAGING DIRECTOR

The Managing Director will serve as the chief executive officer, responsible for the strategic direction, operational efficiency, financial performance, and overall success of SSGC. The supreme responsibility of the Managing Director is to meticulously steer and inspire the organization towards the realization of its fundamental philosophy, resolve vision, firm mission, deeply ingrained values, strategic pursuits, and multi-layered operational objectives. Tasked with crafting a dynamic strategic blueprint, this role aims to augment the Company's revenue streams, bolster profitability, and foster substantial growth. He / She works on the company's communication and public image building, implementing reforms under the supervision of the Board. This role demands strategic leadership, agility, awareness of domestic and international energy sector dynamics, legal nuances, stakeholder management and acute implementation of targets. The MD will stand as a stronghold of accountability, directly answerable to the Board for strategic implementation and operational outcomes. The detailed job description is available at [https://hrsgadvis.com/job-ops/ops/](https://hrsgadvis.com/job-ops/ops/ops/).

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

Besides the challenge and visibility of leading one of the most important organizations in Pakistan and the ability to make a true difference in the lives of people, you will be awarded with a highly competitive salary and benefits package.

YOU SHOULD HAVE...

- A Graduate degree in Engineering or Economics or Energy Management or Engineering Management or Finance or Accountancy or Business Administration or Law from a reputable university / institution recognized / accredited by HEC. Preference will be given to post graduates.
- A minimum of 20 years' (post qualification) experience in large organizations with a minimum of 5 years' work experience in the oil and gas sector in a C Suite position.
- Proven track record and demonstrated strategic leadership capabilities, showcasing extensive experience and robust credentials as a successful leader/manager with substantial qualifications in the field.
- Strong technical expertise, business acumen and knowledge of the oil and gas sector.
- Clear vision, big picture thinking with a drive and passion for building a lean-to-learn organizational culture.
- Strategic planning skills with the ability to translate strategies from plans to action.
- Strong ability to ensure operational efficiency, quality, service and cost-effective management of resources.
- Knowledge and experience to implement best practices of Corporate Governance, risk management and HSEQA.
- Exceptional people management and relationship building skills; multicultural competence and the ability to influence a diverse range of stakeholders.
- A high level of emotional intelligence, self-awareness and ability to build consensus through empathy and positivity.
- Experience of handling change management, organizational restructuring, succession planning; preferably international experience with a large organization.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Impeccable integrity and reputation.

ALSO CONSIDER...

- You should not be more than 60 years old.
- SSGC is an equal opportunity employer and women are encouraged to apply.
- Successful candidates shall be appointed in accordance with the State-Owned Enterprises (Governance and Operations) Act, 2013, Public Sector Companies (Appointment of CEO) Guidelines, 2013, Public Sector Companies (Corporate Governance) Rules, 2013, The State-Owned Enterprises (Ownership and Management) Policy, 2013 and must fulfill the laid down fit and proper criteria.
- You will be required to submit duly verified educational and experience documents upon request.
- The position is based in Karachi.

INTERESTED

You can apply at <https://recruitment.hrsgadvis.com/interest> latest by July 7th, 2024.

About SSGC

SSGC is one of the most reputed and critical public sector entities in Pakistan, engaged in the business of transmission and distribution of natural gas. SSGC's transmission system extending in the Provinces of Balochistan and Sindh comprising over 4,000 km of high pressure pipelines ranging from 8" - 48" in diameter. The company also owns and operates the only gas meter manufacturing plant in the country, having an annual production capacity of one million meters on single shift basis.

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PAF AIR WAR COLLEGE INSTITUTE
PAF BASE FAISAL, KARACHI

POSITIONS VACANT
Advertisement No 01 / 2024

Applications are invited from qualified Pakistan citizens for the following positions at PAF Air War College Institute, Faisal Karachi, Pakistan.

S. No	Name of Post	Qualification / Experience	Upper Age Limit
1	Registrar	- PhD / MS qualified - Requisite post - qualification experience as Registrar setup in HEC recognized University / Degree Awarding Institute	54 years
2	Controller of Examinations	- MS qualified - Requisite post - qualification experience of CoE setup in HEC recognized University / Degree Awarding Institute	54 years
3	Associate Professor	- PhD in the field of Strategic Studies / Defence & Strategic Studies / Peace & Conflict Studies - Requisite post - qualification teaching / research experience in HEC recognized University / Degree Awarding Institute	45 years

Terms & Conditions

- Applicants should send their application Dossier (in hard and soft copy) encompassing (i) Detailed CV (ii) HEC attested documents / degrees / certificates / transcripts (iii) Experience certificates (iv) CNIC (v) Domestic (vi) Two recent photographs (vii) Research publications to Office of the Registrar, Air War College Institute, PAF Base Faisal, Shahrah-e-Faisal, Karachi-75350, Email ID registrar@awci.edu.pk latest by **08 July, 2024**.
- Applications that are incomplete (in any case) or received after the due date shall not be entertained.
- Candidates having foreign degree / certificate should provide HEC Equivalency Certificate before the closing date.
- HEC Rules / Regulations regarding eligibility of candidates for the appointment in DAIs shall be applicable.
- Contact number, Postal and Email addresses must be mentioned clearly in the CVs. Any change in contact detail must be reported immediately to Office of the Registrar, AWCI.
- After scrutiny of CVs, only short-listed candidates would be called for interview by AWCI Selection Committee.
- No TA / DA will be given for attending the interview.
- Selection would be made as per the HEC faculty appointment criteria.
- The selected candidates will be governed by Statutes / Regulations / Rules of PAF Air War College Institute, Karachi.
- All above-mentioned posts shall be filled purely on contract basis.
- Competitive salary package will be offered to successful candidates.

Registrar
PAF Air War College Institute, Faisal, Karachi.
021-99547481, 83