



## 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 Basir Sejed 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 restructured and re-energised 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, crediting 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. Most recent operations include Zarb-e-Azb, launched in 2014 by Gen Raheel Sharif to combat militancy in North Waziristan, and Raheel Raast, 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

Whilst these operations achieved initial 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 Lt. General Aslam, a high-ranking Chinese official, released grave concerns at a political forum. He starkly highlighted that the deteriorating security situation in Pakistan undermined the confidence of Chinese investors, urging a snap-up

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RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff Gen Asim Munir attend the funeral service of Major Hassan William at Saint Paul's Church, on Saturday. The major was among five security men who embraced martyrdom in an IED blast in Kurnan district a day ago.—APP

## 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 Wasim

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

It was the third consecutive day of the debate on the budget, presented by Finance Minister Mian Muhammad Aslam on June 12, 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 theobjectionable remarks made by Sanaullah Mastikhel of

PPC and identified over two dozen budget anomalies: Page 9

the opposition Senate Interim Council (SIC) in his 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 Ayaz Sadiq announced the suspension of Mr. Mastikhel's membership for the remainder of the current session fol-

lowing approval of a motion in this regard through a voice vote.

During his budget speech, Mr. Mastikhel, the MNA from Bhakkar, addressed Defense Minister Khawaja Asif and said the opposition members had not received the parliament by opposing some of his remarks. 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 forgive 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 neighbors and for Afghanistan itself remains the elimination of terrorism within and from Afghanistan," Pakistan's permanent representative to the UN Muslim Akram said in a debate on the situation in Afghanistan.

Pakistan, he said, had reportedly conveyed to the Afghan Taliban — at very senior levels — to act decisively to end the banned TTP's attacks, disrupt 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 Dasu 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 direct threat to all of Afghanistan's neighbors 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

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ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP RESULTS & FIXTURES	
INDIA WIN BY 10 WICKETS	
INDIA 189-4 in 20 overs (74, Pundir 50 not out, V. Ravi 37, T. Sodhi 2-22). <b>BANGLADESH</b> 94-5 in 20 overs (74, Sharaf 40, K. Younus 31-10)	
INDIA WIN BY 10 WICKETS	
INDIA 188-6 in 19 overs (74, M. Shami 50, R. Chahal 31-10, A. Russell 2-21). <b>WEST INDIES</b> 120-6 in 19.5 overs (5, Hooper 50 not out, M. Russell 3-10)	
INDIA WIN BY 10 WICKETS	
INDIA 180-6 in 19 overs (74, R. Shamsi 50, M. Shami 40, S. Asif 3-10, S. Mahmood 2-10). <b>ENGLAND</b> 180-7 in 19 overs (74, Buttler 50, M. Ali 40, S. Patel 3-10)	
INDIA WIN BY 10 WICKETS	
INDIA 180-6 in 19 overs (74, R. Shamsi 50, M. Shami 40, S. Asif 3-10, S. Mahmood 2-10)	

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 persons not 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 recovered the body to the district hospital. "He received multiple gunshot wounds, which caused his instant death," they

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## 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 the IMF priorities than national interests. The committee, which is set to deliberate its recommendations on Monday, also expressed concerns over the unequal distribution of tax burden. Page 9

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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, blasting the officialdom for defiling every good project. A member of the treasury also called for abolishing all authorities and committees to reduce the financial burden on the province.

The demands were made by the PML-N's Asif Ali Javed who lauded the government for reducing the loan burdens 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 Majid Shaukat Rehman said the PTI would have to seek permission from the district administration for holding a public meeting or organizing a protest.

Interfaith Pakistan Party MPA Shoaib Siddiqui said he faced five cases under terrorism charges during the PTI regime besides being subjected to other abuses.

PTI-backed SIC lawmaker Rana Shabbar said Asif Zardari and the Sharifs were trying to impress their new generations on the masses. Lauding

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 shamed 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 Nisoom Dugar lamented that the textile industry in Faisalabad was being closed while wheat growers were financially hurt as the government backed out of its promise of procuring wheat.

The Opposition's Attaur Rashid Bhatty was at 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 MPA Awas Virk questioned the reason behind the arrest of the farmers protesting for their rights and non-procurement of wheat by the government.

Tehreek-e-Islami's Asif Warriach 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 Abbas Rana said without Nawaz Sharif all development was over while Sharif Riaz said the PTI proved to be the most corrupt party in the government.

## JI plans demos against high electricity cost

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** Jamaat-i-Islami chief Rafiq Naqvi on Saturday announced countrywide protests against costly electricity, prolonged loadshedding and anti-peoples budget, marking official start of the first phase of what he called "national resistance movement".

Addressing a press conference at Marsoona, Naqvi urged public to join the struggle for their rights, emphasising that it was essential to rid the nation of the corrupt ruling elite.

He criticised Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's claims about ending loadshedding, cutting them lies. He pointed out that inflated electricity bills and persistent loadshedding had made life unbearable.

Rehman rejected the finance minister's statement on the privatisation of national enterprises, arguing that the minister had no right to make such decisions. He accused the finance minister of representing those who have destroyed national institutions and demanded that those responsible be brought to justice before making any further statements or decisions about selling these institutions.



LAHORE: Workers prepare wheat containers near Dr. Maria Pilat.—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-

tions outside the residence of Dr Tahirul Qadri in Model Town.

The witnesses, who also reside near Ishaq Masjid Quraishi in Model Town, include Khawaja Sohail, Waqar Ahmed Quraishi, Malik Sabir, Yasmin Mushtaq Ahmed, Ghulam Shahid, and Iman 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 Ishaq Masoom 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 residence of Ishaq Masjid Quraishi.

They said the workers of the PAT fired from the rooftop 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 Arshad Javed adjourned the hearing till June 28.

The judge directed the PAT counsel to cross-examine the defense witness on the next hearing.

The judge also summoned DSP Rana Mahmoodul Hassan, ASI Aslam Ahmed, constable Faizul Haider and Asif Hussain 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 Tahirul Qadri on June 17, 2014.

Ishaq Masjid Quraishi, a subsidiary of PAT, had

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

However, the trial court in 2017 dismissed the complaint to the extent of political personalisation 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 re-investigate the incident. However, several accused police officials challenged the JIT before the LHC and got it stayed in 2019.

Former inspector general Mosharraf Sekhon, former DG operations Rana Abdul Jabbar, for

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

**PAT:** In a statement, PAT legal spokesperson Nasimuddin Chaudhry appealed to the Lahore High Court to issue orders for an expedited decision on the pending petitions on 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 34 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 inputs and witnesses.

## HRCP seeks strict action in Swat case

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) calls upon the federal government to take strict action following the recent mob lynching of a 40-year-old man in Swat, which 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 Nasir Mumtaz in Sargodha, should make it clear that the state has, knowingly or otherwise, rendered its very own 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 misconstrued 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 malaise of the criminal justice system and a general sense of economic and social dependency."

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## ECP had one job and it failed to deliver: PTI

- Party lawmakers march from NA to ECP office, demand CEC's resignation
- Asad claims May 9 situation was created deliberately, says no talks underway with govt
- Raoof urges CJP to take notice of Zubair's claims that Bujwa derailed PTI govt

By Sarm Jursid

ISLAMABAD: PTI parliamentarians marched from the National Assembly to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) office on Saturday, criticising the election body for allegedly failing to conduct free and fair elections and calling for the resignations of the Chief Election Commissioner and other ECP officials.

Speaking to the media, leader of the opposition in the National Assembly, Omar Ayub, asserted that the ECP had only one job to hold free and fair elections, which he claimed the body had failed to fulfil.

"We demand that the CEC and other members resign as they have even failed to utilise the budget allocated for elections," Mr Ayub said.

The speaker of the National Assembly, Asad Qaiser, alleged that a situation was deliberately created on May 9 last year to initiate operations against the PTI.

He said that despite the PTI founding chairman's approval for negotiations with the government, no talks were taking place.

He also lamented that the PTI's voice was not being heard in parliament.

PTI Chairman Barrister Ghulam Khan highlighted the challenges faced by the opposition, including alleged obstruction in the courts and the ongoing detention of former prime minister Imran Khan.

MNA Zafar Gul said it was unfortunate that his voice was being ignored in parliament.

Commission sought over Zafar Gul's interview

Meanwhile, PTI leader Raoul Hassan urged the chief justice of Pakistan to take suo moto notice of an interview of former Sindh governor Mohammad Zulair.

In the interview, Mr Zulair claimed that retired general Shaukat Aziz Rajput was behind a conspiracy to



LED by Ghulam Ali Khan and Omar Ayub, PTI leaders held a march from the Parliament House to ECP office seeking Imran Khan's release, on Saturday.—White Star

derail the PTI government.

Mr Hassan demanded

the formation of a judicial commission to investigate these allegations, noting that Imran Khan had made similar claims. He criticised Mr Rajput, accusing him of violating his oath to remain apolitical.

He also questioned the legitimacy of statements made by a federal minister suggesting that the public wanted Imran Khan imprisoned for five years, claiming that Mr Khan had secured a two-thirds majority in the PTI's general elections.

Mr Hassan also condemned the imposition of Section 144 — an emergency law that prohibits gatherings — in Punjab, alleging it was a tactic to prevent development schemes.

Mr Hassan also condemned the imposition of Section 144 — an emergency law that prohibits gatherings — in Punjab, alleging it was a tactic to prevent development schemes.

Secretary Finance Sabir Khan, Additional Civil Secretary Planning and Development Hafiz Abdul Rehman, and government spokesperson Shaukat Riaz also attended the press conference.

Providing details on the provincial annual development programme, Planning Minister Balochi noted that the incoming provincial government, in view of economic challenges and financial difficulties, had reviewed the provincial development programmes during the current fiscal year, which included 9,788 schemes — 5,068 new and 4,720 ongoing ones — with a total proposed cost of Rs229.8bn.

However, Budget pressures reduced the cost of proposed projects to Rs125.9bn. Despite this, he

## Balochistan prioritises all major sectors in budget: minister

Noshwanwani claims projects are aimed at equitable growth across province

By Saeem Shahid

QUETTA: Balochistan Minister for Finance Shoaib Noshwanwani said on Saturday that the provincial government has presented a balanced budget, accommodated all sectors, and initiated flagship projects aimed at equitable growth across the province.

Addressing a post-budget press conference in Quetta with Planning and Development Minister Mir Zulqarnain Ahmed Balochi, Mr Noshwanwani emphasised that the government had prioritised health, education, irrigation, climate change, and law and order.

Mr Noshwanwani dismissed claims that Rs69 billion in development funds were lost due to misutilisation. "These funds were never authorised or released," he clarified.

He said delays in project completion and legal disputes had hampered the release of these funds. "The funds remain intact in provincial accounts and will be utilised in the 2024-25 fiscal year for ongoing development schemes," he assured.

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BALOCHISTAN Finance Minister Shoaib Noshwanwani along with Minister for Planning Zahoor Ahmed Balochi address a post-budget press conference.—APP

said, 2,172 schemes were successfully completed this year.

For the next financial year, the development budget had been proposed at Rs219.8bn, covering 3,926 ongoing and 2,704 new projects, Mr Balochi said. He highlighted that these schemes would benefit all 36 districts of Balochistan. Tenders

development programme and minimised the expenditures. He said in the next year's PSDP, 60 per cent of the amount had been allocated for ongoing schemes and the remaining 36pc for new projects.

The government had increased the allocation of the Balochistan Education Endowment Fund by Rs21.5m and provided scholarships to 75,000 students. So far, Rs16m had been allocated for out-of-school children, he said. Mr Balochi said the government had allocated Rs12.8m for the second phase of the green tractor scheme and Rs12.8m for the green Balochistan initiative.

Secretary Finance Sabir Khan stated that salary increases for 319,000 provincial employees would impact the budget by Rs27.8m annually.

Mr Riaz announced Rs1.2bn for expanding and launching the police's bus service in Quetta and Turbat. Plans are also in place to make Quetta's three major hospitals semi-autonomous, establish a liver disease hospital in Mastung, and upgrade a heart disease hospital in Quetta. Mr Riaz added that the budget includes funds for burn units in 14 districts and rescue operations in 10 districts.

Court orders spy agencies to file reports on missing citizen

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) has sought reports from sector commanders of Inter-Services Intelligence and Military Intelligence, who are deployed in Rawalpindi, Islamabad and Azad Jammu and Kashmir on a position seeking the whereabouts of a citizen.

Mr Khurshed, a resident of Nishtar Valley, went missing on June 7, according to the petition filed by Khawaja Khurshed. She stated Mr Khurshed was in Rawalpindi and went to Gilgit-Baltistan or Islamabad, but did not return home.

The petitioner's counsel informed the IHC that Mr Khurshed's brother had lodged a complaint with local police but he could not be traced.

In its order on Saturday, the court noted that deputy attorney general submitted written reports on behalf of FIA and CTB in compliance with June 14 direction. Both FIA and CTB reports have denied custody of Mr Khurshed.

The defense ministry's law officer asked Justice Kayani for more time to file reports on behalf of the intelligence agencies.

"The sector commanders of ISI and MI of Islamabad, Rawalpindi and Azad Jammu and Kashmir are directed to submit their reports in writing with their own signatures," the judge ordered. The next hearing is set for June 24.

## Tax-laden budget finds no takers in NA

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to give his ruling, Mr Sadiq said he had no words to express his feelings over the unfortunate incident, stating that such objectionable words had never been heard in the parliament.

At the outset of the sitting, Opposition Leader Usman Ayub Khan drew the attention of the house to a reported statement of visiting Chinese Minister Li Jiacheng in which he had linked his country's support to the CPIM projects with the improvement in the security situation in Pakistan. Mr Khan said the Chinese minister had given a clear message by asking them "to get your house in order" due to the alleged failure of the country's intelligence agencies.

He asked army chief Gen Asim Munir and all the formation commanders to immediately convene a corps commanders' conference to review the alleged failure of the intelligence agencies while

accusing them of being busy in witch-hunting of the PTI people and journalists.

Speaker Sadiq, who was also present in the meeting of the politicians with the Chinese minister, observed that the guest's remarks were misconstrued and "senseless".

**Budget debate**

Earlier, taking part in the debate, the members continued to express resentment over the proposed increase in taxes on the middle class as well as others, including statutory items, medical equipment, packaged milk and agriculture input.

A number of lawmakers, mostly from smaller provinces, expressed their concerns over the ongoing load-shedding in various parts of the country despite an unprecedented increase in the bills.

Minister Kamal of the Accountants, Quetta Movement Pakistan (MQM) called for impos-

ing a "financial emergency" in the country. Criticising the proposed heavy tax on the masses, he asked the politicians, all members of the legislature and serving and retired army generals to come forward and donate some of their assets to help the country raise Rs78.998 billion.

He said the government had allocated nearly Rs45.698bn in the budget for payment of interest on the debt, out of which Rs7.009bn would be loaned to local banks. He asked the government to hold the payment of Rs47.698bn to local banks under the financial emergency to provide some breathing space.

**Budget lacks 'direction'**

Minister Sadiq said the budget lacked any direction, except for revenue generation. He criticised the proposed tax on hybrid vehicles, stating that it was being imposed at a time when the whole world was encouraging incentives for electric vehicles and the use of fossil fuel. He welcomed the prime minister's decision to reduce power tariff for industries, but questioned as to who would bear this Rs240m burden. He opposed a bill in the

petroleum levy, which he said would cause more inflation.

SEC leader Asad Qaiser said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was generating about 4,000 megawatts of electricity, while the total current consumption of electricity in KP was only 2,000MW whereas the province was being provided only 1,100MW and that was at an above tariff rate.

Another SEC member Shehzad Afridi delivered an emotional speech in which he highlighted the alleged mistreatment of his family members, including his wife and daughters.

"Perhaps this will be my last speech in this house," said the MNA. Mr Afridi, who is facing charges over his alleged involvement in the May 9 violent attacks on the military installations, declared that he would remain loyal to Imran Khan, come what may.

The National Assembly is set to meet again today (on Sunday) at 11am.

## Pakistani women joining combat courses in US double in a decade: report

WASHINGTON: The number of Pakistani female officers receiving military training in the United States has increased by 150 per cent in the past decade, according to a report released by the US State Department's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs.

The report, released on Friday, stated that for the past two years, Pakistan has had the region by sending the most number of female military officers to the US for training.

From 2010 to 2021, 35 Pakistani women attended International Military Education and Training (IMET) courses, more than double compared to 22 who participated between 2011 and 2019. "In Pakistan, these individuals have proven to be the first drops of rain, paving hand-drawn into military training and education centres advancing their professional development while laying the groundwork for more women to follow," the report said.

The training is sponsored by the US State Department to "build military-to-military relationships" by funding foreign officers to take part in the US military training and education courses.—Arwaib Iqbal



## BUSINESS UNDER SIEGE

- The 2024-25 budget places an undue strain on multinational companies operating in Pakistan by徵收 25% of their advertising and publicity expenditures, resulting in massive tax liabilities and severely impacting profitability.
- These companies will be forced to reduce their media budgets, further worsening the crisis faced by media channels and reducing their profitability at a time when they are already struggling. The impact will also fall on newspaper employees, reducing the industry's ability to pay competitive and timely salaries while endangering their jobs due to increased production costs.
- This unfair policy propounds foreign direct investment and risks driving existing MNCs out of the market, while adversely affecting the government's efforts to attract new business ventures to Pakistan.
- The clause is retrospective for the past two years, tripling the impact on affected businesses and severely weakening the economy of the media industry. It is imperative to remove this burdensome clause to ensure a level playing field.

We urge the government to reconsider and withdraw this amendment to ensure the survival and continued contribution of media & advertising industry to an enlightened society.



## 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 G-11/A were out of order on May 29 when Bushra Bibi's ex-husband Khawar Manika was manhandled on the court premises.

Police told Dawn that the report had recently been submitted in the court of Additional Session Judge Atif Al 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) Shaukat Aslam and to record his statement in marriage after trial case.

Reportedly, Manika used foul language against PTI founder chairman and also misbehaved with the judge.

This prompted a strong response from the PTI 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 Rawalpindi police station under Section 7 of Anti-Terrorism Act with 324, 386, 388, 406, 147, 149, 341, 343 and 363 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 Atif Al Majoka and submitted petitions under section 19(PPC) 22-A, seeking directives for the police to produce May 29 CCTV footage.

## CTD obtains physical remand of 11 PTI workers

ISLAMABAD: The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) was given three-day physical remand of 11 workers of the Pakistani Tehrik-i-Insaaf (PTI), who were arrested on Friday, police said.

The workers were arrested in connection with an FIR registered against them with Banigala police station under section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act, along with sections 382, 341, 353, 388, 388, 407, 148, 149 and 149. The police produced them in the court of a magistrate to obtain their remand and in response they were given into police custody for three days for interrogation.

According to the FIR, 30 to 35 people led by PTI leaders Shoaib Shaheen, Asim Mughal and Amanat Khan appeared on Bushra's Enclave Road.

The police intercepted them and informed them that Section 144 had been imposed in the capital, but they blocked the road from both sides, it added.

Many participants of the rally were armed and put up resistance against the police, the FIR said, adding that the leadership provoked the participants to attack the police which they did.

They wore the uniforms of two constables and armoured in wireless set from an ASI and a private times pistol from an SI, the FIR said, adding that they also pelted the police vehicle with stones and hit it with batons. As the situation deteriorated, an Anti-Riot Unit reached the spot, but the PTI leaders and workers managed to escape from the spot, the FIR said, adding that the police arrested 11 workers and recovered PTI flags and batons from them.—Staff Reporter



A MAN and his child cool off at a natural stream flowing along Mengalla Road in Islamabad's F-7 sector on Saturday.—Photo by Tariq Shahzad

## Elevating medical education standards vital for citizens' health: Dar

By Ishaq Junaidi

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

"Our institutions must be empowered to provide higher education and training to our future medical professionals," he said while chairing the initial 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 health-care sector.

"Our government is committed to nurturing the next generation of health-care professionals and ensuring that they receive the best possible education and training," Mr Dar said, emphasising 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 Muekhtar Ahmad Bharat, Law Minister Asam Nasir Tarar, MNA Dr Nadeem Shah, Health Secretary Nadeem Mabrook, Pakistan Medical and Dental Council President Prof Dr Rizwan Taj, Higher Education



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

Commission chairman, CPME president, additional foreign secretary and heads 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 at par with international best practices, measures to streamline admission to foreign medical colleges, improving coordination between public and private sector as well as regulatory bodies to ensure uniform 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 diagnose existing students, who returned from Kyrgyzstan, in Pakistani medical colleges.

The committee had to submit its report in 15 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

Chishti, Law Minister Asam Nasir Tarar, PM Co-ordinator on Health Dr Malik Muekhtar Ahmad Bharat, MNA Dr Nadeem Shah, retired Maj Gen Asrar Kayani, secretary of ministry of health and foreign affairs, IHEC chairman, PMEC President Dr Rizwan Taj, Vice Chancellor (VC) Shahid Zafar Ali Shah Medical University Prof Tariq Iqbal, Dean Khyber Medical College Dr Muhammad Aslamgari, 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 often issue 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.

## Minister asked to take up mob lynching with cabinet

By Jamal Shahid

ISLAMABAD: Calling for federal action against vigilante, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Ghulam Mustafa Shah on Saturday urged Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal to bring the rising issue of mob lynching to the attention of the federal cabinet.

The call for action came during the budget debate following the minister's remarks about the recent Benazir incident.

On June 20, Mohammad Nadeem, a resident of Nallakot, was lynched by a mob inside the Mardan police station in

Sear. He had been detained for alleged destruction of the holy Quran.

The mob not only killed Nadeem but also set his body, the police station and an official vehicle on fire.

Highlighting the gravity of the situation, Ahsan Iqbal emphasised the international backlash Pakistan would face due to this incident.

"This has picked up the news and is engulfing Pakistan," Mr Iqbal said. He mentioned that similar incidents had occurred in Sialkot, Jaranwala, Sangla and Lahore, reflecting a disturbing pattern.

The minister recounted his own experience with vigilante justice when a religious extremist

attempted to assassinate him, leaving him with a bullet permanently lodged in his body.

He condemned the societal decline where basic constitutional principles and laws were ignored in favour of "street justice" and "mob lynching".

"We must take notice of this incident. The society has declined to levels where we are flagrantly violating the Constitution, the law and the state," he said.

Mr Iqbal argued that Islam discourages desecration of mosques, even of infidels/heretics, yet burning people alive was becoming a public spectacle.

"Anarchy will ruin everything if such incidents are not controlled," he warned, advocating for the formation of a special parliamentary committee to review these incidents and propose a national strategy to enforce the rule of law.

In response, Deputy Speaker Shah expressed his dismay at the minister's apparent helplessness. He directed him to address the issue with his colleagues in the federal cabinet to devise an effective strategy.

The recent incidents of mob violence and the ongoing political and public outcry highlighted a critical need for a cohesive national approach to uphold the rule of law and protect citizens from vigilante, he added.

Meanwhile, former senator and Chair of the Senate

Committee on Human Rights Murtaza Nasar Khokhar also raised his concerns over the rise in incidents of mob violence.

"We are so engrossed in political bickering that we have lost sight of where our society is headed. In this month alone, two people have lost their lives over unproven allegations of blasphemy," Mr Khokhar said.

He urged all mainstream political parties to take action, emphasising that silence was not an option.

Murtaza Khokhar called on the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police to take strict measures against those who took the law into their own hands, noting that innocent lives and government property were at stake.

## Minister launches agriculture programme in Punjab

By Our Correspondent

TAXILA: Punjab Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Dairy Development Syed Asif Hussain Kirmari has launched the "Transforming Punjab Agriculture Programme" at a cost of Rs400 billion which, he said, would usher in a new era of agricultural development in the province.

Speaking during his visit to Baraun Livestock Production Research Institute, Khairi Mian near Taxila on Saturday, Mr Kirmari said 60% of the agriculture depended on livestock sector and keeping this in view, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz approved several programmes for the development of the livestock sector.

Director General Production Dr Asif Riaz, Director Khairi Mian Research Institute Dr Maryam Ali Tiga, Director Livestock Research Dr Nadeem Shah and Additional Director

Livestock Ansoo district Dr Abdul Hamid were also present.

The provincial minister also visited Baraun Livestock Production Research Institute and Para-Vet Training Institute. He said the government would provide loans on easy installments to 40,000 farmers in the rural areas of Punjab for dairy farming through free stock cards.

He said the chief minister had also approved dairy cattle control and traceability programme under which 1.2 million animals and 150,000 breeders would benefit, adding that the government wanted to increase production of milk and meat to increase exports.

Giving a briefing, Additional Director Livestock Ansoo district Dr Abdul Hamid said all resources were being utilised for the development of livestock in the research institute. Besides, a two-year diploma is also being conducted in the Para-Vet Training Institute, Khairi Mian.

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## China's concerns

**R**UMOURS had been swirling that China was less than enthusiastic about forging ahead with new CPEC schemes, primarily due to concerns about the security of its people and assets in Pakistan. Some media reports had hinted that little of substance was achieved during the prime minister's tour of China earlier this month, particularly where the CPEC file was concerned, even if official statements from both sides reflected an air of normalcy. Yet even in official handouts, China's security concerns were unambiguous. For example, in his meeting with Shehbaz Sharif, President Xi Jinping expressed the hope that Pakistan would "create a safe, stable and predictable business environment" that would "guarantee the safety of Chinese personnel and projects. This same message was delivered to our civil and military elite on Friday in Islamabad by a Chinese official, though in an uncharacteristically direct manner.

Liu Jianchao, who heads the International Department of the Communist Party of China, told a forum attended by representatives of Pakistani mainstream parties that the security situation here was "shaking the confidence of Chinese investors". He also called for improving the business environment, reiterated the necessity for political stability, and stressed a "CPEC-friendly media environment". Though the message may have been delivered by a relatively mid-level official, in the Chinese system where the Communist Party is the state, it is safe to assume that the contents of the statement were endorsed by the highest authorities in Beijing. Moreover, the fact that China chose a public forum to air its concerns speaks of the seriousness Beijing attaches to security.

China's concerns should not be taken lightly by Pakistan's ruling elite, especially at a time when the country needs all the foreign investment it can get. Regarding the official's observation about a "CPEC-friendly media environment", more transparency about the long-term plans for the project can clear the air. Both governments should let the media and the people know the facts about the economic corridor, as opacity will only fuel rumours. Meanwhile, Pakistan has no option but to neutralise the militant threat to Chinese and all other foreign projects in the country. The prime minister hinted at this during Saturday's apex committee meeting. If foreign workers are killed in terrorist attacks, and multimillion-dollar projects targeted, no overseas party will want to invest in this country. Regarding Chinese concerns about a conducive business environment and political stability, again Pakistan has little choice but to improve its performance in both areas. Foreign investors need to be facilitated and businesses have to be eliminated. Furthermore, all local stakeholders must pledge to honour commitments with foreign parties, and not derail them when governments change. It is only in Pakistan's interest to heed most of China's advice.

## War drums

**N**OT satisfied with the slaughter it has unleashed in Gaza, Israel is now preparing to turn its guns on Lebanon, specifically Hezbollah, the Iran-backed armed group it has clashed with multiple times. While Hezbollah and Israel started trading fire almost immediately after the Oct 7 events — the Lebanese group says it is acting in solidarity with Hamas and the Palestinian people — the exchange now threatens to transform into full-blown war. Over the last few weeks, Israeli officials have ratcheted up their rhetoric against the Lebanese outfit, while Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah has said his group is ready for war with the Zionist state. In fact, over the past several months, the Lebanon-Israel border has been turned into an active battle zone, with thousands of people on both sides evacuated. Regarding the threat of a larger conflict, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said on Friday that "one miscalculation could trigger a catastrophe ... beyond imagination".

Israel has violated Lebanese sovereignty several times over the past few decades, launching two major ground invasions of its northern neighbour. Yet it would be a massive folly if Tel Aviv were to attempt a fresh misadventure in the north, though the war mongers in Israel appear to be capable of anything as the Gaza massacre has shown. Hezbollah is a battle-hardened outfit which can strike deep inside Israel. A confrontation would be no cakewalk for the Zionist state. But it is also true that in any potential war, Lebanon — which is already experiencing an excruciating economic crisis, as well as political paralysis — would suffer immensely, particularly if Israel targeted civilians, as it is prone to doing. And if the US were to jump in to protect its "troubled" ally from Hezbollah's missiles, attracting the involvement of Iran and its regional armed allies, then all bets are off for the region. Of course, this doomsday scenario can be avoided if Israel ceases its blood-soaked campaign in Gaza. Hezbollah has said that it is ready to silence its guns if a ceasefire takes effect in Gaza. Thus far Israel seems committed to its genocidal campaign in the occupied territory. Therefore, if it is foolish enough to launch another war in Lebanon, Tel Aviv will be solely responsible for setting the Middle East on fire. A fresh cataclysm can be prevented, if Israel comes to its senses.

## Balochistan budget

**B**ALOCHISTAN'S Rs955 billion budget for the fiscal year 2024-25 makes many pledges to the poor citizens of Pakistan's largest but least populous province. Most of these promises, if not all, will not be met by the end of the fiscal year — just like in previous years. The first budget of the new PPP-led government in the conflict-ridden province reflects the lack of effort to impose fiscal discipline or reform the provincial development expenditure in spite of a growing throw-forward of incomplete schemes. That the budget envisages spending a major portion of the development funds of Rs132bn set aside for next year on more than 2,700 new schemes, instead of completing ongoing projects to slash the burden of development throw-forward, speaks volumes about how every government in the province misuses the taxpayers' money to keep the lawmakers on their side. Yet when the chips are down, there is no stopping the defections. The story is repeated in Balochistan every few years.

Indeed, public trust in the province's political leadership has consistently faltered on account of poor governance, patchy development and rampant financial corruption. With nearly 60% of Balochistan's population living below the poverty line and a widening trust deficit between the people and rulers, it is not surprising to see rising political disaffection and growing militancy across the province. Balochistan's worsening law and order demands that the provincial authorities improve political and financial governance, beginning with major development budget reforms, to narrow the trust gap. This will not happen overnight. However, the present government could take the first step by formulating a longer-term development strategy to help it allocate resources in a transparent manner for the targeted geographical areas, sectors and schemes. Implementing such a strategy will ensure that the fruits of development reach people across Balochistan through the efficient use of whatever meagre financial resources the province has at its disposal.

## OPINION

BY MUHAMMAD AMIR RANA



## Dangerous majoritarianism

The system is paralysed when it encounters the challenge of religiously motivated mob violence.

**P**AKISTAN is unable to follow the path of Saudi Arabia or Indonesia, which are progressing slowly and steadily with religious reforms. Both countries present contrasting visions of religious reform but are ultimately opening up their respective societies, embracing governance, and improving their international image.

In both countries, the leadership promotes religious reforms. In Saudi Arabia, the reform process is slower than the one in Indonesia, primarily because Indonesian civil society supports the state's efforts in this direction. In contrast, the Pakistani leadership needs to be more aware of the importance of religious reform in navigating a changing world. Instead, it aligns itself with extremist forces, gaining ideological and political power while empowering these groups to use violence against communal and sectarian minorities.

The divide between the poor or ruling elite and the establishment in Pakistan is not new. It has been studied extensively by legal and international scholars. However, what remains constant is the elite's appearance of extremism and their inclination to use them for political purposes. While social factors have contributed to the extremist mindset in Pakistan, the power elite's actions are often criminal, creating the social fabric.

Incidents like the one in Madran, Sui, bouldings in Puriab, and vandalism against the Ahmadi community during Eid indicate that extremism in society is reaching dangerous levels. Taking the law into one's own hands has become standard practice for charged mobs and activists of radical religious groups. The administration hardly attempts to restrain them, and simply registers cases against the suspects. People with clear cases come forward and help the suspects and their families financially and with legal aid. Once they are released, they become heroes in their communities. This has become the norm after every blasphemy-related tragedy that involves lynching and mob violence.

A majoritarian mindset is at play, with the state a mere spectator. In Puriab and urban

Sindh, the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan is fanning the flames of extremism. Although other religiously motivated actors have acted in a similar fashion in the past, the TLP's rhetoric is now so powerful that they cannot compete.

The TLP has transformed itself into an extreme phenomenon, reflecting a mindset shared by perhaps most of society. This majority is religiously and politically disillusioned, falling into the trap of political populism and growing increasingly resentful of the power elites. Paradoxically, state institutions endorse this majority mindset and side with the extremists when issues of religious sentiment arise.

The common man cannot fully comprehend the dichotomy of the state, and his anger against the latter is increasing. However, the TLP and other religious parties have their constituencies in the semi-urban areas, and among low-income groups, while a significant portion of the middle class, too, exhibits the same mindset. While the middle class tends to avoid direct involvement in violence, they fully support the actions of the fanatics. These radical religious groups draw their core strength from middle-class youth, who serve as keyholders, warriors, developing political strategies and evolving organisational tactics.

The power elites do not feel much threat from the core leadership of extremist groups because they maintain open communication channels and often interact with them. They are more concerned about the keyholders, warriors and seek to regulate virtual spaces. They have similar fears about social media activists from populist political parties and nationalist political parties in the peripheries.

The power elites believe that more control over social media, building firewalls, and tightening legal regulations will eliminate dissent in all forms. Social media is merely a medium, but despite reviewing its policies and practices, despite extremism and extremist parties, the establishment is more interested in controlling it. Apart from controlling social media spaces, the state has taken cosmetic policy measures to deal with extremism. Until the power elites do not end their apprehensive approach and

address the core issue and encourage religious reforms as Saudi Arabia and Indonesia are doing, extremism will continue to shape an ugly majoritarian mindset.

The whole system seems paralysed once it encounters the challenge of religiously motivated mob violence. The federal and provincial governments avoid even commenting on such incidents and leave it to the establishment and local administrations to deal with such cases on their own. The governments are scared that their involvement in such cases would divert the public's anger towards them. This attitude encourages the extremists.

The police and lower judiciary deal with such cases carelessly and, in many cases, have loopholes in their decisions that ultimately benefit the extremists. The higher judiciary has taken such issues more seriously, but its review and decisions have failed to trigger any major change in society.

The state institutions need to break the support system of the extremists. Apart from the power elites' apprehension policy and the system's bias in dealing with the masses, two major sources of support are encouraging the people to take the law into their own hands. First is the influential class. Mostly, there are local businessmen and lawyers who provide financial and legal aid to the criminals on behalf of the rest of the community. Second are the mosque imams, who are directly or indirectly affiliated with the extremist groups; once such incidents happen, they invite these groups for their help. The extremist groups take this as an opportunity to increase their influence and take command of matters ranging from negotiating with the administration to dealing with legal matters. The extremist groups have lawyers' wings, influencing the courts during the proceedings.

In such a society, where the state and society nurture and protect an infrastructure of extremism, who can hope for change? Religious reform in Pakistan will remain a dream for a long time. ■

The writer is a security analyst.



BY ABBAS NASIR

## Extremism gathering pace

"THANK you, Mr. Jinnah", said one social media user under a video-clip post, which went viral. The clip showed a mob comprising Hindu extremists ransacking and looting a Muslim's shop in India, arranged because the shop owner shared a photo of his Eid qurbani on WhatsApp. The obvious implication of the remark was that by creating Pakistan, Mr. Jinnah created a safe haven for the Muslims of the subcontinent or they would have faced the same fate as the Indian Muslim shahapeer, who was confronted for doing his religious duty.

Of course, the social media user did what many of us do. Become defensive and selective. Having read Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah's speech: "You are free; you are free to go to your temples. You are free to go to your mosques or to any other places of worship in this State of Pakistan", an informed question, I am sure will be emerged as what we have done to be tolerant, equal opportunity vision/mission.

Just look at the state of the minorities in our blighted, albeit beloved, land. We have attacked, murdered, murdered/burned Christians as well, often, as investigated burns down, on the flimsiest of pretenses, mostly fabricated, and torched their houses and homes and bombed and burnt their churches.

We have witnessed unmoved as one after another, young Hindu girls have been kidnapped and then brutally tortured and married to their abductors. We have seen the cries of the families and the victims themselves falling on deaf ears.

We have not been content with constitutionally declaring a particular community not part of our faith, and a minority, but continue to target its members. Assassination of this community's members, destruction of its properties and a bar on the practice of its beliefs and rituals even within its own home/madrasa are routine.

Let alone minorities who have virtually no rights in practical terms like, even numerically smaller Muslim sects have not been spared and continue to see their members arrested or locked up again on highly suspect charges.

The blasphemy law has been weaponised and is followed by media and our police and/or the

courts of law. An allegation is more than enough reason for mob of a particular breed of mind to take the law into their own hands and act as judge, jury, and executioner.

The second part of the Quaid's speech said: "You may belong to any religion, caste or creed — that has nothing to do with the business of the State." But from the Objective Resolution etc., there are many examples of the state making faith its business.

When the state makes your faith and mine its business, groups representing vested interests take it upon themselves to decide the interpretation of the faith. Not just this, endorsement of their interpretation of the law (basically mob rule) becomes the order of the day.

**W**hen the state makes religion its business, groups with vested interests take it upon themselves to decide the interpretation of faith.

The state is culpable in more ways than one. Over the years, it has weaponised faith as a force multiplier to be used to meet external challenges — in other words, to fight wars which weren't of any benefit to us but brought riches and immense powers to those at the helm. For example, the establishment is often rightly cited for its role in fostering extremism for its foreign policy goals, which it has also called "national security imperatives". It is for all to judge what national security laws gained from these policies. The policies continue to draw the blood of our civilians and soldiers.

The Bouraichi is indescribable. Former dictator Gen Ziaul Haq may have been the worst culprit in promoting extremism and intolerance for narrow personal gains but, tragically, he isn't the only one. Since he was killed 36 years ago, which military leader has tried to start the rot in

any meaningful manner? None, if I am honest. You would be right in asking about the role of the civilian leaders. Well, the notion of "national security" and any Pakistani will instinctively tell you that the civilian leadership is wholly marginal to decision-making in the area. We saw what Nawaz Sharif had to face when he raised the issue of militant surrogates with the establishment leaders.

Perhaps, having learnt a lesson from Mr Sharif's fate, his son in law is openly promoting intolerance and is involved in the beatification of a convicted murderer who was executed when his own father-in-law was in government. Oh yes, Propriety is an integral part of those who live faith for their political ends.

Pakistanis authorities have failed repeatedly to implement the judgments of our own superior courts. One need only see two judgments. The first was authored by chief justice Iftikhar Hussain Jillani in 2014 after the church bombing in Peshawar and the second by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah just two years ago.

You can google both and read the details but they quite categorically spell out the rights of the minorities and how to safeguard their freedoms from bigoted behavior. Tragically, the fate of these two judgments, as has been repeatedly evidenced in our country, has been no different to the fate of the so-called National Action Plan.

The 20-point NAP, which was approved by the widest consensus possible as parliament and the military leader both signed off on it has been largely gathering dust somewhere, while the scourge of terrorism is once again exacting a heavy toll of life of our civilians and young soldiers.

We are a nuclear power and have often declared our desire to be among the leading economies of the region in the future. But let's not be delusional. Extremism is existing away at our very roots. If we remain helpless in tackling it head-on, our fate will be no different to that of other basket cases around the world. ■

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

# OPINION



BY MUNA KHAN

## Past lives

In the mid-1980s, our English teacher at school in Kuwait got us to read *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. It's set in rural America in the 1960s and tells the story about two rival gangs, the Greasers and the Socs, and a outsider that causes stirrings in their town. It is told by a teenage boy who sees himself as an outsider, and although it is about a time none of us private school children had any connection to, nor were we familiar with the topics in the book — financial hardship, class divide, violence — the book had a significant impact on us. We all felt like outsiders in some way or the other; in between children and adults, not in charge of our lives, and most importantly, not understood.

And then our teacher showed us the movie. Directed by Francis Ford Coppola in 1983, the cast featured Tom Cruise, Patrick Swayze, Matt Dillon, Emilio Estevez, C. Thomas Howell, Ralph Macchio, Diane Lane and even Hinton in a cameo. This is before any of the aforementioned were household names. The film resonated just as much, and no one would watch it, and a host of other movies like *Grease* (John Travolta — described by a film critic as "the philosopher of adolescence") — on VHS tapes, repeat. It did not matter that the cast of *The Breakfast Club* or *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, for example, was white and set exclusively in the US but the stories they told resonated with teenagers around the world. I'd watch these films maybe a year or two after they were released but it was a different time; we had no choice but to wait, there were no spoiler-style reviews, no social media posts, no influencers.

I was reminded of this while watching *River*, a documentary by actor Andrew McCarthy, a member of the Brat Pack, a term coined by a New York Magazine writer who reported on a new crop of Hollywood actors that were making films for a new teenage audience going to the cinema. However, the term would haunt this group who felt it impacted their careers as it portrayed them in a negative light. This is what McCarthy attempts to reconcile in this documentary, which peers a walk down memory lane. It was also a reminder of the age-old question: why does nostalgia feel so bad?

These films in the mid-1980s tapped into a new audience by portraying friendship in a way we hadn't seen before; usually relationships were about romance, falling in or out of love. *The Breakfast Club*, for example, portrayed high school stereotypes but made it

about unexpected alliances. These films explored what it meant to be young, not understood by older, and the complexities of adolescence, a phenomenon I experienced in Kuwait as did friends in other cities. In today's parlance, we tell "secrets" in these stories.

"When they see the 1980s films they're thinking of their own youth," McCarthy tells Rob Lowe in *River*. "And we are the authors of that moment in their life and that is a beautiful thing."

Nostalgia is a beautiful thing. One study showed that inducing nostalgia in a group saw positive feelings, "including higher self-esteem and an increase in the feeling of being loved and protected by others". Another study showed that nostalgia can counteract the effects of loneliness. Nostalgia could provide a link "between our past and present selves" — that "it may provide us with a positive view of the past and this could help to give us a greater sense of continuity and meaning to our lives".

### There is no going back because the world is different.

But nostalgia, which is personal, ie, my response to a period of time, can prove dangerous when it is shared as a collective experience. The rightwing longing for "good old" times before immigrants caused all the problems they believe their country faces. Pakistanis, too, want to go back to the time of their favoured political/arty leaders when things were rosy. Few will tell when that time? Our nostalgia for this mythical time has created more harm than good.

There is no going back because the world is different. These 1980s films can't be made today because audiences will not forgive racism, xenophobia, misogyny on screen. And that's a good thing. Every generation has a past and I suspect that influencers play a bigger role than actors, but I don't think they command the staying power the Brat Pack does, 40 years on, scars and all.

The 1985 film *85 Is Not Enough* may still be able to speak to generations today because it tackles a subject that we can relate to: the challenge of navigating the real world — especially after college. And it is about friendship, about showing up for each other — something I hope endures the test of time. ■

The writer is an instructor of journalism. X @LeadingLady



BY AIZAZ AHMAD CHAUDHRY

## War in Ukraine

The leaders of G7, a grouping of seven highly industrialised countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and USA), met in Agadir, Italy, on June 1-15, 2024. It was the 50th session of the group, which has been meeting regularly since 1975, essentially to preserve the existing world order predicated on multi-lateralism, universal human rights, liberal-democracy, and free trade.

At Agadir, too, the G7 leaders called for strengthening the rules-based international order. They also decided to provide \$50 billion to Ukraine, support the two-state solution for Israel-Palestine, and bolster ties with nations in Africa and the Indo-Pacific. The summit also discussed food security, climate resilience, irregular migration, financial stability, and AI-based risks.

The G7's emphasis on maintaining the rules-based world order seems to be a desperate attempt to preserve the West's dominance. However, realities are changing. The existing world order is in disarray. New power constellations emerged, including non-western economies in Asia, which would have to be accommodated in the evolving multipolar world order. A rising China, resurgent Russia, and groupings like BRICS and SCO have changed the complexion of the West-dominated international order.

Several other challenges are also impacting our world. Firstly, a growing trend towards unilateralism has replaced the spirit of globalisation and multilateralism in addressing issues of global concern. Ironically, it was US military action in Iraq in 2003, in disregard of the UN Security Council, that initiated the weakening of the rules-based international order. This was followed by Russia's unilateral invasion of Crimea and India's unprovoked strike on Ladakh. Secondly, the UN has been sidelined in major international conflicts. Thirdly, universal human rights have been politicised, and double standards are in full display.

China, the world's second largest economy, was not invited to the summit even though it has been at the forefront of defending the rules-based international order. The geopolitics of major power competition trumps the spirit of working together even as China repeatedly calls for reviving the spirit of globalism to address conflict and underdevelopment.

The G7 has often been criticised for trying to impose its will on the rest of the world. This concern was partly addressed by the formation of G20, a group of 19 leading economies, as well as the EU and African Union. However, the two groups have not only further marginalised the UN but universally accepted multilateral

norms but also given rise to the trend towards multi-alignment.

The Agadir summit announced \$50 billion for Ukraine by leveraging diversified Russian sovereign assets. This was G7's response to President Vladimir Putin, who had recently set terms for starting peace talks: Ukraine to withdraw from the regions partially occupied by Russia (Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, Zaporizhzhia) and give up its efforts to join Nato. Putin denounced the G7 decision to use Western assets to finance the Ukraine war, and remarked that "... shift is still shift and will not go unpunished".

In the Ukraine peace summit in Switzerland, that followed the G7 meeting, several important countries, including India, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Brazil, South Africa, Indonesia and the UAE chose not to sign the joint communiqué. Most of them felt that peace in Ukraine required the presence of all stakeholders, especially Russia, for meaningful negotiations. South Africa noted with surprise that Israel,

which has long been accused of war crimes by a UN-backed commission, had been invited to the summit. China did not attend, nor did Pakistan.

Meanwhile, the crisis in Ukraine remains stagnated. Legally, Ukraine is right because its territorial integrity has been violated. Politically,

by, Russia has a point that it was provoked by Nato's constant expansion eastwards, despite the assurances given to it earlier. What argument is more relevant for Pakistan and what consideration should guide its policy on Ukraine?

Indeed, Ukraine is a victim of foreign aggression and, therefore, deserves Pakistan's support. Pakistan should never accept such aggression, having itself faced it when India intervened militarily in East Pakistan. It must uphold the principle of territorial integrity for Ukraine. However, global geopolitics has pushed Russia towards China, Pakistan's close friend. This places Pakistan in an awkward position legally it must support Ukraine, whose territorial integrity was violated. Politically, it should stay neutral given that Russia was provoked by Nato, and is now leaning towards China, which itself is fighting strategic battles by the United West.

At any rate, it is principles versus geopolitics. ■

The writer is a former foreign secretary and chairman of Danyor Institute Islamabad.

## FROM THE PAST PAGES OF DAWN

**1974 | Fifty years ago**

### Exaggeration slated

**RAWALPINDI:** An official spokesman has deplored the tendency on the part of certain sections of the international Press to distort and caricature ... the internal happenings in Pakistan and said that their description of the situation resulting from the eruption of a sectarian conflict in May was unrealistic and intended to damage the image of this country.

In a statement issued here today [June 21], he said at a time of tumult and violence greater happenings in other countries were viewed in proportion and perspective, but a disturbance in Pakistan which could have been far worse was projected as though it was a catastrophe. The spokesman described as baseless the allegation that the Government had failed in protecting its citizens and the law-enforcement agencies had acted half-heartedly. ...

He said the Government had lost no time in fulfilling its ... duty to provide full protection to its every citizen irrespective of his creed as guaranteed by the Constitution and all measures were taken for this purpose. ... The tendentious reports which have been recently given currency by foreign media have undoubtedly agitated members of the Pakistani community living [abroad]. — News agencies

**1949 | Seventy-five years ago**

### Aircraft incident

**KARACHI:** A Press communiqué issued by the Pakistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs says: With reference to the allegations of the Royal Afghan Government that a Pakistan reconnaissance aircraft flew over Afghan territory on June 12, and when fired upon returned the fire while flying over Afghan territory and occasionally crashed, the Pakistan Government have informed the Royal Afghan Government that if the latter do not accept the facts ascertained ... by the Pakistan Government that the aircraft was fired upon and was then compelled to return the fire while flying within Pakistani territory, the ... two Governments should jointly carry out a local investigation on both sides of the border... .

[Meanwhile, according to news agencies] Pakistan and India are understood to have come to an arrangement providing for the landing and refuelling in and crossing of their respective territories by non-military aircraft of either Dominion on reciprocal basis. This agreement ... will mainly benefit Indian Government planes arriving from abroad and Pakistani Government aircraft flying to or from either of the two wings of Pakistan.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@dawn.com. Letters may be edited for purposes of clarity and space. All letters should carry the writer's address, CVC and phone numbers.

### We need austerity, not more taxes



ONCE again there has been an unusual budget that has solely focused on taxing the very people who already pay their taxes even when revenue thus generated does not translate into crucial-to-grow state entities that are integral components of nation in the West. The reverse, instead, ends up financing dubious, poorly audited projects, malitious recruitment against non-productive posts, and paying off losses from smuggling and imagined energy debts.

By the looks of it, our crisis has strong conservative elements of mismanagement, inadequate audit of the energy sector, and failure to curb smuggling. Had there been a visionary in power, the independent power production unit, which have been taking away billions of rupees from the exchequer for electricity not produced, and the banks and finance institutions

involved in illegal activities in the currency market, would have been on the verge of nationalisation.

In essence, one big reason for Pakistan's predicament is pressure on the government for joining international power blocks. The country's independence is threatened by the likes of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) whose emphasis has always been on continuous liberalisation of currencies across the developing world.

Measures like taking state shareholdings SEMS and a raised fuel consumers might lead to street unrest. A country with seven million expatriates is looking for \$1 billion. This alone is indicative of ill-management and failure. What the country needs is austerity at all levels. This is precisely something that the latest budget has not talked about. Will those at the helm of affairs rectify and do the needed?

M. Akbari  
Islamabad

### The missing reforms

THE budget presented recently has been disappointing because it has remained absolutely silent on the protracted issue of reforms that the national economy needs rather urgently. Pakistan's current economic model is not sustainable at all, and it seems to be taking us all towards an inevitable disaster.

We did not see any reforms with respect to circular debts, federal pension, taxation, etc. It was expected to bring resilience and agricultural units into the tax net, but due to political reasons, the exemptions have continued. Ever since the new government took over the reins in Islamabad, it has been assuring the people that the

privatisation of state-owned enterprises would take place immediately. However, there was no mention of the matter of privatisation in the budget speech.

Undoubtedly, Pakistan's economy cannot survive without structural reforms, and the current coalition government has missed an important opportunity to put the national economy on the correct path, unfortunately. It is hard to believe that the latest budget was prepared by the new federal finance minister, who used to enjoy a good reputation with regard to his qualification and capability.

Fiaz Ahmed Magaro  
London, United Kingdom

### Political gimmickry

THE recent budget session in the Punjab Assembly was marred by questionable behaviour of the opposition members who expressed their dissatisfaction with the proposals by tearing the budget documents. As far as the people are concerned, the sight of the assembly hall littered with torn budget documents only added insult to their injury; an injury caused by severe financial stress that has been their fate for the last four years. There is no doubt that the document had been printed using taxpayer money. What right do the legislators have to waste this public money in ill public view?

In the future, budget documents should be shared in soft-copy format, and those who want a hard copy for their convenience, should have it printed out of their own pocket. Political gimmickry must end.

Ahsan  
Karachi

### Senior citizens' woes

AS a senior citizen, I was expecting that there would be some relief or at least some incentive to facilitate the life of those living in retirement. We, the seniors, are not treated well in this country. We are required to stand in long queues, get token and stand for long hours at National Savings counters, airports and hospitals. Keeping the current plight of senior citizens in view, the government should immediately announce some relief at least in withholding tax that is deducted on investments, and also reduce slab on income derived through investment. The senior citizens also need medical facilities. Some sort of relief should also be given in this critical regard.

The government should take care of seniors who have given 75 per cent of their lives working and earning for their families, and have paid all their taxes for the betterment of the beloved country.

Akber Ali, Virgar  
Karachi

### Studying in India

I RECENTLY got admission to the South Asian University (SAU) in New Delhi. On June 6, I visited the Indian High Commission in Islamabad to submit my student visa application. However, I was informed that the high commission does not accept student visa applications directly. Following their instructions, I visited the official visa processing facility in Islamabad. Unfortunately, I was told that they were unable to process the visa application as per the instructions from the Indian high commission. For me, it is the dead end.

The university was established by the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in 1985 to promote economic and regional integration. Located in New Delhi, the university, at least on paper, aims at fostering cooperation and building a knowledge base. It offers postgraduate and doctoral programmes across various disciplines in subjects from all the SAARC countries. Each SAARC member plays a role in the governance of the SAU through representation in its governing bodies, contributing to its budget, and each country has reserved seats in every programme. The budget for SAU is shared by all the member countries.

For the last several years, students from Pakistan have not been able to join any SAU programme due to visa issues. It would facilitate Pakistani students if the representatives of Pakistan at SAARC get the visa issue resolved. Otherwise, sharing the budget is just a burden on the country. All the stakeholders need to resolve this issue.

Tahir Riaz  
Karachi

**► UNFAIR DECISION:** The gold export sector used to have exemptions from duties and taxes on raw material since 2013. This year, without any notice, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) removed the exemption in February this year. The abrupt action withheld 18 per cent general sales tax (GST) exemption on import of gold that brought the entire sector to a grinding halt, causing losses, closures and retrenchments. Orders worth millions of dollars have been cancelled in the last four months, and the export market has silently moved towards India. The sector does not use a single dollar of the country as it operates on the basis of gold supplied by foreign buyers without any foreign currency payment. It was an unannounced, unfair action by the FBR, and needs to be looked into.

**► DELAYED PASSPORTS:** Along with my daughter, I applied for passports on May 14 at the Garden Term office in Lahore of the Directorate General of Immigration and Passport. The date of passport delivery given to us was June 10. However, when I visited the said office on June 11, the officer on duty told me that the passports were not ready, and they would take another four months due to the shortage of relevant paper. The government has recently provided relief to people by making the office function round the clock. It will be great if the government could resolve the paper shortage issue. — Enamul Haq Yousaf  
Lahore

**► HONEST OFFICER:** This refers to the report "Cop handed by judge for refusing Hitler in India" (June 14). I was shocked to read that the policeman dared to stop the truck carrying smuggled hotel mats and also refused to accept the bribe that was offered. Ironically, in a country where even legalised corruption argues that smuggling should be legalised, and policemen have to pay hobs of rupees to get posted to "frontier areas", the honest policeman should be examined by a team of psychiatrists to ensure he is "normal". — Shaukat Ishaq  
Karachi

### External Ombudsman

Veteran journalist Muhammad Ali Siddiqui is Dawn's External Ombudsman (EOO). His duty is to attend to user complaints, and to respond to them professionally. EOO is the investigating authority to whom all complaints can be referred, and it is EOO who takes notice of any alleged violation of Dawn's code of ethics, and informs the Editor for appropriate action. Email: [external.ombudsman@dawn.com](mailto:external.ombudsman@dawn.com)



# BUSINESS

## Senate panel terms budget against national interests

- Says IMF-driven taxation measures to fuel inflation as almost all essentials to get costlier
- Priced below \$200, eight specified stationery items
- Directs price labels on all consumer goods
- Withdrawal of general sales tax on mobile phones

By Mubarak Zeb Khan

**ISLAMABAD:** The Senate Standing Committee on Finance has expressed dissatisfaction with tax measures announced in the budget 2024-25, lamenting that they appeared more aligned with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) priorities than national interests.

The committee, led by Chairman Senator Salmaan Marriwala, concluded its discussions on the Finance Bill 2024 on Saturday. The committee is set to deliver its recommendations on Monday and promptly send them to the Senate on the same day.

The committee also expressed concern regarding the unequal distribution of the tax burden, particularly among those less fortunate and vulnerable. The imposition of taxes on infant milk is highly controversial, as it burdens newborns excessively.

Officials from the Federal Board of

Revenue (FBR) revealed that tax exemptions were removed from 337 items, which fall short of the IMF's demand of 249 items. In addition, the official said that the IMF wants FBR to generate Rs40 billion from milk products and Rs20 billion from stationery items.

According to tax officials, the IMF is pushing to remove tax exemptions worth nearly Rs60 billion.

### Tax on groceries?

Senator Farooq H. Naik stated that the budget is being implemented exactly as was dictated by the IMF, with every recommendation being accepted.

Senator Arshad Rehman raised an important question about the tax being imposed on groceries.

Mr Naik said there may come a time when basic expenses will even be subject to taxation. He mentioned that the IMF is unaware of any such tax on groceries. In addition, he stated that all items are being subjected to taxation due to the inflation.

He added that the government typically accepts half of the committee's recommendations.

At the outset, the committee strongly disapproved of proposed

measures exerted by the IMF.

According to Mr Arshad, tax measures, particularly on telephone sets, will place a heavy burden on the less fortunate. He believes that implementing an 18pc sales tax on mobile sets priced below \$200 will increase their prices. These measures will significantly affect individuals from low-income backgrounds, and mobile phone sets are not considered luxury items.

The committee has decided against implementing an 18pc sales tax on phones priced up to \$200.

Mr Marriwala said the government's tax initiatives would fuel inflation by 10pc in the coming fiscal year. He stated that the committee had rejected the proposal to levy a tax on various commodities.

He stated that the government typically accepts half of the committee's recommendations.

At the outset, the committee strongly disapproved of proposed

taxes on stationery items such as colour pencils, pencils, and geometry sets. They argued that the budget 2024-25 would be overly burdened with taxes, citing the slogan of an 18pc GST on every item. The senators believe these taxes would further increase the cost of living and negatively impact public morale.

### Costly health care

Mr Arshad highlighted concerns over the taxation of medical equipment, emphasising the impact on healthcare costs, including endoscopy, oncology, urology, gynaecology, and dental services.

The committee also questioned the basis for granting tax exemptions to certain charitable hospitals, with the FBR clarifying that the Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy (PCP) holds the authority to grant such exemptions.

The committee further recommended subjecting donated goods to hospitals operated by non-profit insti-

tutions to similar customs duty conditions as those applying to goods with zero-rated customs duty.

Senator Arshad Balochi advocated against proposed tax structures for the telecoms sector, particularly concerning cellular and satellite phones, suggesting differentiated tax rates based on import or supply values.

Concluding a rigorous nine-day session on deliberations over the Money Bill 2024, the committee issued recommendations to benefit the general public.

### Recommendations

Key recommendations included mandating creditable card transactions for purchases exceeding Rs10,000 to promote economic development, imposing uniform sales tax rates on solar industry components, withdrawing taxes on eight specified stationery items under the Finance Bill 2024, and requiring

price labels on all consumer goods for informed purchasing decisions.

Additionally, recommendations were made to identify organisations exploiting tax exemptions under the guise of charitable status, provide additional allowances equal to 100pc of basic pay for disabled individuals comprising less than 2pc of the work force, and distinguish remote workers from freelancers for tax purposes.

The committee also proposed exempting corporate debt cash transactions from an additional 18pc tax to prevent double taxation and encourage foreign exchange earnings through Exporters' Special Foreign Currency Accounts.

Senator Zeeshan Khanzada proposed reducing the sales tax rate on local supplies in certain states and parts to 18pc instead of the standard 30pc, and reducing the tax on imported supplies in those regions to 15pc until June 30, 2025, and 18pc from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026.

## MoIP opposes tax hike on hybrid EVs

'No clarity on restrictions on used cars import'

By Asim Shahzad Khan

**KARACHI:** The Ministry of Industries and Production (MoIP) has reportedly opposed the proposed increase in the general sales tax on hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs) from 8.5pc to 12pc for FY25.

The ministry believes such an increase would counter the goals of the National Climate Change Policy and Renewable Energy Policy 2019, which aim to encourage the adoption of clean technologies.

In a letter to the Ministry of Finance and the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), the MoIP said that imposing higher GST without proper consideration jeopardises the existing and future investment in hybrid electric vehicle technology.

The ministry said the increase in GST also contravenes the commitment made under para 2.7(c) of the Auto Industry Development and Export Policy (AIDEP) 2023-2025, which states that sales tax for both locally manufactured and imported hybrid cars, SUVs, vans and LCVs is to be 8.5pc.

AIDEP is designed to promote new, fuel-efficient and environmentally friendly technologies. Sales tax on set-electric vehicles below 50 kWh batteries at one per cent and on hybrid electric vehicles at 8.5pc is 50pc of the prevailing rate. This policy aims to ensure the faster adaptation of these technologies.

The ministry also pointed out that Toyota, Hyundai and Saenger Engineering Works have already invested in the manufacturing of hybrid electric vehicles based on this policy. Additionally, companies such as Honda, Suzuki and Kia are planning similar investments in the near future.

Pakistan Automobile Manufacturers Association (PAMA) Director General Abdul Wahed Khan, in a letter to the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), said it is regrettable to note that the government has withdrawn its assured support at a time when the hybrid electric vehicle industry at its embryonic stage.

He warned that if price relief is no longer available, the new technology vehicles will not survive in the open market, which would not only frustrate the government's policy but also discourage further investment.

He said that the old reduced rate of GST may be restored on locally produced hybrid vehicles.

### Used car imports

The car market is abuzz with reports about curbs on used car imports or increased regulatory duty (IRD). Local automobile experts tipped despite putting extra pressure on the government to control used car imports.

However, the assemblers were sure that the government would make decisions in the FY25 budget to curb used-car imports.

All Pakistan Car Dealers and Importers Association (APCDIA) Chairman Atish Shaukat Ahmed said he cannot confirm whether the government has restricted or imposed IRD on the import of used cars in the budget.

"The issue is pending," he added.

## GST to turn packaged milk costlier by Rs55

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** Packaged milk prices will likely surge by Rs55 per litre after an 18pc per cent general sales tax takes effect from July 1.

The implementation of the 18pc General Sales Tax (GST) is expected to hit consumers hard, potentially leading to a surge in inflation. This could particularly affect those living in major cities and towns, who may see their grocery bills increase significantly.

Moreover, the indirect sales tax is projected to cause farmers a substantial loss of around Rs2.3 billion, who are already struggling with the aftermath of the government's wheat imports during the caretaker setup.

The industry stakeholders have expressed

concerns, stating that the tax would eliminate farmers' profits, making it difficult for manufacturers to purchase milk from them.

"The government's decision to impose an 18pc sales tax on packaged milk has raised apprehensions among manufacturers and other stakeholders in the country's small yet regulated packaged milk market," commented a source in the industry.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his economic team, led by Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, are exploring avenues to boost government revenues by expanding the tax base and eliminating energy sector subsidies.

This aligns with the IMF's conditions for securing a much-needed facility for cash-strapped Pakistan.

## Stocks shine in short week

By Muhammad Kashif

**KARACHI:** In a short week after the Eid holiday, the stock market reached a new peak on optimism that the new tax budget 2024-25 has paved the way for securing another bailout package from the International Monetary Fund.

Art Habib Ltd (AHL) said during the Tuesday trading week, the market maintained its positive momentum, moving from 26,707 points to 28,810 points, closing at an all-time high.

Investors remained optimistic amid expectations of the new IMF programme, decreasing inflation, favourable interest rate trajectory, and the shift of funds from fixed income to equities.

Moreover, on Friday, the market cap reached a historic level of Rs10.55 trillion, surpassing the previous high of Rs10.54 trillion in May 2017.

Additionally, the State Bank of Pakistan's exchange rate reserves increased by \$34m week-on-week to \$93.3m.

Furthermore, the rupee remained stable against the dollar at Rs78.5.

As a result, the index settled at 28,810 points, marking a significant increase of 2,104 points or 7.4pc week-on-week.

Similarly, positive contributions came from commercial banks (1,486 points), power generation and distribution (449 points), fertilizer (151 points), chemicals (76 points), and textiles (55 points).

Meanwhile, the sectors that mainly contributed negatively were cement (89 points), technology and communication (57 points), and oil marketing companies (41 points).

Foreign buying was witnessed during the week, clocking in at \$0.6m compared to a net sell of \$5.5m last week.

The average trading volume rose 2.8pc to 45.2m shares while the average value traded jumped 21.8pc to settle at Rs74 million.

According to AHL, developments related to the IMF will further improve market sentiment in the coming weeks. Furthermore, exports are currently trading at attractive valuations, which could attract investors.

The government's decision to impose an 18pc sales tax on packaged milk has raised apprehensions among manufacturers and other stakeholders in the country's small yet regulated packaged milk market.

FPCCI Senior Vice President Syed Saghir Ali, former minister for budget, said most issues have been resolved.

Giving some examples, he said the local supply of raw materials and packing materials, components, sub-components, assembly and sub-assembly for the manufacturers has been subject to sales tax. Medical equipment, diagnostic kits, healthcare devices, etc., have also been subject to sales tax. All stationary items and pharmaceutical materials have been deleted from the 18th schedule, i.e. from 1 per cent and are now



SHANGHAI: Germany's Economy Minister Robert Habeck (left) speaks at a press conference on Saturday. China and the European Union have agreed to start talks on the planned imposition of tariffs on Chinese-made electric vehicles being imported into the European market.—AFP

## Businesses for more rate cuts to stimulate growth

By Shahid Iqbal

**KARACHI:** The trade and industry are of the view that a further reduction in the interest rate will benefit both the manufacturing sector and banks, which faced a default of Rs20 billion in 2023.

They anticipate that the interest rate will drop to around 15 per cent in the next fiscal year (FY25). The State Bank reduced the policy interest rate by 1.5pc to 20.50pc on June 10, a move that is expected to have a positive impact on the economy.

"Unless the government will adopt a pro-growth policy aimed at creating jobs, boosting exports, and reducing its own burdens by slashing the interest rates," said Amrit Asija, an exporter of textiles.

However, bankers are sceptical about a significant decline in the interest rate during FY25. They believe that the prevailing issue of inflation will play a crucial role in determining the interest rate in the next fiscal year.

"The government plans to generate much higher revenue than the country's capacity; more taxes will fuel inflation and this will ultimately determine the fate of the interest rate," said a senior banker.

However, most analysts expect a significant drop in the interest rate in the next fiscal year, driven by the unexpected decline in inflation to 15.8pc in May, which was lower than the expectations of the State Bank and markets.

The high interest rate has burdened the government with costly debts,

requiring it to allocate approximately Rs2 trillion for debt servicing, an amount nearly equivalent to the total tax revenue in FY24.

At the same time, bankers have also expressed concern that the high interest rate can lead to a significant increase in defaults in the calendar year 2025, with banks facing a deficit of Rs20 billion in 2023.

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## Trade gap with 9 regional states widens by 41pc

Higher imports from China and India made major contribution

By Our Staff Reporter

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan's trade deficit with nine regional countries widened by 40.37 per cent to \$8.411 billion in the first 11 months of the current fiscal year, up from \$5.982 billion recorded in the same period last year.

The surge in the trade deficit can be attributed to increased imports from China and India during the period under review. Additionally, imports from other regional countries rose slightly compared to the previous year.

Exports to regional countries, primarily China, experienced growth during the review period. However, exports to other regional countries continued to decline, according to data compiled by the State Bank of Pakistan.

In absolute terms, the value of Pakistan's exports to the nine regional countries—Afghanistan, China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Iran, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives—rose 20.58pc to \$4.042bn in July-May 2023, from \$3.325bn in the corresponding period last year.

Contrary to this, imports fell 11.27pc to \$12.451bn in 11MFY23 from \$13

## China, France launch satellite to better understand universe

XICHANG: A French-Chinese satellite blasted off Saturday on a hunt for the mysterious explosions in the universe, in a notable example of cooperation between a Western power and the Asian giant.

Developed by engineers from both countries, the Space Variable Objects Monitor (SVO) will seek out gamma-ray bursts, the light from which has travelled billions of light years to reach Earth.

The 90-kilogram satellite carrying four instruments — two French, two Chinese — took off around 3pm aboard a Chinese Long March 2C rocket from a space base in Xichang, in the southwestern province of Sichuan, journalists reported.

Gamma-ray bursts generally occur after the explosion of huge stars — those more than 20 times as big as the sun — or the fusion of compact stars. The extremely bright cosmic bursts can give off a blast of energy equivalent to over a billion billion tons.

Observing them is like "looking back in time, as the light from these

objects takes a long time to reach us", Orie Gottlieb, an astrophysicist at the Planck Institute's Center for Astrophysics in New York, said.

The rays carry traces of the gas clouds and galaxies they pass through on their journey through space — valuable data for better understanding the history and evolution of the universe.

"SVO has the potential to unravel several mysteries in the field of gamma-ray bursts, including detecting the most distant GRBs in the universe, which correspond to the earliest GRBs," Gottlieb said. The most distant bursts identified to date were produced just 630 million years after the Big Bang — when the universe was in its infancy.

"We are... interested in gamma-ray bursts for their own sake, because they are very extreme cosmic explosions which allow us to better understand the death of certain stars," said Frédéric Daigne, an astrophysicist at the Institut d'Astrophysique de Paris. —AFP



A ROCKET carrying a satellite jointly developed by China and France lifts off from a space base at Xichang, in China's south-western Sichuan province, on Saturday. —AFP

## US aircraft carrier arrives in S. Korea for joint drills

SEOUL: A US aircraft carrier arrived in South Korea on Saturday for joint military drills aimed to deter North Korean threats, Seoul's navy said.

The announcement came a day after South Korea summoned the Russian ambassador to Seoul to protest a defense deal signed by President Vladimir Putin and North Korea's Kim Jong Un in Pyongyang this week, which included a pledge to come to each other's aid if attacked.

"The US Navy's aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt... arrived at the British Naval Base on the morning of June 22," the South Korean Navy said in a statement.

Its arrival "demonstrates the strong combined defense posture of the South Korea-US alliance and their firm resolve to respond to the escalating threats from North Korea," it added.

The carrier's visit comes around seven months after another US aircraft carrier, the USS Carl Vinson, came to the South in a show of strength against Pyongyang.

The USS Theodore Roosevelt is expected to participate in joint exercises with South Korea and Japan this month. Pyongyang has always denied similar combined drills as rehearsals for an invasion. —AFP

## Outrage in UK as Farage accuses West of provoking Ukraine war

### Sunak, Starmer hit out at hard-right leader's remarks

LONDON: Nigel Farage, leader of Britain's anti-immigration Reform UK party, faced strong criticism on Saturday after saying that the West provoked Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

In an interview with the BBC on Friday, Farage said "we've provoked this war", while adding that "of course" it was Russian president Vladimir Putin's "fault". Prime Minister Rishi Sunak told reporters that Farage's claim was "completely wrong and only plays into Putin's hands", hailing the comment as "appalling".

Labour leader Keir Starmer, who looks set to replace Sunak's job after an election next month, said Farage's comments were "disgraceful".

"Any one who is standing for parliament ought to be really clear that Russia is the aggressor", he told reporters on the campaign trail.

Farage — a former European

Union parliamentarian who resigned and failed to run for the UK parliament seven times — is seeking a seat from Cleethorpes in east England in a general election next month. His party is polling third behind the ruling Conservatives and opposition Labour parties, and is predicted to pick up a few seats.

A surge of popularity for Reform UK since Farage took over as leader this month risks drawing away voters that the Conservatives widely need to win a fifth term in power.

#### Russian media

Farage's comments came with outrage across political parties on Saturday. Interior minister James Cleverly criticised Farage for "voicing Putin's vile justification for the brutal invasion of Ukraine."

Former Conservative defence minister Tobias Ellwood called the comments "shocking" in the Daily Telegraph newspaper, adding that British war-time leader Winston Churchill "will be turning in his grave".

Labour's defence spokesman John Healey called the comments "disgraceful" and said his stance made him " unfit for any political office in our country". The opposition Liberal Democrat party leader Ed Davey added that he did not "share any values" with Farage.

Prudish on his views on Putin in this interview, Farage said that he "disliked him as a person" but "admired him as a political operator because he's managed to take control of running Russia". Russian media, however, was more enthusiastic about Farage's interview.

A newsletter on the Channel One Russian state media said on broadcast that Farage was "an experienced politician who follows the needs of the electorate". The channel added on Twitter that he was among the European politicians "showing enlightenment and unity".

Kremlin propagandist and show host Oleg Skachkov wrote on Telegram: "we provoked the war in Ukraine" — the leader of the Reform UK is trying to win the votes of those English people who do not want to go to war with Ukraine". —AFP

## Fireworks launched from yacht set off forest fire in Greece

ATHENS: Fireworks launched from a yacht set off a new wildfire on an island near Athens as the country confronts a wave of record-breaking summer fires, authorities said.

The mayor of the island of Hydra expressed "outrage" after the fire was started late on Friday and vowed legal action against those responsible. Dozens of wildfires this week have left at least one dead already.

The latest blaze was "caused by fireworks launched from a boat and burned the only pine forest on the island in a place that is difficult to access and has no road," Hydra's fire-fighting team said on Facebook.

Another fire raged on Saturday on the island of Andros, emergency services said. Four villages were evacuated and planes and helicopters were brought in to water-bomb the flames.

Greece has toughened penalties for arson, with perpetrators now facing up to 20 years in prison and a fine of up to 200,000 euros (\$214,000). On top of calling for legal action against "irresponsible" people, Hydra's Mayor Giorgos Konstantinos told the ERT public broadcaster that authorities had to create more anti-fire zones and roads through forests.

Greece has been braving a difficult summer as authorities warned that strong winds and high temperatures meant there was "very high risk" of forest fires.

The Mediterranean country recorded its first heatwave of the year last week, with temperatures rising above 44 degrees Celsius (111 Fahrenheit) in some locations.

Firefighters on Friday battled wildfires fanned by three days of fierce winds that left at least one person dead. Last year, a three-two-week heatwave was followed by devastating wildfires in which 20 people died.

Scientists warn that fossil fuel emissions caused by humans are worsening the length and intensity of heatwaves around the world. Rising temperatures are leading to extended wildfire seasons and increasing the area burned by the blazes, according to the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. —AFP

## Two killed in Kenya youth protests

NAIROBI: A 21-year-old man died after being hit by a tear gas canister during protests in Kenya this week, a human rights official said on Saturday, as the victim's relative said on Saturday, as the second fatality resulted from the youths' led demonstrations.

Lead largely by Gen-Z Kenyans who have been marching the demonstrations against fuel hikes, the protests have been galvanized by widespread anger over President William Ruto's economic policies. "It is tragic that a young person can lose his life simply for agitating against the high cost of living." —AFP

## Russia launches 'massive' attack on Ukraine's power network

KYIV: Ukraine on Saturday said Russia had launched a "massive" overnight attack on energy infrastructure in the west and south, adding that at least seven people died from Moscow strikes elsewhere.

Russia launched 16 cruise missiles from land, sea and air as well as 13 attack drones, aiming at energy infrastructure in several regions, Ukraine's military said. Air defences downed all but four of them, it added.

Russia's defence ministry said that its troops "carried out a group strike with long-range high precision weapons from air and sea and also drones on Ukrainian energy facilities that power arms production".

It said it also targeted warehouses con-

taining munitions and "air-launched weapons provided to the Ukrainian military by western countries". All the set targets were hit, the ministry said, calling its latest attack retaliation for Ukrainian attacks on its own energy network.

The Ukrainian energy ministry said this was Russia's "eighth massive, combined attack on energy infrastructure facilities" in the past three months, targeting the southern Zaporizhzhia region and Lviv in the west.

"Eightight [sic] at [Zaporizhzhia] Ukraine's facilities in the Zaporizhzhia and Lviv regions was damaged," the ministry said. Ukrenergo said that two employees were wounded and hospitalized in Zaporizhzhia,

where Europe's biggest nuclear plant is located.

More than two years into the Russian invasion, targeted missile and drone attacks have crippled Ukraine's electricity generation capacity and forced Kyiv to impose blackouts and import supplies from the European Union.

#### Critical facility hit

Ukrenergo said outages across the country would start earlier than usual, running from 1000 GMT to 2100 GMT, due to damage from the attacks. In Zaporizhzhia, shellings over the last day also killed one civilian and destroyed residential buildings and infrastructure, according to the regional

military administration.

Russia controls a part of the region and the nuclear plant, the Ukrainian-appointed administration said. Ukrainian attacks had damaged a substation linked to the city's nuclear power plant but did not affect nuclear safety.

Maksym Kasytskiy, the governor of the western Lviv region, said Russia "launched a missile attack on a critical energy infrastructure facility", sparking a fire that was later extinguished.

Ukrainian troops based in the west shot down seven out of 10 cruise missiles fired by Moscow, the Lviv regional governor said. Russian attacks have destroyed half of Ukraine's energy capacity, according to

President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Zelensky said this week that all hospitals and schools in Ukraine must be equipped with solar panels "as soon as possible". "We are doing everything to ensure that Russian attempts to black out our heat and electricity fail," he said. ETER, the largest private energy company in Ukraine, said that strikes caused "serious damage" at one of its plants.

ETER chief executive Maxim Tschetschenko warned that Ukraine "faces a serious crisis this winter" if the country's Western allies do not provide military aid to defend the energy network. Zelensky has reportedly urged Ukraine's allies to send more air-defense systems to protect the country's vital infrastructure. —AFP



LONDON: British actress Emma Thompson, environmentalist Chris Packham and green energy entrepreneur Dale Vince lead demonstrators during a protest dubbed "Restore Nature Now", on Saturday. The event was supported by Extinction Rebellion, National Trust and the World Wide Fund. —AFP

## NEWSMAKERS



## Tourists banned as Capri battles water emergency

ROME: The Italian island of Capri banned tourists from disembarking on Saturday after problems with the water supply from the mainland threatened to leave the holiday hotspot parched.

The tiny Capri mayor Paolo Fallico forced several ferries on their way to the island from Naples and Sorrento in southern Italy to turn back. The company charged with supplying the island with water said there had been a technical problem on the mainland on Thursday, and while that had since been fixed problems with the supply to Capri remained.

Fallico warned of "a real emergency" and said that while there was still water on most of the island on Friday, local tanks were "running out". "The emergency would be worsened by the arrival of the thousands of tourists which arrive on Capri daily", he said.

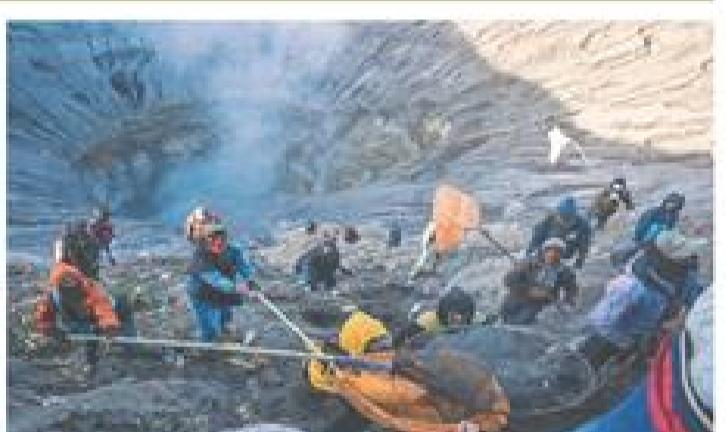
Locals could collect up to 25 litres of drinking water per household from a

supply tank, he said. The ban, which does not apply to residents, will be in place until further notice.

Capri, in the Bay of Naples, is famous for its white villas, cobbled streets and upscale hotels. There are some 13,000 permanent residents but huge numbers of day-trippers in summer months.

"We've been working through the night to... secure water shipments and tanks carrying water, which have been arriving. I apologize to everyone but there was nothing I could do... my priority had to be to prevent a healthcare emergency," he added.

In May and June, Capri was the most popular Italian destination among foreign tourists, who accounted for 80% of total visitors to the country, according to a recent analysis from Lybra Tech, a company that provides tech solutions to hotels, and taxi-free shopping data firm Global Blue. —AFP



INHOBOLINGGO (Indonesia): Villagers use nets to catch offerings thrown by members of the Tengger sub-tribe group into the crater of the active Mount Bromo volcano, during a festival in East Java province, on Saturday. —AFP



FRONT ROYAL (Virginia, US): Tara, a dog apprenticed to trainee Coney Walls, is seen during a demonstration of explosives detection at a graduation ceremony organized by the British Association of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. —AFP



COPENHAGEN: Mayor Michael Váchařík, Lord Mayor of Copenhagen Sophie Hæstorp Andersen, Denmark's King Frederik X and Transport Minister Thomas Damsgaard cut a ribbon to open an extension of a metro line, on Saturday. —Reuters

# Egypt to prosecute travel agents over Haj 'fraud'

630 unregistered Egyptian pilgrims died this year

Cairo: Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly ordered 16 tourism companies stripped of their licenses and referred their names to the public prosecutor on Saturday over illegal pilgrimages to Mecca, the cabinet said. The order comes after countries whose citizens performed this year's Haj reported more than 1,100 deaths, many attributed to the overfilled manner in which Saudi Arabia. A tally on Friday, compiling official statements and reports from diplomats involved in the response, put the toll at 1,126, more than half of them from

Egypt. Arab diplomats said earlier this week that Egyptians accounted for 628 deaths — 630 of them unregistered pilgrims. President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi had ordered that a "crisis cell" headed by Madbouly follow up on the deaths of Egyptian pilgrims.

The prime minister has ordered the licenses of these companies to be revoked, their managers to be referred to the public prosecutor, and the imposition of a fine to benefit the families of the pilgrims who died because of them," the cabinet statement said.

50,000 Egyptians registered

The cabinet statement said more than 50,000 Egyptians joined the pilgrimage officially, and

said there were "31 deaths as a result of chronic diseases". It said the travel firms accused of arranging unauthorized Haj visits did not provide adequate services, "causing stressed pilgrims to be exhausted as a result of high temperatures".

On Friday a senior Saudi official defended the Catt kingdom's management of the pilgrimage. Haj permits are allocated to countries on a quota system and distributed to individuals by lottery.

"Even for those who can obtain them, the steep costs mean many to attempt the Haj without a permit, though they risk arrest and deportation if caught. The irregular route, which can save pilgrims thousands of dollars, has become increasingly popular since 2019 when Saudi Arabia intro-

duced a general tourism visa making it easier to enter the Gulf kingdom.

The senior Saudi official said the government had confirmed 577 deaths for the two busiest days of Hajj Saturday, when pilgrims gathered for hours of prayer in the Shinga area on Mount Arafat, and Sunday, when they participated in the "stoning of the devil" ritual in Mina.

"This happened amid difficult weather conditions and a very hard temperature," the official said, acknowledging that the 577 figure was partial and did not cover all of the Haj, which formally ended on Wednesday.

Saudi officials had earlier said 1.6 million pilgrims took part this year, a similar number to last year, and that 1.6 million came from abroad.—AFP

## Arab-American mayor says Biden has not 'earned my vote'

DETROIT (Michigan): Abdullah Hammoud's election as the first Muslim mayor of Dearborn was a watershed moment for this city, an auto-making hub home to the highest concentration of Arab-Americans in the United States.

But while his early focus was on upgrading local infrastructure and investing in parks, he has now been thrust into the national spotlight for his outspoken criticism of fellow Democrat Joe Biden, over the president's support for Israel's military offensive in Gaza.

"I'll be the first to say that we don't want to see Donald Trump re-elected to the White House," Hammoud said in an interview.

"But people want to be inspired to come out." Dearborn, a suburb of Detroit famous as the birthplace of Henry Ford and home of the Ford Motor Company's headquarters, has a population of around 100,000 residents, of whom 55 per cent claim Middle Eastern or North African heritage.

In 2020, Dearborn voters overwhelmingly supported Biden and their ballots could tip the scales in Michigan — a crucial swing state that may ultimately decide the White House winner in November's election.

Hammoud's profile surged in January after he declined an invitation to meet with Biden campaign officials seeking to share up the Muslim vote. Since then, he helped organize a movement that saw over 100,000 voters mark "uncommitted" in Michigan's Democratic primary in protest against Biden's policy on Israel, and was asked by Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein



ABDULLAH H. HAMMOUD  
If he would be her running mate,  
Honorable roots

Hammoud, who won't meet the constitutional requirement of being 35 until next March, was too young to accept the role, though he said the offer was "very humbling." Besides, he remains unsure about how fit cast his ballot.

"I would say that no presidential candidate has 'earned my vote,'

said the father-of-two, urging both parties to pay attention to increasing public disapproval of Israel's actions.

"If you look at all the polling data that's emerging across the country, from coast to coast, the issues that we have been advancing for, fighting for... are issues that have popular support." These demands include a permanent ceasefire as the pathway to provide safe harbors for all hostages and prisoners, unfettered access to humanitarian aid, and ending the supply of weapons to Israel.

The son of Lebanese immigrants, Hammoud grew up in a "working poor" blue collar family,

His father drove a truck while his mother's father worked on an auto factory assembly line.

He was drawn towards the Democratic Party for its support of the labor movement, and especially repelled by Republicans, whom he says have a history of "demonizing Arab Americans, Muslim Americans and other people of color."

Hammoud's first dream was to become a physician, but he wasn't able to get the grades. He instead trained as an epidemiologist and began climbing the corporate ladder as a healthcare executive.

But the sudden death of his beloved older brother — Hammoud was the second of five children — made him re-evaluate his priorities, and in 2016 he ran elections to the state legislature.

**What will Biden do?**

Then in 2022, he became the second in a trio of new Muslim mayors in the southwest Michigan cities of Dearborn, Dearborn Heights and Hamtramck. Hammoud immediately set to work righting historical wrongs.

For decades, the city had been marred by a reputation for racism exemplified by the openly segregationist policies of former mayor Orville Hubbard. Hammoud appointed the city's first Arab-American police chief, which led to a dramatic drop in the rate issued to Black drivers within a year, according to his spokesman.

Hammoud considered Biden a "transformative" president, but now believes "the genocide outweighs the impact of that domestic policy."—AFP

## ECP defends decision to deny SIC reserved seats

Continued from Page 1

within the period prescribed by ECP in the election programme, such candidate loses all the characteristics of being a member of such entity continuing political party," the commission contended. "This is a fundamental feature of the scheme of the Constitution and the Elections Act. There is no basis for 'readying' or creating any fourth class of 'X-party backed candidate,'" the ECP emphasised, adding that in the present case, members of the PTI first submitted nomination forms in which the

"declaration on oath" stated that such candidates belong to the PTI.

"On Jan 13, 2023, candidates who earlier submitted nomination forms furnished with signed declarations on oath to the concerned ECP working committee of common election symbol of an entirely different political party i.e. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI-N) insisted.

"Thereafter, prior to expiry of the deadline for submission of applications for election symbols, the same candidates sought withdrawal of their earlier application for allotment of election symbol of

PTI-N and thereby by operation of law, automatically became independent candidates and contested general election on such," the ECP recorded.

"Therefore, there is no basis for seeing through such independent candidates and delving into the past, closed and irrevocable act and clause of any such candidate to nullify all attributions of a member of PTI-N the commission argued, adding that the reserved seats have been allotted by the ECP as per the Constitution and the Elections Act on Feb 22 and March 4, 2024.

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## Pakistan seeks UNSC role

Continued from Page 1

them from carrying out cross-border attacks against Pakistanis, disrupt the TTP terrorists and hand over its leadership to Pakistan.

At the outset, he said Pakistan had consistently advocated for sustained engagement with the Afghan interim authorities to normalize the situation in that country.

While welcoming the Afghan Taliban's announced decision to participate in the upcoming UN-sponsored meeting in Doha, Ambassador Akram underlined the need for both the international community and Kabul to be clear about the overall objectives

they seek. "Unless we know where we are going, we will never get there," he remarked.

For its part, the Pakistani envoy said the international community was obliged to help the 23 million Afghans, who need urgent aid, and to take adequate measures to bolster Afghanistan's economy including reviving the national banking system and restoring commercial activity.

The Afghan Taliban must also take steps to abide by their international obligations, he said, noting that the world remained concerned about restrictions imposed on women and girls in Afghanistan.

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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT  
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E-Mail: [academictc@ccbs.ilk.edu.pk](mailto:academictc@ccbs.ilk.edu.pk)

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Date: 31 July to 2 August, 2024  
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Date: 6 & 7 August, 2024  
Trainer: Shaukat Jilani, Amber Reham Shahri  
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Date: 8 to 9 August, 2024  
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## Israeli shelling kills dozens near ICRC office in Gaza

GAZA STRIP: Israeli's military pounded Gaza on Saturday, a day after the International Committee of the Red Cross and 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" ordnance projectiles" near its office in al-Marawi, a coastal town in southern Gaza.

"Firing is dangerously close to humanitarian structures that put the lives of civilians and humanitarian 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-Sharq, 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 homes. Debris, walls, and debris and dust filling the



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

street in Sharq refugee camp.

The Israeli military released a brief statement saying: "A short while ago, IDF (Israel) defence forces' fighters 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 attack targeted civilians and vowed in a statement: "The occupation and its Nazi leaders will pay the price for their violence against our people".

Witnesses reported gas battles between Hamas and Israeli forces in Gaza city on Saturday. They also reported Israeli helicopters flying in fighters in the city's Zentan neighborhood.

Earlier, the Israeli military said it 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 "targeted pause of military activity" in a southern corridor to facilitate aid delivery.

But Richard Pasperkorn 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 Umar Muhammad Zamir, 46, from northern Gaza, now living in Khan Younis, in the south.

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

Dr Thushar Gangavathi, a WHO trauma surgeon and emergency officer, said the UN in Gaza was trying to "operate in an unsustainable 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 described as humanitarian-designated zones to leave northwards. However, the Israeli military and forces continued "precision, 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 Junaid Nagri

Supreme Court: "[T]he appointment of judge 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-CM Khalid Khurshid.

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.

Governor Chaudhary Mohammad Aslam 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 comp office in Islamabad.

Another resolution, tabled by treasury member Arzaj Hassan, advocates 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 on taxes, tabled by the opposition member Javed Ali Mansoor, also expressed concern over the suspension of trade activities between Pakistan and China through the Khunjerab Pass.

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

## 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 Kallakkudi, about 250km

from the state capital Chennai.

Law enforcement officials investigating the incident have arrested seven people, said M.S. Prasanth, 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

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# SPORT

## New dates announced for 2025 Cup of Nations in Morocco

**CALCIO:** The next Africa Cup of Nations finals have been put back six months and will now be played from Dec 21, 2025 to Jan 18, 2026, the Confederation of African (CAF) football announced on Friday.

The 2025 tournament in Morocco was supposed to take place in mid-year but has been shifted because of CAF's new expanded Club World Cup with 32 teams in the United States next June and July.

CAF held a virtual executive committee at their headquarters in Cairo on Friday evening after which president Patrice Motsepe made the announcement.

An added challenge for CAF officials was the desire to avoid a clash of dates with the UEFA Champions League in Europe.

Matchday six of the elite European club competition ends on December 11, 2025 and matchday seven begins on January 21, 2026.

However, the new dates are more to avoid major Premier League clubs in the Christmas-New Year period is frantic with teams playing many matches in short periods.

English media reports have suggested clubs might not release African stars as they are compelled to do so for only one international championship per year and the next World Cup is in 2026.

CAF could argue that it is the 2025 AFCON, although most of the tournament will be staged the following year.

Finding suitable dates for the AFCON, a 24-nation tournament to be hosted by Ivory Coast last February, has become increasingly difficult.

A switch to mid-year worked for the 2019 edition in the soaring heat of Egypt so far as it avoided a clash with the European club seasons.

However, the two subsequent editions, in Cameroon and the Ivory Coast, had to be staged in January and February to avoid the rainy seasons in central and west Africa.

The 2025 finals were to be a showcase for Morocco to bolster its summer tourism profile and also look to prove their capability ahead of co-hosting the 2026 World Cup with Portugal and Spain, but it is now scheduled for the winter months.

The 2025 Cup of Nations qualifiers will be played in the next three international windows in September, October and November this year in quickfire campaigns after which the 24 finalists will wait more than one year before the finals kick off. —Agencies

## Paul beats Draper to reach Queen's semis, Fritz exits

**LONDON:** Tommy Paul ended Jack Draper's seven-match winning run on grass on Friday to reach the semi-finals at Queen's last-four and Taylor Fritz crashed out in straight sets.

British number one Draper secured the biggest win of his career when he ended the Queen's Club reign of Wimbledon champion Carlos Alcaraz on Thursday.

But the 22-year-old was outgunned by American fifth seed Paul in the last-eight in London, going down 6-3, 5-2, 6-1 in a match lasting a shade over two hours.

Draper butted back from a set down but he was broken to love midway through the decider as the match swung. Paul's way. Defeat ended Draper's winning streak after he lifted his first ATP title in Stuttgart last week.

Paul will face compatriot Sebastian Korda in the semi-final after the world number 23 recovered from the loss of the first set to beat Australian wild card Mackenzie McDonald 6-7 (4-7), 6-3, 6-4.

Italy's Lorenzo Musetti continued his impressive grass-court season by ending the run of British wild card Kyle Edmund 6-4, 7-5 to reach his second consecutive semi-final on the surface.

Musetti, who advanced to the last four in Stuttgart last week, fired 20 winners and committed just six unforced errors.

He is chasing his third tour-level title and will next play Jordan Thompson after the Australian defeated fourth-seeded American Taylor Fritz 6-4, 6-3.

Thompson, who did not face a break point against Fritz, arrived in London on a five-match losing streak. —AFP



ARLINGTON: Chile's Alexis Sanchez (10) vies for the ball with Sergio Pena of Peru during their Copa America match at the AT&T Stadium. —AP

## Chile hold Peru in Copa America opener

**ARLINGTON (USA):** Chile and Peru missed the chance to take a big step toward Copa America quarter-final qualification on Friday night, playing out a 0-0 draw in their Group A opener.

The teams, who have each won two Copa America titles, were striving to join Argentina on three points after the defending champion's 2-0 victory over Canada, whose qualification hopes have also been boosted by the draw.

The stalemate reflected the struggles of Chile and Peru in the CONMEBOL World Cup Qualifying, where they have jointly managed just four goals across 12 matches.

Alvarez Sanchez, one of the heroes of Chile's back-to-back Copa America victories in 2015 and 2016, squandered the game's best opportunity in the 16th minute.

The former Inter Milan forward missed a golden opportunity when he converted Victor Doubrovsky's low cross in the second half, only to send his effort sailing over

the crossbar.

"They started aggressively. I had two chances and this is the Copa America and you have to make them," Sanchez said. "We were improve in our passes, we played only one game before coming here."

Despite his frustration in front of goal, Sanchez insisted Chile were satisfied with their display.

"The feeling is good. I am happy with the performance, I am excited," said the former Barcelona and Arsenal forward.

Sanchez's toothless effort ended up being the best chance of the night for Chile, who enjoyed 65% possession yet only managed one shot on target during the game.

A disjointed encounter never really got going, with some 27 fouls breaking up play and contributing to a lackluster spectacle.

Peru's best chance came near the hour mark when Gladys Lapeña volleyed over from close range.

"I think we played a great game and with that attitude, we can take any game forward," Lapadula said. "The first half was much more defensive and the second much more offensive. I had two clear chances and we have to keep working like that. I think we played a great game and it will be our start."

Peru's Uruguayan coach Jorge Poza was encouraged by his team's performance.

"In the first half Chile had more possession of the ball, although they could not do much damage to us," he said. "I saw a Peru with a very good attitude, but anxious and with little confidence when it came to playing. But we improved substantially in the second. I didn't see anything in Peru that couldn't be corrected. I know we're not a machine, but we are taking steps in the right direction."

Chile next face group leaders Argentina in New Jersey on Tuesday, while Peru takes on Canada in Kansas City. —Agencies



BARCELONA: McLaren's Lando Norris in action during the qualifying session for the Spanish Grand Prix at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya on Saturday. —Reuters

## Norris nabs pole with 'perfect lap' in Spain

**BARCELONA:** McLaren's Lando Norris backed a perfect lap to put McLaren on pole position for the Spanish Grand Prix on Saturday and deny Red Bull's triple Formula One world champion Max Verstappen the top slot.

Verstappen had taken provisional pole with a time that looked hard to beat, and went faster with his final effort, but Norris took it to another level to end the session 0.020 quicker than his Dutch rival.

The pole was only the second of the Briton's Formula One career, the last coming at the Russian Grand Prix in 2021.

"It was pretty much a perfect lap. You know when you are on a good lap and you are getting excited," Norris said after setting a time of one minute 11.383 seconds. "It has been close all weekend but really it was about a perfect lap and that is what I did today."

Championship leader Verstappen had set the standard with a lap of 1m 14.673 as his first effort and improved the time on his second run to an impressive 1m 14.03.

Norris, targeting a fourth straight world

title, beat the championship by 56 points from Charles Leclerc, who starts Sunday's race in fifth, with Norris seven points back in third.

"I think the whole of qualifying was better than practice for me," said Verstappen, who won his maiden Grand Prix in Barcelona in 2018 and in a last-ditch effort won in Australia in 2022 and 2023. "It all clicked much better. The other teams are catching up, we need to bring more performance to the car."

Norris was the fourth different driver on pole in the last four races, another sign of the battle between the top team getting even closer and Red Bull's dominance being steadily eroded.

Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton was third fastest and team mate George Russell fourth.

Joining Leclerc on the third row will be his Ferrari team-mate and home favourite Charles Leclerc.

Next come the Alpine of Pierre Gasly, the second Red Bull of Sergio Perez, who has a three-place grid penalty from Canada, Esteban Ocon in the other Alpine and Oscar Piastri in the new McLaren. —Agencies

Norris targeting a fourth straight world

## Pakistan team set to compete in Asian snooker

**KARACHI:** Pakistan's national team is set to participate in the Asian Snooker Championship starting in Rawalpindi next week.

The team includes some of the country's top talents, with Aslam Riazani leading the charge as the defending champion in the U-21 category of the championship starting on June 26.

Ahsan, 18, was the nation's best year in Tehran, Iran, and will be looking to retain his crown. "I had a good training camp and I am in good touch for the [Asian] tournament," said Ahsan, who won the 2022 world amateur championship via a video message.

Mohammad Hassan Akbari and Riazani Riaz will also represent Pakistan in the U-21 event while Asimullah Akbari and Asad Iqbal will team up in the team championship.

Akbari, the current national champion, and Asimullah will also participate in the 6-red event.

Asimullah, 30, was the finalist in the AI-98 Asian Championship final held in India in February this year.

All the players have arrived in Karachi for the training camp at the NRP sports Complex. —Sports Reporter

## PCB exempts T20 World Cup players from training camps

**LAHORE:** The Pakistani Cricket Board (PCB) on Saturday announced names of the probables for two national-level training camps, while exempting from those camps all the Pakistan team players who participated in the ongoing T20 World Cup.

A camp for Pakistan Shabeens for their tour of Darwin, Australia and the other, named pre-season fielding and fitness camp, are starting in Karachi from Monday.

According to a PCB official, the probables for both the camps were selected by the members of the national selection committee comprising Waheed Riaz, Mohammad Yousaf, Abdul Razzaq, Asad Shafiq, Jason Gillespie and Test team captain Shan Masood.

Currently, Shafiq is playing in English County cricket and therefore is not included in the list of players called for the pre-season camp, added the official.

The Shabeens will tour Darwin from July 14 to Aug 18 to play matches against Northern Territory 'X' and Bangladesh 'W'. Besides competing in a nine-day Top End T20 Series there.

Meanwhile, Gillespie, the newly-appointed head coach of Pakistan's Test team, will attend the camp from July 8-13. He will then accompany the Shabeens squad as their head coach on the Darwin tour.

In a further development, the Balbir Aram-led Pakistan crossed out of the T20 World Cup after suffering defeat at the hands of the USA and India in the group stage.

"The players, led by participated in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup have been exempted from the Karachi camp," read the PCB press release issued on Saturday.

"The PCB has announced details of the pre-season fitness and fielding camp, and Pakistan Shabeens' training camp, which will be held at Karachi's Hameed Mohammadi High Performance Centre," the release added.

According to the press release, the pre-season camp featuring 25 probables will take place from June 24 to July 7. The squad will be trimmed to a 15-member Pakistan Shabeens' squad that will undergo a training camp from July 8-13 to prepare for their tour to Darwin.

In Darwin, the Shabeens will play two-four-day matches against Bangladesh 'W', two 50-over matches against Northern Territory and Bangladesh 'W' besides participating in a nine-day Top End T20 Series.

According to the PCB, Gillespie will return to Pakistan from Darwin after Shabeens' second four-day match against Bangladesh 'W', which ended on 29 July, to assume responsibilities as the national team's head coach and start preparations for the two-Test series against Bangladesh.

The pre-season fitness and fielding camp will be supervised by Mohammad Masood, who will also travel to Darwin as assistant coach manager. Abdul Razzaq will be the wicket-ball coach and will join the Pakistan Shabeens side on July 28 for the two 50-over and Top End T20 Series matches from Aug 4-18.

"The national team players previously involved in competitive cricket in the United Kingdom and those who recently participated in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup have been exempted from the pre-season fitness and fielding camp," the press release said.

Twenty-four probables have been named for the pre-season camp while one more will be added later.

Source said the 25th player will most probably be Ahmed Shehzad, who is currently a strong critic of Pakistan T20 captain Balbir Aram. Former captain Sarfaraz Ahmed and fast bowler Mohammad Wasim Junior, who recovered from injury recently, are included in the list of probables.

Players for the pre-season camp include Shoaib, Faiz汗, Imran, Imran Butt, Imran Khan, Asif Khan, Mohammad Rizwan, Mohammad Irfan Khan, Usman Rauf, Usman Qadir, Usman Ali, Usman Ali, Usman Qadir and Imran Khan.

Players for the Shabeens camp include Hassan, Haseeb, Hassan Shahid, Hassan Shahid, Mohammad Hassan, Shoaib Khan, Mohammad Irfan Khan, Usman Rauf, Usman Qadir and Imran Khan.

## Olympics opening ceremony rehearsal postponed

**PARIS:** A rehearsal for the Paris Olympics opening ceremony planned for Monday has been postponed because the river Seine is flowing so fast, city authorities said on Friday.

After several weeks of rainy weather, the Seine is currently flowing at a level five times stronger than its normal summer reading, requiring it would be impossible to "stage the most relevant scenes," from a rehearsal on Monday, the city authorities and the Olympic organisers said.

The rehearsal was to have featured around 90 barges which will be used to transport teams on their parade down the river in the July 26 ceremony.

Paris 2024 will be the first Olympics in history to take the opening ceremony out of its traditional setting of the main Games stadium.

The severe heavy rain in the French capital also bad news for the ongoing fight to raise the quality of the water in the Seine to levels required to stage the triathlon and open-water swimming events at the Olympics.

The "very rainy weather" had caused "the strong flow of the river, which does not help to produce a good water quality", Paris town hall said.

According to graphs posted online, almost every day from June 10 to June 16, the level of concentration of fecal E. Coli bacteria was greater than 1,000 colony-forming units, the required threshold used by the international triathlon and swimming federations.

Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo has said she will take a dip in the Seine in the week beginning July 15. —AFP

## Dressel books 50m free Olympic title defence

**LOS ANGELES:** Seven-time Olympic champion Caeleb Dressel shook off his doubts and earned a spot in the final of the 50 metres freestyle in Paris after powering home first in the event known as the splash and dash at the US Olympic trials in Indianapolis on Friday.

Dressel, who missed out on the chance to defend his 100 metres free crown after a disappointing third-place finish, would not be

denied in the 50, getting to the wall first in 21.47 seconds to the evening's approval of another large crowd at Lucas Oil Stadium, home of the NFL's Indianapolis Colts.

The victory capped a long, often rocky road back to the top for the seven-times Olympic gold medallist, who stepped away from the sport abruptly in 2022.

"I knew it was one of my toughest nights," said Dressel. "I just had

feeling great or anything special, so I just had to give it my best."

Chris Giacalone, winner of the 50 free, will also race the 50 in Paris, matching second from Matt King by 0.001 seconds.

Ragan Smith added to his Paris workload capturing a third individual event with the 200 backstroke in dominating fashion, demolishing a field that included swimmers who had recorded six of top 10 times this year.

Smith, who blitzed to the 50 backstroke world record on Tuesday and then won the 200 butterfly on Thursday, made three wins, getting home first unchallenged in a time of two minutes, 2.16 seconds, more than a second clear of second-place finisher Phoebe Powers.

"It's night and day difference between 2021 [Tokyo] Olympics and now," said Smith, who won three medals in Tokyo but none of them gold. "I ran out of gas a bit at the end of that last race but it's been a great week for me."

Carson Foster, Parkland-based swimmer, powered home on the closing freestyle leg to win the 200m individual medley in 1:54.65.

Shane Casas had dominated the opening butterfly and backstroke legs to build a lead and still held a slim advantage as they turned for

home after the breaststroke.



**Buttler positive on England's chances despite SA loss**

**GEOFF INLET:** The 78-year partnership between Harry Brook and Liam Livingstone may prove to be crucial for England's semi-final hopes even though it fell just short of getting them a victory over South Africa in the T20 World Cup on Friday, captain Jon Buttler said.

Brook and Livingstone's fifth-wicket stand helped the defending champions get within seven runs of the target, creating a clearer path to victory despite both West Indies pulling ahead in the group with a dominant six-wicket win over the United States.

Opener Quinton de Kock's typically blundering 63 was the cornerstone of South Africa's seemingly modest 166 after they lost the toss. Arash Noorji then denied England the 10 runs they needed off the last over as they finished on 156.

"I think Brook and Livingstone had a fantastic partnership on a slow wicket where other guys struggled," Buttler told reporters in Gros Islet. "The big picture is obviously not run rate. We're still in it and we're looking ahead to the next one."

Brook almost earned the game England's way before he fell off the first ball of the last over when South Africa captain Aiden Markram held a superb running catch over his shoulder.

"It was a great catch and that's what South Africa have prided themselves on over a long period of time," said Buttler. "They've always had great fielders, you think of Jean Rhodes, Horncastle, Gibbs, AB de Villiers. They've always been a great fielding team."

Buttler said the power play had been decisive, with South Africa 63-0 off the first six overs compared to their opponents' 41-1. "I'd say it was lost in the powerplay," Buttler said.

West Indies, tied with England on two points, rose to second place in Group Two thanks to a superior net run rate of 1.614. Third-placed England have a net run rate of 0.412, close to last-placed South Africa (0.252) who have four points.

This makes it easier for England to overtake South Africa's net run rate with a win over the US on Sunday, or the leaders lose to West Indies. If South Africa win, England would ensure second-place outright with four points.

South Africa, who have won all six matches in the tournament, now face a potential do-or-die scenario where a loss to West Indies may leave them out of the top two and a place in the semis.—Agencies



## Hope fires West Indies to crucial win over USA

**BRIDGETOWN:** Shan Hope struck a magnificent six-wicket 82 not out from 19 deliveries as West Indies earned their Super Eight campaign with a thumping five-wicket win over co-hosts the United States at the Twenty20 World Cup on Friday.

Seeking a win and a big bonus in their net run rate after a loss to England in their opening Super Eight clash, West Indies achieved both at Kensington Oval to move into second place in Group 2 behind unbeaten South Africa, their next opponents.

After a brief spell of rain delayed the toss but not the start at a packed stadium, Barbadian all-rounder Rossouw Chose took 3-19 and pace bowler Andre Russell grabbed 3-31 as the Americans were bowled out for 128.

West Indies overhauled the meagre total in 39.5 overs after Hope smashed eight fours and four boundaries, ably assisted by Nicholas Pooran who struck 27 from 12 balls.

West Indies now have their destiny in

their own hands — if they beat South Africa in their final group game on Sunday they will make it to the last four.

West Indies have a better net run rate than South Africa meaning they would advance with a win over the Proteas regardless of the outcome of England's final game against the USA.

"Credit has to be given to the boys, we set out to achieve a goal and we did," said West Indies skipper Norman Powell, who was already looking forward to the possibility of returning to Bridgetown for the final. "Kensington brings special memory for us. It's a special bit of cricket in the Caribbean ... hopefully we can be here back on the 20th in a special place to play cricket."

Andre Russell helped get the Americans off to a lively start with pace bowlers Glenn McCoy and Alzarri Joseph conceding 12 and 15 respectively off their opening overs.

Chose survived a dropped chance off Joseph but was caught by Hope off the same bowler for 29, with three fours and a six.

Lafraim spinner Adwoa Hosman exerted more control at the other end with the new ball, conceding only 13 from his first three overs.

Chose struck an important blow for his team by bowling the dangerous US skipper Aaron Jones for 11, and at the halfway stage, the Americans were struggling at 67-4.

A sense of relief set in for a strong run rate in the qualification scenario, Hope noted on the attack from the outset, reaching his half century in just 25 balls.

Hope's aggressive strokeplay helped the home side reach 56-0 in the 18th over, power play with the opener, who was not in the side in the group stage games, scoring 42 of them.

It was relentless hitting from Hope who struck 12 boundaries and was helped at the end by Pooran who joined in the fun with three sixes.

Hope sealed the victory with his final six, smashing Saadab Naqashkar over long off to the delight of the home crowd.

There were some final bowling figures

from the American with Miland Kumar going for 22 off his nine over which saw him hit for three sixes.

Barbadian Chose, whose figures were a career-best in T20 games, was delighted with the emphatic performance.

"To do it at home is a great feeling, with my parents and my friends watching," he said. "It's something we talked about in the team meeting that if we don't get too many wickets in the powerplay, it's on the spinners to come back and pull the game back and that's what we did today. It's our destiny and our goal to win the World Cup in anyone we play we have to beat them from the get-go."

The Americans felt they were 50 runs short in their innings after being put into bat, but Jones was not prepared to concede that their fairytale run at the tournament was over.

"Iough might be honest with the boys," Jones said. "We weren't the best tonight, that's how it goes sometimes. We'll go back to the drawing board and come back again to England on Sunday."—Agencies

## Kuldeep, Pandya lead India to 50-run rout of Bangladesh

**NORTH SOUND:** Hardik Pandya blasted an undefeated half-century while leg-spinner Kuldeep Yadav bowled Bangladesh bowlers with his guile as India moved to the semi-finals of the T20 World Cup semifinals with a dominant 50-run victory in a Super Eight Group 1 contest on Saturday.

Chasing 297 for victory at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, Bangladesh lost three of their top six batsmen to Kuldeep who removed Tamim Iqbal (29), Towhidul Hasan (10) and Shakib Al Hasan (11).

Kuldeep got his opportunity in the Caribbean leg of the competition, made the Bangladeshi bowlers look clueless with the effective use of googly and stock ball and finished with an impressive 3-19 from his four overs.

India now have two wins from two Super Eight games and will be guaranteed a semi-final spot if Australia defeat Afghanistan later Saturday and also make the last four from Group 1.

Pandya, who had made 50 when India batted, started the slide when he took the first Bangladeshi wicket. Iqbal suffered a mini-collapse in the eventual ninth over.

The pacer splattered Kuldeep's stump, had his next ball hit for a six by Soumya Sarkar Yadav, and was celebrating the wicket of Indian number three before the following delivery.

Rishabh Pant cracked 36 off 24 balls with Shreyas Iyer making 14 — 18 of those runs coming from three sixes but it was Pandya, who provided the late flourish that took India close to the 200-mark. The all-rounder completed his 50 off the final ball of the innings.

India beat Afghanistan by 47 runs in their Super Eight opener in Bridgetown while Bangladesh lost to Australia by 28 runs in a rain-hit clash in Antigua.

India have now won all five T20 World Cup clashes against Bangladesh and taken their overall head-to-head record to 13-3.—Agencies

the inevitable.

Once skipper Nazmul Hossain Shahid fell to Jasprit Bumrah for a 32-ball 40, Bangladesh's hopes went with him.

Shahid also ended Rishabh Pant's brief 24-run cameo as the veteran wamer enjoyed figures of 2-13 in four overs before the Tigers finished their 20 over on 146-8.

Put in to bat, 2007 champions India now five of their top six batsmen reach double-figure scores as they posted 265, their highest score in what has been a low-scoring tournament so far.

All-rounder Pandya top-scored with an undefeated 50 off just 27 balls with four boundaries and three sixes.

India had to 23-1 in seven overs with skipper Rohit Sharma making a rapid 23 and Virat Kohli hitting his tournament best 37 off 26 balls.

Shahid Al Hasan bore the brunt of the assault but redeemed himself by ending the 39-run opening stand between Shakib and starwicket Kohli.

Kohli offered a slice to partially test Kohli smacked three runs before Tamim Iqbal triggered a mini-collapse in the eventual ninth over.

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**NORTH SOUND:** Indian batsman Hardik Pandya cuts during the Super Eight match against Bangladesh at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Saturday.—AFP



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### Scoreboards

INDIA VS BANGLADESH		USA VS WEST INDIES	
1. Shami vs Jasprit Bumrah	23	1. Taylor vs Umesh Patel	3
2. Rishabh vs Tamim	27	2. Arshad vs Hope & Joseph	29
3. Rohit vs Tamim	20	3. Kieron vs Shahid	11
4. Pant vs Tamim	10	4. Jason vs Shahid	11
5. Chahal vs Tamim	94	5. Anderson vs Shahid	7
6. Pandya not out	0	6. Rishabh vs Shahid	10
7. Pant not out	0	7. Jason vs Shahid	10
8. Pant not out	0	8. Jason vs Shahid	10
9. Pant not out	0	9. Koenig vs Pandya & Joseph	1
10. Pant not out	0	10. Koenig vs Pandya & Joseph	1
11. Pant not out	0	11. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
12. Pant not out	0	12. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
13. Pant not out	0	13. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
14. Pant not out	0	14. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
15. Pant not out	0	15. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
16. Pant not out	0	16. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
17. Pant not out	0	17. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
18. Pant not out	0	18. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
19. Pant not out	0	19. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
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22. Pant not out	0	22. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
23. Pant not out	0	23. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
24. Pant not out	0	24. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
25. Pant not out	0	25. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
26. Pant not out	0	26. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
27. Pant not out	0	27. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
28. Pant not out	0	28. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
29. Pant not out	0	29. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
30. Pant not out	0	30. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
31. Pant not out	0	31. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
32. Pant not out	0	32. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
33. Pant not out	0	33. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
34. Pant not out	0	34. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
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36. Pant not out	0	36. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
37. Pant not out	0	37. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
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42. Pant not out	0	42. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
43. Pant not out	0	43. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
44. Pant not out	0	44. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
45. Pant not out	0	45. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
46. Pant not out	0	46. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
47. Pant not out	0	47. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
48. Pant not out	0	48. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
49. Pant not out	0	49. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
50. Pant not out	0	50. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
51. Pant not out	0	51. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
52. Pant not out	0	52. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
53. Pant not out	0	53. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
54. Pant not out	0	54. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
55. Pant not out	0	55. Pandya vs Pandya & Joseph	0
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KARACHI  
Sunset 07:26 AM  
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 05:43 AM  
**NEXT 24 HRS**  
Minimum 28°C  
Maximum 36°C  
Outlook Sunny



Portugal ease past Turkey to book spot in knockout phase

Pg. 18 SPORT



THE electronics market in Saddar is crammed full with people buying battery-powered fans. A large number of localities in the metropolis are witnessing hours-long load-shedding being carried out by the K-Electric amid scorching heat and rising humidity for the past several days. —Shakir Asad/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 tame session during the ongoing debate on budget proposals when a sitting Pakistan Peoples Party member criticised the local government system under General Pervez Musharraf regime which attracted strong reaction.

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

JI'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 Munawar 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 assured its support to 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 documents and neither the opposition had filed any suggestions for the budget proposal."

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

the opposition leader for meeting or develop understanding before the budget session and seek 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 on the meeting of the City Council going to be held on June 24 to present the budget for the next financial year.

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

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 tradition by ignoring the proposals from the opposition party and raising 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 230 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.

## 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 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 constitute 60 per cent of the population, for employment and reap the benefits of population bulge.

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

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

In addition to this, he announced that

courses and courses of the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTC) 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 serve Pakistan. Therefore, right decisions are the need of the hour for Pakistan, he added.

In 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 vision on the restoration of student unions, he said that both students and trade unions were very important as these institutions played the role of mentors 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

## PRAYER

Fajr	4:11
Zohar	12:32
Aza	3:29
Maghreb	7:27
Isha	8:54
Starting time in Karachi	

# Man held on charge of murdering widowed daughter-in-law over her intention to remarry

Policemen find hand grenade, rifle in Orangi garbage dump

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A widowed woman, who intended to marry again, was murdered allegedly by the brother of her late husband in Cantt Colony on Saturday, police and rescue services said.

Sarkhan SHO Salimuddin Qazi said the victim, 35-year-old Kausar, was attacked and killed by her brother-in-law Raheeq inside her house.

The police claimed to have arrested the suspected killer.

The SHO said deceased Kausar had

married a man named Masroor but he died around two years ago. The couple had five children. However, she wanted to marry again but the suspect, her brother-in-law, was opposing the idea.

On Saturday, a heated argument took place between them, after which the suspect took out a knife and stabbed her to death.

She originally hails from Bahawalpur.

The body was shifted to the Jamshaid Postgraduate Medical Centre for medico-legal formalities.

#### Woman's body found in water tank

Body of an unidentified woman was found from a water tank of an under-construction building in the Kharial area of Orangi Town on

Saturday, police and rescue services said.

An Ehsa Foundation spokesperson said that the body was recovered near Iqbal Baithak Chashk.

The woman was in her late 50s. There were injury marks on the head. The corpse was shifted to the Abbottabad Hospital for medico-legal formalities.

Marignappa SHO Riazur Wattoo said doctors had recovered the cause of death.

He said it appeared that the incident took place two to three days ago.

He said although there were injury marks on the head but it was not clear as to whether she had suffered the same after falling in the tank or she was hit with hard and blunt instruments.

Her identity also could not be

ascertained till late in the night.

#### Grenade recovered

A hand grenade and rifle were recovered from a garbage dump in Orangi Town on Saturday.

Orangi Town police said that acting on a tip off, they recovered the grenade and ruined rifle from the garbage under Banarsi Bridge. The police cordoned off the area and called the Bomb Disposal Squad. The grenade and the rifle were stuffed in a bag and thrown there. The police were further investigating the matter.

#### Gang of robbers busted

Police on Friday claimed to have busted an inter-provincial gang of car and motorcycle snatches who

targeted the vehicles while wearing police uniforms.

DIC-South Syed Asad Raza said that three members of the gang were arrested after an encounter in Pak Colony. They were committing robbery across Sindh while wearing police uniforms.

They had snatched a car in police uniform at Naseebabad around six months ago as well as several other cars from the jurisdiction of Shamsia Paila and Balochi Colony police, respectively, and sold them in Balochistan.

"They were wanted in over 36 incidents of snatching of vehicles," said the DIC, adding that three police uniforms, pistol and one Corolla car were recovered from their custody. They were identified as Babar, Ghulam Ali and Raja Ali.

## Donkey cart race today

KARACHI: The Commissioner Karachi Cup Donkey Cart Race will be held on Sunday (today).

All participants will gather at the ICI Bridge at 8am.

Additional Commissioner-I Syed Ghulam Mehmood and Deputy Commissioner South Attaullah Saeed will wave the checked flag near the starting line to start the race.

The participants will pass through M.T. Khan Road, Sardarwala and the race will end at Commissioner Office on Chabu Road.

Karachi Mayor Barrister Mumtaz Wahab will be the chief guest and distribute prizes among the successful players.

Commissioner of Karachi Syed Hasan Naqvi will speak on the occasion. —APP



## SBCA finalises plan to deal with emergencies during monsoon

KARACHI: The Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) has developed a comprehensive contingency plan in collaboration with the district administration to manage any emergencies during the upcoming monsoon season.

The SBCA also established a main emergency centre at the Civil Centre Annex Building in Gulshan-e-Iqbal which will operate round the clock to address any emergency situations that may arise during rains.

According to Director General of SBCA Abdul Rashid Solangi, the SBCA is in constant communication

with deputy commissioners, secretary of archives and culture, and other relevant institutions to ensure a coordinated response.

Mr Solangi said the SBCA staff will be present at the Rain Emergency Centre 24x7 to respond to any incidents and all directors will remain in their respective districts with their officers during the expected rains, ensuring continuous monitoring of all potential situations.

In case of any emergency, the public is urged to report to the Centre at 92321355 through social media pages or via the official website, www.sbcas.gov.pk.

Survey reports indicate that out of 570

buildings in Karachi, 125 are under the department of archaeology and culture. Additionally, 81 buildings in the Hyderabad region, 60 in the Sodhi region, 7 in the Mirpurkhas region, and 4 in the Larkana region, totaling 222 buildings, have been declared dangerous and unsellable.

The SBCA has issued instructions to the residents and owners of such buildings to evacuate immediately to protect their lives and property. Due to water seepage during rains, there is a significantly increased risk of these buildings collapsing or catching fire due to short circuits.

To manage any adverse situations,

four teams have been formed, and trained contractors, labourers, and machinery will be available all day and night at the Emergency Centre. Banners and flags will be placed on all buildings declared dangerous. Residents of extremely dangerous buildings will be evacuated with the help of district administration and police.

A comprehensive awareness campaign has also been launched through the print media to inform the public. Notices have been issued to residents of dangerous buildings to vacate immediately. A list of these buildings has been sent to the district administration. —PTI



## Man jailed for seven years in mugging case

By Sumair Abdullah

KARACHI: A sessions court has sentenced a street criminal to seven years of rigorous imprisonment for committing a robbery near Tariq Road.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Shahid Ali Memori convicted Moawid of robbing a citizen after recording evidence and hearing statements from both sides.

Following the verdict, the judge directed police to take the convict into custody, as he had appeared in court on bail.

Regarding the accused Malook Abbasi, the court declared him a proclaimed offender and directed that his case be kept on a dormant file.

In the detailed verdict, the judge

observed: "The crime of robbery/dacoity is on the rise in Karachi. In such circumstances, releasing the accused due to minor or slight contradiction is not in the welfare of society; as such criminals have created terror in the city, causing many innocent to lose their lives."

According to state prosecutor S Khansherif Barkati, the complainant informed the police that on January 4, 2022, at midnight near Tariq Road, two persons approached him and snatched his mobile phone and cash at gunpoint before fleeing towards Jheel Park.

However, a police party apprehended one of the street criminals, identified as Moawid, while his accomplice escaped from the scene. The police also recovered the lost cash and other valuables belonging to the complainant from the appre-

hended person.

During the trial, the accused denied the allegations, claiming that police had falsely implicated him. He alleged that on the day of the incident, he had gone to Liberty Check with his friend to buy clothes and admitted to using charas.

He further claimed that police had stopped him, found 12 to 15 grams of charas during a search, and then demanded a bribe. Upon refusal, he was implicated in the robbery case. The court, however, discarded his plea, finding his claims without substantial evidence.

The case was registered at the Faisalabad police station under Sections 397 (robbery) and 34 (conspiracy) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

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### FACULTY OF MEDICINE:

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- Marine Reference Collection and Resource Centre (Zoology) M.Phil Only
- National Nematological Research Centre (Nematology)
- Dr. Zafar H. Zaidi Centre for Proteomics (Biochemistry)
- Institute of Space Science & Technology
- Centre of Excellence for Women's Studies
- Institute of Marine Science
- Institute of Environmental Studies
- Centre for Plant Conservation
- Pakistan Study Centre (M.Phil Only)

### ELIGIBILITY

#### For MPhil, ME & MS (With Course Work):

At least Sixteen Years of Studies (MA, MLIS, MSc., MBA, BBA (4-Year), MAS, MCom, BS (4-Year), B-Pharm, Pharm-D, MBBS, BDS, DVM, BS/BE Engineering or equivalent qualification with at least second division in the relevant field from HEC recognized University / Institution. However, candidates with MBBS, BDS, DVM or equivalent qualification will be required to successfully complete the deficiency courses prescribed by the concerned Department.

#### For MS (Surgery) & MD (Medicine):

MBBS / BDS or equivalent qualification from a recognized University in addition to One Year House Job with valid PMDC / PMC Registration.

#### For PhD:

MPharm, MPhil, MBA (with Four Year BBA) or its equivalent qualification in the relevant field from HEC recognized University.

#### For LLM:

At least sixteen years of studies (BA.LL.B/LL.B) or equivalent qualification with at least 'Second Division' in LLB having at least 55 percent aggregate or have a minimum CGPA of 3.00 from HEC recognized University / Institution.

### IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

1. The following steps should be observed to apply for Postgraduate Admissions 2024:
2. The Postgraduate Admission Prospectus 2024, Entrance Test Form (ETP) and Fee Voucher can be downloaded from the Karachi University Website (<https://uok.edu.pk/admissions/pg-index.php>) from JUNE 24 to JULY 05, 2024.
3. Candidates are required to read the Prospectus carefully, fill Entrance Test Form and Fee Voucher. For Fee Structure, please see Prospectus.
4. Candidates are required to submit duly filled Entrance Test Form along with paid Fee Voucher in the respective Departments latest by JULY 05, 2024.
5. The Karachi University Entrance Test 2024 is mandatory for all the Candidates. List of eligible candidates for appearing in Karachi University Entrance Test will be displayed on Karachi University Website on JULY 14, 2024.
6. Candidates eligible for Karachi University Entrance Test will be required to collect Admit Cards from JULY 18 to JULY 22, 2024 from the respective Departments / Centers / Institutes.
7. The Karachi University Entrance Test will be held on Sunday, JULY 28, 2024 at 10:00 am. Candidates are required to report at 09:30 am with Admit Card and Original CNIC. For further information/details, visit KU Website (<https://uok.edu.pk/admissions/pg-index.php>).
8. List of Successful Candidates for Karachi University Entrance Test (KUET)-2024 will be announced/displayed on the Karachi University Website on AUGUST 04, 2024.

NOTE: Degree Holders of HEC - recognized Pakistani Private / Foreign Institutions other than University of Karachi MUST submit an Equivalence Certificate of the Degree obtained from the Office of the Deputy Registrar (Academics) of the University of Karachi before the Provisional Admission.



REGISTRAR

## Thieves steal away entire cellular tower installation in Naudero village

LAROKA: A gang of thieves stole away entire cellular tower installation of a private company in Larkana's Naudero village near Sukkur on June 6 and police arrested two suspects on Saturday.

A spokesman for Larkana SSP said that police had arrested Rukhsiyal Abro, owner of the land where the tower stood, and scrap-dealer Sadiq Ali who, after being legal regional security manager of the private mobile company, registered an FIR at Naudero police station against Abro, Mohammad Qasim Khanmir, night watchman, and two unidentified persons, under Sections 457, 380, 381, 427 and 34 PPC.

The spokesman said that when he along with two of his colleagues went to the village on June 7 on his routine visit to look after the tower, he found nothing at the site. The entire boundary wall around the installation and mobile tower had been stolen away, he said.

The spokesperson said that according to the FIR entire periphery of the tower and even the wall and iron gate were found dismantled and taken away. The crime, according to the FIR, took place on June 6 but reported to police on June 14, he said.

Police moved into action and made the arrests after the news went viral on social media. "We have taken into custody owner of the land Rukhsiyal Abro and Sadiq Ali, scrap dealer," police said.

The preliminary investigation revealed that the tower had been idle for six months and the night watchmen did not receive salary regularly, police said.

Abro told police during interrogation that a group of people had started frequenting the area misquenching themselves as representative of the mobile company. They won his trust and finally dismantled the tower telling him (Abro) that the company had decided to shut down the installation, he said.

Police were making efforts to arrest the rest of the suspects nominated in the case, said the spokesperson.

## Heatwave claims cop's life

HYDERABAD: A police constable fell unconscious on the roadside and later died after suffering sunstroke while on his way to attend Nager police station on Saturday.

A police spokesman said that the constable Abdul Rehman Junjojo was rushed to Liaquat University Hospital where doctors declared him dead on arrival. Junjojo was posted at a check-post near Kolin Barrage, he said. The Met department recorded 42 degrees centigrade temperature in Hyderabad on Saturday.—APP

# 'Corrupt elements' blamed for damage to Sukkur Barrage

GDA accuses PPP govt of massive corruption; PTI alleges intentional move to grab foreign aid

Dawn Report

**SUKKUR/BALUCHISTAN:** The Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Saturday claimed that the damage to Sukkur Barrage's two gates reflected massive corruption in irrigation, like all other provincial departments.

They strongly reacted to the incident in which the gate number 47 of the barrage suddenly collapsed and plunged into deep water while the gate number 48 was severely damaged during the night between Thursday and Friday (June 20 and 21) while flows in Indus were smooth and normal.

They criticised the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) for allegedly "syphoning off" billions of rupees allocated annually to different departments for development and proper maintenance of all their major and minor installations.

GDA Information Secretary, Sardar Abdul Rahim, who is also the Sindh Secretary General of Pakistan Muslim League-Frontline (PML-F),

expressed his deep concern over suspension of irrigation water supply to Naro, Rohri, Khairpur, Nasir and other canals in the name of repair work after the incident. In a statement, he noted that the action would disable growers to cultivate cotton, rice, vegetables and other crops in this region.

Sardar Rahim claimed that the Thursday night incident proved that proper repair and maintenance of Sukkur Barrage was not being carried out despite the fact that huge amounts of funds were released every year to the irrigation department for the purpose. He noted that the gate number 47 plunged into the river and could not be traced yet as.

The GDA leader demanded registration of a case against all those responsible for the incident. They must be arrested, he added.

He observed that when growers were already under intensive stress for being deprived of water bags, not being paid official rate of their produce and denial of their due share in irrigation water. And now they and all other growers

would not be able to cultivate their crops due to suspension of water supply.

South PTI President Haseeb Adil Sheikh, in his statement, demanded a thorough investigation into barrages' gates' collapse and damage incident.

He accused "corrupt" officials of the irrigation department of being involved in the incident.

He said that the gates were not damaged by natural causes.

"A thorough investigation into the incident be held and those found responsible must be punished," he said.

Mr Sheikh insisted that the gates were intentionally broken. "How can a 35-tonne gate break merely due to low water pressure?" he argued, and recalled that there were the same gate that had withstood pressure of 1.5 million cubic metres passed through them in major floods of 2010 and 2011 and that, too, without suffering any damage.

He said it was a matter of grave concern that damage was going to affect no less than eight million acres of agricultural land in Sindh.

The PTI leader also pointed out that billions of rupees were being released annually for the maintenance and repairs of the barrage, yet no substantial

work was done.

He claimed that despite Rs47 billion having been allocated and down being ordered from a Chinese company, only the gate number 27 had been completed over the last three years.

Referring to a notification

regarding suspension of water supply to many canals to facilitate repair work, Mr Sheikh noted that these canals were irrigating more than half of Sindh's agricultural lands.

He criticised the Sindh government for having no plan for the replacement of the collapsed gate number 47.

He accused the ruling PPP of designing and executing disastrous "to get foreign aid and then pocketing it".

Haseeb Sheikh said PTI intended to file a petition in the Sindh High Court over the Sukkur Barrage gate incident and also organise rallies to ensure that no further damage caused to Sindh's agriculture sector.

Enquiry instituted

The Sindh irrigation secretary has formed a five-member technical committee to hold an inquiry into the Thursday night collapse of Sukkur Barrage's gate No. 47 and damage to its gate No. 44.

Three separate terms of reference (ToRs) have been prepared for the inquiry committee.

Irrigation Minister Jam Khan Sherin confirmed setting up of the committee. But the team has not been given ToRs for "fixing responsibility in view of the findings of this report".

According to the notification issued on Saturday, the technical inquiry committee is headed by Ghulam Mohiuddin Meghal (Project Director of the Sukkur Barrage Improvement Project). The other members are Pirzada Ihsan (Managing Director of the Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority), Mariano Ahmed Munro (Chief Engineer, Development Region I Hydrological, Mirkhan Ahmed Abo (Chief Engineer, Sukkur Barrage Right Bank Region), and Mohammad Hayat Sharif (Project Director, SCARP, Khairpur).

"The committee would examine barrage operations over the last two months in relation to ROPs of barrages, will determine in detail causes of damage to gate Nos 44 and 47 of Sukkur Barrage, shall complete and submit detailed technical enquiry report to secretary irrigation department within five days," the notification read.

## Demo staged for Balochistan assembly's member

By Our Staff Correspondent

**HYDERABAD:** Members of Chattha community staged a demonstration outside local press club on Saturday against what they termed as vindictive actions of Ali Hassan Zehri against their tribal chief, Sabir Bhutto and his supporters, in Balochistan's provincial constituency of PB-21 where Zehri had lost to Bhutto.

Chattha Raisel alias Gullam Chattha, Comrads Baloch Chattha and others held a news conference at the press club that Zehri had now damaged Bhutto into an electoral dispute on the spot after initial declaration of the result in Bhutto's favour and now the matter awaited judgement which had been reserved by high court.

They appealed to authorities to take notice of Zehri's vindictive actions in Winder and Hull, Balochistan, where people living for past 70 years were being dispossessed from their homes.

They claimed that fabricated FIR had been lodged against 230 residents of those areas at the instance of Zehri and appealed to President Asif Ali Zardari, Chief Justice of Pakistan, Chief of Army Staff, Balochistan chief minister and Pakistan Peoples Party leadership to take notice of Zehri's high handedness.

## Brutalised camel's owner claims police letting off culprit

By Our Correspondent

**NAWABSHAH:** The camel milking case took a dramatic turn on Saturday when the accused's owner disclosed before the court of judicial magistrate in Sanghar that the main suspect in the case was local landlord but police were not ready to lay hands on him.

Saeemullah, owner of the eight-month-old female camel whose right leg was chopped off allegedly by the landlord in Mund Jumro area in Sanghar district on June 15 as punishment for foraging into his farmland, appeared before the judicial magistrate Habibullah Syed along with his counsel Ayaz Khankhail and told the court that the main suspect in the case was the landlord, Ghulam Raisel Shar, but police were trying to save him.

He said that he became disappo- pointed and confined himself to home after police refused to nominate the main suspect, Ghulam Raisel Shar, in the case and instead implicated some peasants in the crime.

He disclosed that even the statement attributed to him, which police had submitted to the court, was forged as he had never given any written statement to police.

After hearing Saeemullah out, the court directed him to record his statement under section 162 at Marani police station.

Raisel's counsel, Ayaz Khankhail,

said reporters that they would approach Marani police to have the statement recorded as directed by the court.

The police had earlier arrested six suspects in the case identified as Raisel Shar, Abdil Shar, Jaffar Jan, Abdil Shaikh Shar and Daryya Khan Shar and produced them in the court after completion of four-day remand.

The police requested further extension in the remand on the basis of alleged recovery of a pistol and bullet from one of the suspects Abdil Shar and registration of another suspect Shar.

The court, however, rejected the police request for extension in police custody of the suspects and remanded them in judicial custody before adjourning the case to June 27.

The incident took place in Mund Jumro area, Sanghar district, on June 15, Friday, when the landlord allegedly mutilated the camel's leg in punishment for foraging into his field for fodder.

Sanghar police contacted owner of the mutilated camel after the news went viral on social media, and claimed Raisel had refused to identify the culprit and press charges against him.

Hence, police had to lodge an FIR on behalf of the state against an unknown person under Sections 429 (Murder/killing or attempting murder) and 34 (common intention) of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC), they said.

The eight-month-old female camel was transported to animal shelter in Malir, Karachi, named Comprehensive Disaster Management Services after the government, chief minister and animal rights organisations intervened.

The animal, which had been named Camille by her new caretakers, was being treated and efforts were under way to arrange a prosthetic leg for her.

**HO rejects Behar's disclosures**

Investigation Officer Sharminuddin Shar rejected Behar's disclosures and told media persons that the incident took place on June 13 and police reached the crime scene the following day on 14th.

He said the camel's owner had furnished them a written statement that day saying that he did not want to be a complainant in the case. He also recorded a video statement which was part of police's case documents, he said.

He said the court had verbally asked Behar to have his statement recorded under Section 162 but police had not yet received any written orders from the court. However, despite court's direction Behar had not appeared in the police station to have his statement recorded, he said.

He said the investigation was under way and all the suspects involved in the crime would be brought to justice.

inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi rajiu

## OBITUARY

With deep sorrow and grief, we announce the passing of our beloved  
**MRS. FARIDA AUN ALI**  
D/O (LATE) HUSSAIN AHMED HASHIM ALARAKHIA

In London, United Kingdom on 22nd June, 2024

May her soul rest in eternal peace, Amen.

Burial and Sooyem Majlis announcements will follow.

Please recite Sarah Al-Fatiha for the departed soul.

His love towards all family members and graceful presence will be dearly missed.

**Condolences to:**

Kassim Aun Ali (Spouse)  
Nazim Hussain Alarakhia (Brother)  
Anisa Alarakhia (Sister)  
Shafiq Hussain Alarakhia (Brother)

+92 334 215 4003 & +44 757 800 5100

Late Aun Ali Kassim (Husband)  
Late Salim Hussain Alarakhia (Brother)  
Late Azad Hussain Alarakhia (Brother)  
Late Dilshad Aun Ali (Sister)

By Order: Assistant Executive Officer, CANTONMENT BOARD PANO AQIL

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## SUDOKU ALPHA

QUICK

8	9	5		7				
4			1	9				
	7	9			6	3		
1								
6	2	3		7				
9				4				
	6	5	4	3	8			
5		6						
3	7	1	5					

A4739

TRICKY

1	4	3			7			
					8			
7	6	3				9	2	
					1			
9					4		7	
					1			
	7	8	6					
8					9	3		
9	5	6			4	8		

B4739

To solve this puzzle each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. While the rules may be simple, there are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. For hints and information visit [www.sudoku.org.uk](http://www.sudoku.org.uk).

Created by Paul Renshaw (D4723.com)

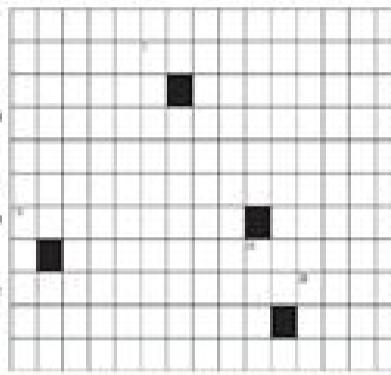
## ACROSS:

- Skinny jeans usually.
- Pink's which gets used, but it's misleading.
- Community beautiful stuff.
- Top crop of hard boiled vegetables.
- Entertainment, you example!
- Short time for a following.
- Time taken by a hotel guest.
- Willing to study a variety.
- Adult matter under discussion.
- Animal wings but perfectly.
- Get prepared for trouble.
- Tropical leafed plant around a plant.
- Formerly acceptable pair of trousers.
- Unloving male heartbreaker.
- Lead weight made out.
- Wounded leg curtailed.
- Property closer to the country.

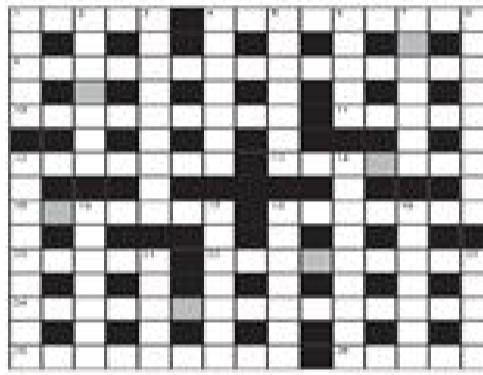
## DOWN:

- Holiday travel ailing.
- Fake experts face syndrome.
- Her's gone back to the beginning.
- One seat around a shop.
- Dish that not fitting before.
- Brew that holds, portuguese.
- Immune response surprising.
- Cut in speed exaggerated.
- Play about English composer.
- Constituted - we hold a wolf down.
- Right terminals to mind, you can.
- High opening above an animal.
- Spicy cheers up, given into.
- An art from Disney's street.
- The second character in a story its purpose.
- Tabloid editor beginning to fame.
- Handbook a person received.

## THE SKELETON CROSSWORD



## THE SQUIRE'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS:**
- Roast (6)
  - Got by (5)
  - Something to assist (5,2)
  - Growing out (8)
  - Dissenter (6)
  - Contagious (7)
  - Communications (7)
  - Pitchers (5)
  - Embarrage (7)
  - Lead in a hierarchy (7)
  - Exhibition (8)
  - Put on hold (7)
  - Supreme (8)
  - Brilliant (6)
  - Headiness (6)
  - Has good intentions (5,4)
  - Assaults (7)
  - Shame (7)
  - Not liable to (6)
  - Regarding (7)
  - afford (11)
  - Ets or Modern, e.g. (5)
  - Elgar ..., French (6)
  - Intervals of calm (6)
- Down:**
- Something to assist (5,2)
  - Constituted - we hold a wolf down.
  - Right terminals to mind, you can.
  - High opening above an animal.
  - Spicy cheers up, given into.
  - An art from Disney's street.
  - The second character in a story its purpose.
  - Tabloid editor beginning to fame.
  - Handbook a person received.

## HOW TO PLAY:

All the words above appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backwords! Find them and circle their letters. The leftover letters spell the answer.

## A WORD DOWN MEMORY LANE

Adams, Adams, Anchors, Childhood, Company, Content, Days, Dated, Eyes, Experience, Family, Heart, History, Important, Listen, Listen, Longing, Love, Memory, Mind, Movement, Number, Older, Price, Recent, Remember, Retired, Return, Surprise, Share, Sister, Sincere, Think, Listen, Wisdom, Wish, Years, Young, Answer, Good Times

## SOLUTION: 9 LETTERS

ANSWER: EMBARRASS

## THE METRO FUNNIES



## WEATHER

## Sunset &amp; Sunrise

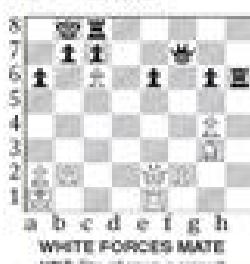
	Forecast	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Sunset	07:29pm	07:29pm	07:29pm	07:19pm	07:19pm	07:19pm	07:19pm
Sunrise	05:36am	04:56am	04:46am	04:37am	04:37am	04:37am	04:37am

## Three Day Forecast

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Forecast	21° 40°	Modly Sunny	20° 31°	Modly Sunny	20° 34°	Sunny
Hydrated	21° 40°	Modly Sunny	20° 31°	Modly Sunny	20° 34°	Sunny
Unhydrated	21° 39°	Partly Cloudy	20° 31°	Modly Sunny	20° 34°	Sunny
Lotions	21° 40°	Modly Sunny	20° 31°	Sunny	20° 33°	Sunny
Milk	21° 40°	Modly Sunny	20° 31°	Sunny	20° 33°	Sunny
Perfume	21° 39°	Partly Cloudy	20° 31°	Modly Sunny	20° 34°	Sunny
Qriffs	20° 39°	Modly Sunny	20° 31°	Sunny	20° 33°	Sunny

Temperature estimates are automatically generated and may differ from local estimates.

## CHESS



## WHITE FORCES MATE

Note: The 27 pawn is pinned.

1.e5

2.e6

3.e7

4.e8

5.e9

6.e10

7.e11

8.e12

9.e13

10.e14

11.e15

12.e16

13.e17

14.e18

15.e19

16.e20

17.e21

18.e22

19.e23

20.e24

21.e25

22.e26

23.e27

24.e28

25.e29

26.e30

27.e31

28.e32

29.e33

30.e34

31.e35

32.e36

33.e37

34.e38

35.e39

36.e40

37.e41

38.e42

39.e44

40.e45

41.e46

42.e47

43.e48

44.e49

45.e50

46.e51

47.e52

48.e53

49.e54

50.e55

51.e56

52.e57

53.e58

54.e59

55.e60

56.e61

57.e62

58.e63

59.e64

60.e65

61.e66

62.e67

63.e68

64.e69

65.e70

66.e71

67.e72

68.e73

69.e74

70.e75

71.e76

72.e77

73.e78

74.e79

75.e80

76.e81

77.e82

78.e83

79.e84

80.e85

81.e86

82.e87

83.e88

84.e89

85.e90

86.e91

87.e92

88.e93

89.e

ISLAMABAD  
Sunday 07:24pm  
Saturday (Tomorrow) 04:55am  
**NEXT 24 HRS**  
Minimum 27°C  
Maximum 40°C  
Globock Mostly Sunny

## Police officials booked on FIA complaint for embezzling stolen money

By Mohammed Asghar

**RAWALPINDI:** On the complaint of the Federal Investigation Agency, Mandri police have booked nine people, including the former station house officer of the Mandri police station and his subordinate staff, for their alleged involvement in the embezzlement of huge sums of foreign currency—which was stolen from the FIA office—damaging the police record, and abusing their authority.

As of now, none of the suspects have been arrested.

However, the city police officer suspended SIBO Yasin Arora and the then-investigation officer on Friday amid allegations that the SIBO and his subordinates had embezzled the money.

The FIR registered at the Mandri police station on the complaint of Arshad, FIA's Anti-Corruption Police Station SIBO, nominated nine police officials—the former SIBO and his eight subordinates, and a private person.

In the FIR, SIBO Arshad stated that he was investigating a case registered on June 1, 2024, regarding the theft from FIA Commercial Banking Circle (CIBC) Islamabad Multan (estimated losses).

He said the theft of local and foreign currency was carried out on May 31, 2024, from the FIA Zonal office located in G-103, Islamabad. During the investigation, it emerged that the principal accused, Naad Arora, and Mohammad Hassan robbed an amount of Rs150 million, which was committed by the auto carried out by the FIA.

According to the FIR, the CCTV footage showed the Mandri police officials—Asst SIBOs Muzaffar, Head Constable Shahid Mahmood, constables Khizar Hayat, Mustafa Shah Asad Mahmood, Usman Javed, and Shafiq Hussain along with private individuals—deployed at snap checking at Mandri Toll Plaza Rawalpindi intercepted a black car AHE-951 after 11pm on May 31, which was being used to transfer currency and other material stolen from the FIA zonal office.

He further said SIBO Inspector Yasin Arora and his driver Constable Mohammad Nasim Shahid arrived at the spot in a private car (MCU-QU-107) and took into custody the suspects and the vehicle. During questioning, the passengers in the car identified themselves as Saad Arora, a dismissed official of the FIA, while another man travelling with him in the front seat gave his name Mohammad Hassan.

Later, the detained suspects were handed over to the Islamabad police for further investigation.

According to the FIR, the footage received from the Mandri Toll Plaza showed that the intercepted black car moved towards the Mandri police station along with the suspect, SIBO Yasin Arora, Constable Asad Mahmood, and a private person.

In the footage, they could be seen meddling with the vehicle, the FIR added.

He said that the Mandri police reported an amount of approx. Rs47.9 million in the seizure memo on June 1, 2024, and withheld the rest of the currency. "The dishonest conduct of the police party is evident from the fact that Ramzanab (police diary) of police station Mandri page of serial R2 was found damaged," it stated.

In view of these facts, legal action should be initiated against the "dishonest" police officials along with unidentified private individuals under relevant sections of the law as they have been found involved in embezzlement of case property and destruction of evidence with malicious intent and other motive for pecuniary gain.

He said to the FIR that the embezzled amount of national exchequer may also be recovered.

A day earlier, the CPO suspended the station house officer (SIBO) and the investigating officer and taken into custody after the FIA complained about misappropriating the money recovered from its former official.

## Minister asked to take up mob lynching with cabinet

Ahsan Iqbal calls for setting up special committee to propose strategy to enforce rule of law

By Jarral Shahid

**ISLAMABAD:** Calling for federal action against vigilantes, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Ghulam Mustafa Shah on Saturday urged Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal to bring the rising issue of mob lynching to the attention of the federal cabinet.

The call for action came during the budget debate follow-



A MAN and his child cool off at a natural stream flowing along Margalla Road in F-7 sector in Islamabad on Saturday. — Photo by Tamveer Shahid

## RDA, Wasa, PHA to execute just five projects this fiscal year

### Ring Road, Leh flood channel main schemes to be carried out

By Asim Yasin

**RAWALPINDI:** The Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA), Water and Sanitation Agency (Wasa) and Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) will carry out only five development schemes worth Rs1.6 billion in the fiscal year 2024-25.

The Punjab government has allocated Rs1.6 billion for the RDA, which will carry out two projects—Rawalpindi Ring Road and Leh Nullah flood channel—which were allocated for the fiscal year 2024-25 whereas Rs0.7 billion has been allocated for installation of 10 tubewells near Kamal Sher Khan Road, formerly I.J. Principal Road, and sewerage systems in five union councils.

The RDA will work on the establishment of a public park on Adiala Road at a cost of Rs10 million.

During the last five years, the RDA had been working on preparing projects and monitoring housing schemes only.

However, last year, the Punjab government launched the Rawalpindi Ring Road (RR) project and made the RDA its executing agency.

The development authority has done nothing in any part of the city except constructing Anghar Mall Road.

"In the next fiscal year, which starts from July 1, the RDA will exe-

cute Rawalpindi Ring Road project and conduct the feasibility study of the flood channel in Leh Nullah," said a senior official of the civic body while talking to Dawn.

"The RDA has been limited to conducting feasibility studies and monitoring housing schemes only in the district."

But, it has still failed to control the mushroom growth of illegal housing societies," he said.

The official said the RDA was the executive agency of the R3 project while it was being managed by the Project Management Unit under the Rawalpindi commissioner who is the project director.

He said the RDA sent more than six development schemes for approval but the Punjab government gave its consent to the feasibility studies of Leh Nullah flood channel and R3 Phase-II only.

"We have six uplift schemes related to water shortage and sewerage system but only two were included in the annual development programme," a senior Wasa official said.

According to the Punjab Development Programme, the provincial government has allocated Rs20 million for the installation of 10 tubewells near Kamal Sher Khan Road for union councils 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8.

The total cost of the project is Rs20 million and Rs10 million will be released in the fiscal year 2025-26.

The second project is the laying of sewerage systems in Dhasa, Hasan, Faaji Colony, Sardarabad, Kharadar, Sir Syed and Pariwadai worth Rs105 million.

An amount of Rs50 million has been allocated for the fiscal year 2024-25 while Rs172 million will be released in the fiscal year 2025-26.

The Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) will work on only one project worth Rs450 million in the fiscal year 2024-25.

The provincial government has allocated Rs20 million for the rehabilitation and upgradation of a public park on Adiala Road while the remaining amount will be released in the next fiscal year.

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## PRAYER

Fajr	05:17
Zohar	12:14
Azr	05:13
Maghreb	07:25
Isha	09:09
Imsak time is indicated	

## REFLECTIONS

DO NOT INTRODUCE RIDICULOUS TOPICS IN YOUR TALK EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO REPEAT SAYINGS OF OTHERS.

— HAZRAT ALE (A.S.)

TRANSLATE

## Police arrest four wanted criminals

TAXILA: Police arrested four proclaimed offenders during a crack-down in Attock district.

Talking to *Dawn* on Saturday, a police spokesman said Hassanabadi police arrested Mardan Khan, Javed, police took into custody Bahadur Khan and Potohar police notified Mohammad Kashif during a crackdown against proclaimed offenders.

The spokesman said the suspects were wanted in different cases registered against them at these police stations. — Correspondent



A MAN holds on to gas cylinders that are being transported in a pick-up in Islamabad on Saturday. — White Star

## Minister launches agriculture programme in Punjab

By Our Correspondent

TAXILA: Punjab Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Dairy Development Saeed Aslam Hussain Khan has launched the 'Transformative Punjab Agriculture Programme' at a cost of Rs600 billion which, he said, would usher in a new era of agricultural development in the province.

Director General Production Dr Asif Rafiq, Director Khush Maurit Research Institute Dr Murtaza Ali Tipu, Director Livestock Rawalpindi Dr Naveed

Speaking during his visit to Baraati Livestock Production Research Institute Khush Maurit near Taxila on Saturday, Mr Khan said 60% of the agricultural output depended on livestock sector and keeping this in view, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz approved several programmes for the development of the livestock sector.

The provincial minister also visited Baraati Livestock Production Research Institute and Para-Vet Training Institute.

He said the government would provide loans on easy installments to 40,000 farmers in the rural areas of Punjab for dairy farming through livestock cards.

He said the chief minister had also approved disease control and traceability pro-

gramme under which 1.2 million animals and 150,000 livestock farmers would benefit, adding that the government wanted to increase production of milk and meat to increase exports.

Giving a briefing, Additional Director Livestock Attock Dr Abdul Hamid said all resources were being utilized for the development of livestock in the research institute.

Besides, a two-year diploma in animal husbandry was being conducted in the Para-Vet Training Institute Khush Maurit.

**NOW SHOWING**

**Bach Malanga** premieres this week.

ISLAMABAD: The premiere of Shabir Ali's film *Bach Malanga* will be held in the upcoming week, says a press release.

The crime-drama comedy weaves a tale of a private driver named Malanga, who finds himself in a precarious situation after picking up some questionable passengers.

"The film offers a gripping narrative that combines elements of crime and dark comedy as well as scenes of suspense and humour," it stated. — Staff Reporter

**CHINOSPLEX SUMMUS**  
CINOSPLEX ARENA Cinema • ODEON

GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA  
PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UNIT  
KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA RURAL ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT  
COMMUNICATION & WORKS DEPARTMENT KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA  
Phone No. 1417400, Khyber Khan, Peshawar Road, University Town Peshawar  
Phone No. 031-9220212 E-mail: [cpw.kpk@kpk.gov.pk](mailto:cpw.kpk@kpk.gov.pk)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST  
For Hiring of Junior Education Specialist

Country: Pakistan  
Project: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rural Accessibility Project (KPK-RAP)  
Credit No.: 7143-PK  
Reference No.: PK-KP-C&W-301514-C3-CQ5

- The Government of The Islamic Republic of Pakistan has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rural Accessibility Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for the hiring of Junior Education Specialist.
  - The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following website: <https://www.cwd.gkp.pk/> or can be obtained at the address given below.
  - The Project Implementation Unit, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rural Accessibility Project, Communication & Works Department, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, House No. 14 F-4 & B, Khushal Khan Khattak Road, University Town, Peshawar hereby invites EOI from eligible applicants for providing requisite services as per the TOR. Interested Applicants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.
- Qualification:** Masters' Degree (at least sixteen years of education) in Development Studies or Social Sciences or equivalent degrees.
- Experience:** Seven (07) years of documentary verifiable experience in social and gender studies, designing and managing programmes and advocating for enrolment enhancement with the national/international agencies. Excellent written and spoken communication skills in English.
- The attention of the interested candidates is drawn to Section III - Governance, paragraphs 3.14 [Conflict of Interest], 3.16 and 3.17 [Consulting Services] of the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IFC Borrowers November 2020, setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
  - Expressions of interest may reach the address mentioned below on or before 28 July 2024 at 1600 hours (PST).
  - Selection will be made in accordance with Para 7.22 of the World Bank's Procurement Regulations following an Open Competition Market approach.
  - Further information can be obtained in writing at the address given below during office hours i.e., 0900 to 1700 hours.
  - Females are encouraged to apply.

## Address:

Project Director  
Project Implementation Unit  
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rural Accessibility Project  
Address: House No. 14-F-A & B Khushal Khan Khattak Road,  
University Town Peshawar Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan  
Phone No: 031-9224272  
Email: [cpw.kpk@kpk.gov.pk](mailto:cpw.kpk@kpk.gov.pk)  
Website: <http://cpw.kpk.gov.pk>

158-II DTPPS 1437/2024

## Gujar Khan faces acute water shortage

Residents say solution to problem lies in construction of overhead water reservoir

By Hamid Asghar

**GUJAR KHAN:** The residents of Gujar Khan believe acute water shortage and residents believe that its indication lies in construction overhead water reservoir but the municipal authorities are waiting for the provincial planning and development (PPD) department

to start the overhead tank because its condition was awaiting demarcation.

He said that out of 23 water pumps 21 were working and due to unavailability of any other overhead reservoir the municipality was forced to supply water to the consumers through direct pumping in the supply lines, that, according to the officer, was not appropriate.

The said that five tubewells and four water reservoirs were required to be constructed to meet the needs of over 100,000 population.

He further said that a proposal for the construction of one overhead water reservoir with the capacity of 25,000 gallons storage was planned by the municipality and the scheme was duly approved by the district development committee (DDC) Rawalpindi and funds for execution of the project were available with the concerned committee but the approval from the Punjab government was awaited.

Mr Hamid, the supervising engineer (SE) of Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) when contacted said that it was a futuristic and feasible project and is especially sent to the provincial government for inclusion in the annual development programmes of the Punjab government but unfortunately it could not be carried for want of political backing from local representatives.

He said that if the political backing of the elected representatives given water shortage issue in Gujar Khan would be resolved on long-term basis.

Syed Sadaf Ali bin Kazmi, the municipal officer infrastructure (MOI) Gujar Khan Municipal Administration when consulted, said the current infrastructure of water supply consists of 25 tubewells and only one overhead reservoir with the storage capacity of 100,000 gallons.

He said the overhead reservoir con-

CADET COLLEGE SANGHAR  
SITUATION VACANT

Applications are invited from eligible Male & Female Candidates from all over Pakistan for the following posts:

SL NO	NAME OF POSTS	GRADE / SCALE	AGE	MIN. QUALIFICATION & EXPERIENCE
1	Lecturer in English, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Botany, Urdu, Islamic & Computer Science	1B	Not more than 45 years	M.A/M.Sc in a relevant subject with at least 2nd Division.

**NOTE:**

- Candidate (Male/Female) with attested photocopies of relevant certificates and (II) recent passport size photographs alongwith copy of CNIC shall attach it to the application.
- The Application Form can be downloaded from college website <http://cadetsanghar.edu.pk> and send to college address: Cadet College Sanghar Jinnah Road, Allama Iqbal Avenue, Lahore with all respect with the attached photocopies of relevant certificates.
- Age can be relaxed in case of deserving/existing candidates.
- The applicants apply in form. Forms should send their applications through post/online.
- Preference will be given to highly qualified and experienced hands.
- Minimum tenure details as per regulations of the College will be insisted.
- No Dak/air mail application will be accepted for interview.
- Applications should reach to the College address latest by 15 July 2024 positively.

COMMANDANT / PRINCIPAL

CADET COLLEGE SANGHAR

At Jam Nawaz Ali, Ph: +92-335-548000, 548124

"SAY NO TO CORRUPTION"  
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN  
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS  
NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY  
(MUZAFFARAMID REGION)

## INVITATION TO BIDS

## 01X EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE WORK ON S-2

1. National Highway Authority (NHA) invites bids from the contractor, registered with Income Tax Department and who are on Active Taxpayers List of the Federal Board of Revenue having valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in Category mentioned below inside table with Specification in CE-01 & CE-10 for the work mentioned below:

SL. NO	CONTRACT NO.	DESCRIPTION	ROUTE	ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE (RS.)	PIC CATEGORY & SPECIALIZATION
1	EM-AJK-24-02-00	CONSTRUCTION OF PLUM CONCRETE BRIAST WALL AT KM 26+500	S-2	11,546,966	C-3 (CE-01 & CE-10)

2. The bidding documents containing method of procurement (Single Stage - Two Envelopes), detailed terms & conditions etc. will be available on the website mentioned above from June 25, 2024 for download free of cost. Prospective Bidders are also advised to follow the said website for updates of schedule and tender notice(s), if any.

3. The Bids presented in accordance with the instructions provided in the bidding documents, must reach at the address mentioned below on or before July 05, 2024 before 1100 Hours. Telephone bids will not be accepted on the same day at 1100 Hours.

4. This Advertisement is also available on PPA website at [www.ppa.org.pk](http://www.ppa.org.pk).

**GENERAL MANAGER (3-2/3-3 & IMDC)**

National Highway Authority  
House No. 4-B, Lane-1 Lake View Lanes, Main Karim Road Banjara, Islamabad  
Phone: 051-9234507 & Email: [dmnha@pda.gov.pk](mailto:dmnha@pda.gov.pk)  
Website: [www.nha.gov.pk](http://www.nha.gov.pk)

**Invitation to Bid**  
**"Service Contract of Group Health Insurance"**

National Productivity Organization (NPO) Pakistan invites sealed bids from reputed and registered insurance companies (Minimum A Rated) with proven track record for group health insurance (Important only) for NPO employees including their dependent (parents, spouse and children only) residing at anywhere in Pakistan. This coverage/policy will be extendable subject to satisfactory services on same terms & condition as prescribed, PPA rule 56-A (1) regarding framework applied. The bidding documents carrying all details can now be downloaded free of cost. Prospective Bidders are also advised to follow the said website for updates of schedule and tender notice(s), if any.

The bidding documents carrying all the details can be purchased during office timings from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at NPO Head Office, Islamabad by writing a request on company's letter head and on the payment of Rs. 5,000/- (non-refundable, cash/cheque in favor of National Productivity Organisation). The bids should contain two sealed envelopes within one envelope; clearly marked Technical & Financial Proposal separately.

Sealed bids along with Technical & Financial proposal must be delivered at NPO Head Office 11<sup>th</sup> floor Shahid-e-Millat Secretariat, F-6/1, Islamabad, Pakistan on or before 09<sup>th</sup> July, 2024 11:00 AM. Any proposal received after the indicated time shall be rejected. Technical bids shall be opened on the same day at 12:00 PM. NPO reserves the right to reject any/all bids prior to acceptance of a bid or proposal as per the Rules & Regulations under PPA-33. Submission of any false statement/documents shall disqualify the bidder.

For further details or any query, please contact on below mentioned contact details.

**Deputy Manager, Administration**

NPO Head Office, 11th, Floor, Shahid-e-Millat Secretariat, F-6/1, Islamabad  
Ph: 051-9244254-5, Email: [info@npo.gov.pk](mailto:info@npo.gov.pk)

Fax: 051-7916 / 23

## IHC fines appellant for dragging siblings in 'unnecessary' litigation

Dismisses appeal against order of civil judge

By Malik Ahsan

ISLAMABAD: Justice Mianzad Hassan Arshangzeb 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 Sohail had filed an appeal against the order of a civil judge in which he declared that the disputed house situated in the plot sector E-7 was not partitioned and gave verdict in favour of the petitioner's siblings.

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

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

One portion bearing House No 181-A was in the possession of Arjum Ara Sabih, 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 unit property.

After the demise of Arjum Ara Sabih, her share in the unit property was transferred to her four daughters, Dr Farah Sohail, Dr Fouzia Homayun, Hina Sabih and Hina Zahoor.

Zarina Zahoor gifted her share in the unit property to her two daughters Rubina Sadiq Rehman and Aaliya Zahoor Jan and in this regard, the Estate Management Directorate of the CDA issued letter on October 25, 2018.

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

With regard to House No 181-A, after the demise of Arjum Ara Sabih'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 unit property could not be partitioned since it was purchased jointly by Arjum Ara Sabih and Zarina Zahoor.

In order to ascertain the factual position, Justice Arshangzeb appointed Ch Abdul Hamood, Advocate as a local commissioner 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 pro bono Mediator in this matter.

An interim report 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 Rs500,000 to each of the respondents.

## Terrorist attack on armymen in Kurram condemned

By Our Correspondent

TAXILA: District Monitoring Committee Member and former provincial minister Jahangir Khanloda on Saturday condemned the terrorist attack on army personnel in Kurram district in which five soldiers were martyred.

Talking to Dawn 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 Khanloda who laid down his life for this soil and country and I understand grief and sorrow of the families of the five soldiers," Mr Khanloda said.

The soldiers enforced martyrdom after terrorists targeted their vehicle in the general area of Sadia 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 martyrs a peaceful place in Jannah.

Meanwhile, Sajay Aslam Shahi was laid to rest in his native graveyard with full military honour.

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

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

Sajay Aslam's father, Mr Raffat, was a retired clerk at the Convent School.

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

By Our Correspondent

TAXILA: The visiting Indian Sikhs pilgrims on Saturday termed Pakistan as their second home as some of their historical 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 Dawn on the occasion, Mr Gurpreet Singh, chairman Gurdwara Panja Sahib in Hoshiarpur, 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 Ranjeet Singh,

ruled over Punjab in the 19th century and was the first maharaja of the Sikh Empire.

Sister Khawar 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.

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She said the death anniversary of Maharaja Ranjeet Singh, who



FLOWERS on Acacia trees bloom on a green belt along a road in G-8 sector. — White Star

## Elevating medical education standards vital for citizens' health: Dar

By Israfil Junaidi

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

"Our institutions must be empowered to provide together 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 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 Ahsan Ahmad Bharat, Law Minister Aslam Nasir Tarar, MNA Dr Naseem Shah, Health Secretary Sadiqul Mehmood, Pakistan Medical and Dental Council President Prof Dr Horwaz Taj, Higher Education Commission chairman, CPSC 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 15-member committee to address medical education issues and discuss adjusting students, who returned from Kyrgyzstan, at Pakistani medical colleges.

The committee had to submit its report in 30 days but it (report) could not be finalized 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 Cheema, Law Minister Aslam Nasir Tarar, PM Coordinator on Health Dr Malik Ahsan Ahmad Bharat, MNA Dr Naseem Shah, retired Maj Gen Aslam Kayani, secretaries of ministries of health and foreign affairs, HECC chairman, PMDC President Dr Hassan Taj, Vice Chancellor (VC) Shahid Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University Prof Faris Iqbal, Dean Khyber Medical College Dr Muhammad Arshadgazi, provincial secretaries and others.

A member of the committee, wishing not to be quoted, said the committee was considering challenges that 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 Balochistan, Kyrgyzstan.

## 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 (DJC) Sharif were out of order on May 29 when Justice Shahid Khan Marik was manhandled on the court premises.

Police told Dawn that the report had recently been submitted to the court of Additional Session Judge Aslam Majid, 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 Khan Marik appeared before the court of District and Sessions Judge (DJ) Shahid Khan Marik to record his statement in regard to marriage after Shahid Khan Marik was manhandled on the court premises.

Reportedly, Marik used foul language against PII Founder Chairman and also misbehaved with the judge. This prompted a strong response from the PII supporters and lawyers who retaliated by hurling water bottles on Marik and physically abusing

him when he came out of the courtroom.

A case was registered at Rawalpindi police station under Section 7 of Anti-Terrorism Act along with 324, 324, 186, 326, 347, 349, 353 and 352 of IPC.

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 to the FIR, approached the additional sessions judge Aslam Majid and submitted petition under section CPC 22-A, seeking directions 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 Chawk-e-Salaam to protest on Saturday after Interior Minister Mohsin Nagri 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 Nagri.

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 family of two persons who lost their lives in an unfortunate incident during the sit-in.



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

**LAHORE**  
 Sunrise 05:13 AM  
 Sunrise (Tomorrow) 04:57 AM  
**NEXT 24 HRS**  
 Minimum 31.0°C  
 Maximum 43.0°C  
 Outdoor Mostly Sunny  
**AGT**  
 Maximum (Yesterday) 15.0



WORKERS prepare wheat containers near Do Mora Puk. — 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 2012 anti-enrichment operation outside the residence of Dr Tahirul Qadri in Model Town.

The witnesses, who also reside near Islamia Masjid Qasim in Model Town, include Khwaja Sohail, Waqas Ahmed Qureshi, Madiq Saleem, Yousaf Multazar Ahmed, Chughtai Shabbir, and Imran Hussain.

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

Advocate Barham Munawar Malik, the counsel for the police officials, presented the witnesses before the court.

The witnesses said they observed the

whole incident since their residence were situated 500 metres away from the residence of Islamia Masjid Qasim.

They said the workers of the PAT fired from the rooftop 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 Arshad Javed adjourned further hearing till June 28.

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

The judge also summoned DSP Rana Muhammad Hassan, ASI Aqeel Ahmed, constable Farid Riaz and Asim Hassan as witnesses.

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

At least 10 people were killed and around 100 injured during an anti-

enrichment operation outside the Model Town residence of PAT chief Dr Tahirul Qadri on June 17, 2012.

Islamia Masjid Qasim, a subsidiary of PAT, had filed the private complaint before the ATC against the then prime minister Nawaz Sharif, sitting PM Shehbaz 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 2012 dismissed the complaint to the extent of political personalities and started trial proceedings against the officials of police and district administration named as accused by the complainant.

The previous government in Punjab by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf had constituted a new Joint Investigation Team (JIT) to re-investigate the incident. However, several accused police officials challenged the JIT before the LHC and it stayed in 2013.

Former Inspector General (M&S)

Sohail, former DHG operations Rana Abid Jabbar, former commissioner retired Capt Mohammad Usman and two other accused persons have been acquitted in the trial.

PAT in a statement, PAT legal spokesman Nasimuddin Chaudhary appealed to the Lahore High Court to issue orders for an expedited decision on the pending petitions 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 tools as witnesses.

Former Inspector General (M&S)

## JI plans demos against high electricity cost

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** Jamaat-i-Islami chief Hafiz Naseem Rabbani on Saturday announced nationwide protests against costly electricity, prolonged loadshedding and anti-peopple budget, marking official start of the first phase of what he called "national resistance movement."

Addressing a press conference in Multan, Rabbani urged public to join the struggle for their rights, emphasizing that it was essential to rid the nation of the corrupt ruling elite.

The veteran Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's claims about ending load-

shedding, calling them lies. He pointed out that inflated electricity bills and persistent loadshedding had made life unbearable.

Rabbani rejected the finance minister's statement on the privatization of national enterprises, arguing that the minister had no right to make such declarations. He accused the finance minister of representing those who have destroyed national institutions and demanded that those responsible be brought to justice before making any further statements or decisions about settling these institutions.

He also condemned the

Continued on Page 14

## Digitisation helps LDA identify 3,200 plots in Johar Town

Authority to opt for auction of plots worth Rs60bn

By Our Correspondent

**LAHORE:** The ongoing digitization of record related to Johar Town has helped the government identify more than valuable immovable properties (3,200 plots or so) worth nearly Rs60 billion.

Of 3,200, the possession of 105 plots have been retrieved either from the land grabbers or through reaching the sites and marking the property owned by the government. Lahore Development Authority (LDA) has learnt.

"In fact, all this happened after we started work on digitization and lifting of the record related to Johar Town. LDA's so far biggest housing scheme spanning over 26,000 kanals," LDA Additional Director General (housing) Mr Asim Mehmood told Dawn on Sunday.

Discussing the issue, he said the LDA traced the proprietor through GIS mapping, reviewing the scheme plan and found several pieces of land that were either empty or having buildings, structures, boundary wall etc. After identifying these plots, according to him, the LDA launched a survey through which it reached a conclusion that the entire piece of land plots were the state-owned ones.

Following the survey, the team

working on the digitization of record divided plots into three categories. The plots falling in category (green) means that these are the state property as there is no issue in this regard. The plots in category (orange) means that ownership of these properties is almost clear (80 per cent or so) in favour of LDA. Similarly the category (red) also proves ownership of LDA to 70 per cent.

The 105 plots the LDA, so far, has taken over in its possession include 57, 212, 50, 476, 473, 59, 509-A, 774, 775, 98, 126, 222-A, 286-B, 53-E, 81, 24-A, 97, 34, 15, 38, 42, 106, 168-A, 488, 485, 549, 162, 225, 243, 102, 103, 104, 258, 204, 32, 51, 216, 259-B, 144, 197-A.

Continued on Page 15

## Demand made in PA for downsizing bureaucracy

Abolition of all govt authorities, companies sought during budget session

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** A demand has been made in the Punjab Assembly for downsizing the bureaucracy, blaming the officials for defiling 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 Amjad Ali Javed who headed 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 Mirza Shahzad Bhatti said the PTI would have to seek permission from the district administration for holding a public meeting or organizing a protest.

Intelkhan-i-Pakistan Party

MPA Shaukat Sidiqui said he faced fire cases under terrorism charges during the PTI regime besides being subjected to other abuses.

PTI-backed SNC lawmaker Rana Shahzad and Asif Zardari and the Sharifis were trying to impose their new generation on the masses. Landing Imam Khan for keeping the economy stable during the Covid-19, he said presently the people were dying of hunger because the PTI government damaged the national economy.

The PML-N's Naseem Rabbani rebuked the opposition for defying Supreme Court order by not holding local government polls and cutting down Punjab's

development budget during its tenure.

SNC legislator Nasim Rabbani asserted that the textbook industry in Pakistan was lying closed while when growers were basically hurt as the government backed out of its promise of protecting wheat.

The Opposition's Asim Riaz Riaz was at a loss to understand distribution of funds through block allocations while the same was kept in the dark about utilization of funds.

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

SNC MPA Asim Riaz ap-

pealed the reason behind the arrest of the farmers protesting for their rights and non-protection of wheat by the government.

Talhaul Abbas Warrach said the PTI was blamed for its failure performance but the PML-N was not ready to explain its 25-year working.

Treasury MPA Asim Riaz said without Nawaz Sharif all development was zero while Sharif Riazwan said the PTI proved to be the most corrupt party in the government.

Hafiz Tahir Qureshi, Wasif Masih Riaz, Zareeb Sheh Sadiq, Umar Karar, Farooq Masih, Daud Jato, Sher Shahid Javed and others also took part in the budget debate.



Portugal ease past Turkey to book spot in knockout phase

Pg.24 SPORT

## Commuting woman raped by robber

By Our Correspondent

**SAHWAL:** A woman was raped during a robbery on road near village M-5P in Pakistan.

Police registered a case under Section 376 and Section 392 of the IPC based on a complaint by the woman against the suspect, a resident of Faizabad, and his two unidentified accomplices.

The FIR says the woman, a resident of Musawat, was returning home on a motorcycle with her neighbour and his wife from Sulaimanpur when three armed men stopped them. The robbers snatched their mobile phones and cash.

Later, one of the robbers took her to an adjacent paddy field and raped her while his accomplices stood guard. The woman's cries for help eventually alerted some villagers that made the robbers flee the scene. The woman identified one of the assailants.

Pakpatan DPO Tariq Waliyullah told Dawn that police were investigating medical report. Police suspect that there may be some enmity between the parties involved.

**SUICIDE:** A convict, identified as Atab, committed suicide by hanging himself in Block 7 of Central Prison, Pakpatan.

Prison officers found Atab's body hanging with a rope. Atab had been convicted in a drug trafficking case and had already served 10 years of his sentence.

## Policeman injured by robbers dies in hospital

**LAHORE:** A Dolphin Squad personnel who was injured in the firing of robbers succumbed to injuries at a local hospital on Saturday.

Two Dolphin personnel were injured in the Hayat police area when the robbers opened fire at them late on Friday night. Both the personnel, Muhammed Adnan and Zafar, were admitted to hospital where the former succumbed to injuries on Saturday evening while the latter was also said to be in critical condition.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Dr Usman Aywar paid tributes to the sacrifice of the martyred officer. He said Adnan sacrificed his life while protecting the lives and properties of the citizens. He emphasized that the brave officers of Punjab Police would not hesitate to make more sacrifices for the safety of citizens.

The IGP also assured that the family of the martyr, Adnan, would not be left alone and they would be provided with the best possible welfare.

Dr Aywar directed the DIO Operations Lahore to immediately arrest suspects involved in the shooting. He issued directions for provision of the best medical facilities for the other injured officer, Zafar. — Staff Reporter

## Notices on bail pleas of Qureshi in May 9 cases

**LAHORE:** An anti-terrorism court on Saturday issued notices to the prosecution on post-arrest bail petitions of former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi in eight cases of May 9 riots.

Advocate Riazudin Mudassir appeared on behalf of Mr Qureshi and argued that the police nominated the PTI leader in the May 9 cases of Lahore despite the fact that he was in Karachi on that day.

He said no case had been registered against Qureshi in Karachi.

He argued that eight cases had been registered against Qureshi in Lahore on sheer political grounds.

He said the petitioners had been sent on judicial remand and there was no need to keep him behind bars as the police completed its investigation.

He asked the court to grant post-arrest bail to Qureshi in the eight cases, including attack on Shehbaz police station, violence on Sharpey Bridge, torching police vehicles near Rahat Bakery and in Okba. At present Mr Qureshi is detained in Adiala jail, Rawalpindi, due to involvement in other cases.

In the May 9 cases, the police accused the former foreign minister of inciting people for violence and attacking the state institutions.

Dozens of FIRs were registered against the leaders and workers of the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaaf for attacking and vandalizing army facilities, public and private properties during the protests of May 9 last year against the arrest of former prime minister Imran Khan. — Staff Reporter



## Toll in laptop 'battery blast' case reaches seven

Probe says AC stucked gas from a kitchen pipe which caused fire

By Our Correspondent

**TOBA TEK SINGH:** The death toll in laptop-battery blast case reached seven as three more members of the family succumbed to their burns at Allied Hospital on Saturday.

On Tuesday night, battery of a laptop exploded as a result a fire had broken out in the house at Faizabad's Sharifpura locality located on National Road.

Nine burned people were shifted to the burn unit of Allied Hospital. Two of them, minor children, Muhammad Tauseef (9) and his sister Dua Fatima (6), succumbed to their injuries.

On Thursday, two more victims, identified as Naseer Bibi (32) and Muhammad Ibrahim (30) also died. The other three who lost their lives were Radheka Bibi (40), her nephew Mukti Rana (24) and Rohan Rana.

The condition of the remaining two persons under treatment at the same hospital was said to be serious. Meanwhile, a three-member committee formed by the deputy commissioner has completed its inquiry into the incident.

The members – civil defense officer, general assistant revenue, and

District Rescue 1122 emergency officer – presented in their inquiry report that the blast was not caused by a laptop battery.

They said an air-conditioner installed in a wall adjacent to the kitchen had a pipe passing through the kitchen, tangling with a gas pipe. Due to leakage in the gas pipe, the AC leaked in the gas pipe, which sparked and caught fire, resulting in the explosion in the room.

**ROOF COLLAPSE:** Four labourers were injured critically after an under-construction roof of a house caved in on them at Karsala in Khial Colony located near general fire station on Saturday.

Rescue 1122 said its personnel removed heavy debris and rescued them. They had been shifted to Karsala THQ hospital. They were identified as Tawaray (35), Mumtaz (30), Gidder (30) and Ramzan (38).

**PFW:** A Punjab Food Authority team caught red-handed a meat seller with stock of 26 bags weighing 544 kg of dead poultry birds in his shop located near outer gate of Mianwali Town on Saturday.

Police arrested meat shop owner Radha and sent him behind the bars while raids were also in progress to arrest his another accomplice. The recovered meat had been dumped.

It merits mentioning that the suspect had also remained in jail under same charge but a court had released him on bail.

## Teen gang-raped three weeks ago dies

**KASUR:** A 13-year-old boy allegedly subjected to gang rape succumbed to his injuries on Saturday at Main Singh Village in Kasur Rukhsar police precincts.

On June 5, unidentified suspects allegedly gang-raped the boy and left them tied on a road in a critical condition.

According to complainant, his nephew who worked at a local tea stall did not return home on June 5. The family searched the boy who was found near Cinema Man of Kasur Rukhsar in a critical condition. The family informed the police who shifted the boy to THQ Hospital from where he was referred to Lahore owing to his critical condition.

Initial medical report suggested that the boy was severely assaulted and physically tortured.

On Saturday, the boy died after remaining in hospital for about 18 days. Police lodged a case against unidentified suspects under sections

including 324 (attempt to murder), 377-B (punishment for the offence of sexual abuse), and 376-II (rape of a minor) under Pakistan Penal Code. Police claimed to have arrested five suspects a week back and were interrogating them.

Locals, traders and relatives of the victim staged a protest demonstration at canal bridge against their concerns over failure of law enforcement agencies to protect their lives and their traffic out of gear.

The agitation also passed after Sardar circle DSP Khalid Aslam assured them of justice. Earlier on Friday, a suspect (nominated in the first information report) kidnapped a seven-year-old boy at village Rawal Jagar in the limits of Kasur Rukhsar police station and allegedly raped him.

Police lodged a case against the suspect on the complaint of the mother of the victim. — Correspondent

## Man dies as protesters and police clash after 'death in custody'

Protesters besiege police station; police use teargas, batons, aerial firing

By Our Correspondent

**KAHIWAL:** A man died in a violent clash between Kasur police and residents of Chak 1159-L and Chak 1547-L on Saturday after an alleged death in custody by police-torture.

The tortured body of one Ghulam Murtaza was found in the Khosa Canal near Chak 1159-L and his family blamed the Kasur police for his death. They accused the police of torturing Murtaza to death and dumping of his body into

the canal between Thursday night and Friday to cover up the incident.

Ghulam Murtaza's family and other villagers alleged that he was in custody of police who had arrested him two days back for interrogation regarding a robbery case. Rajah Ali, a cousin of Murtaza, and the deceased had no criminal record and he was not wanted in any case.

After the recovery of the body, the residents of Chak 1159-L and Chak 1547-L gathered outside the Kasur Police Station, held a protest and attacked the building with stones and sticks while the policemen locked themselves inside. The protesters blocked the Sahiwal-Pakpatan road for two hours. The police used teargas, aerial firing and batons to disperse the protesters.

Four passersby, identified as Iqbal Khanval, Abdur Rehman, Faizal Shahzad and Shauq, were critically injured in the firing. Of them, Khanval was shifted to the Sahiwal Teaching Hospital in critical condition where he succumbed to bullet wounds at night.

District Police Officer (DPO) Faizal Shahzad formed an inquiry committee, led by SP Tahir, to investigate the protesters' allegations.

Kasur Station House Officer (SHO) Ramz Imtiaz denied the allegations, saying the police had recovered Murtaza's body on information received from some villagers. He told Dawn Murtaza was not wanted by the police but the robbers stayed at his house at Chak 1547-L, in a couple of vehicles,

buses, heading to the site of the police station by the latter.

Later in the evening, Kasur police registered a case against 18 identified and 20 unidentified individuals, primarily from Chak 1547-L, under sections of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) and Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) for attacking the police. The FIR also mentioned that four passersby were injured during the firing and the clash. However, it does not mention whom firing left the four people injured.

Kasur police registered a similar case also against six unidentified persons based on the complaint by Rajah Ali, a cousin of the deceased.

SP Investigation Tahir said he had started an investigation and would soon submit a report to the DPO.



MULTAN: Women pluck okra in a field. — APP

## Employer arrested for torturing maid

By Our Correspondent

**B.A.HAWALI PUR:** Lohdian city police on Saturday arrested the main accused involved in the torture of a minor maid.

According to police spokesman, Aslam was arrested after the registration of a case against him on the complaint of Balaqbal Aslam's mother Sabina Bibi, a resident of village 50-DR in Yawarwan tehsil of Bahawalpur district.

In her complaint, Sabina Bibi alleged that her daughter had been working at the house of Aslam in Balaqbal, Lohdian, for the last seven months. During this period, Aslam and his family members allegedly tortured her daughter.

The police spokesman said on the orders of District Police Officer (DPO) Karaman Mian, the victim was admitted to DHO Hospital for medical examination and treatment.

**SUCHEH:** Two persons committed suicide due to their family disputes in Model Town in Vehari district and Kalabagh in Bahawalpur district on Saturday.

According to Revenue 1122, Shakesh (26) of Manza Sati Bahia near Mianwali after quarreling with his family reached Kalabagh railway station on Bahawalpur-Dera Ismail

Khan road and jumped in front of a running goods train. He suffered serious head and other injuries and died on the spot.

His body was shifted to Mianwali rural health centre in Mian's village Balaqbal, Amritsar Chakar (30), a father of three, committed suicide after jumping into a canal over frequent quarrels with his wife and other family members.

The rescuers had yet to retrieve his body till the filing of this report.

A farmer, Ahmed Baloch (30), was killed when an electric pole fell on him near Qadrabat Colony in Ahmedpur East Tehsil.

**INJURED:** Ten people, including Javed and Javed, were seriously injured during a clash between two rival groups over canal water dispute at Chamb Kulbari in the limits of Lodhian Sardar police station on Saturday.

The injured were shifted to the DHO Hospital.

## Digitisation...

Continued from Page 13

196-B, 175, 239-A, 239-B, 52 to 56, 252, 340, 510, 611, 110, 718, 251, 252, 272, 319, 628, 21-R, 21-J, 22-A, 207, 405, 50, 302-A, 31, 41, 59, 69 to 63, 110, 227, 10-A, 64, 61, 125, 126, 144, 1442, 59, 999, 97, 117, 275, 196, 229, 230, 265, 388, 305, 585, 586, 587, 230912, 913, 916, 122, 128, 202, 97 and 200.

All these plots are situated in Jahanpur's blocks B2, C, C1, D1, E, F1, F2, FTC (Finance & Trade Contract), G, G-1, G-2, H-1, H-2, H-3, H-4, H-5, H-6, H-7, H-8, H-9, H-10 and H-11.

"The LDA will soon start auctioning of all cleared plots in a bid to increase its revenue and improve its financial condition," he added.

LDA Director General Tahir Farooq said the selling of record related to other housing schemes has also enabled the authority to trace some plots.

"In Garden Town, we have come to know about some commercial plots. For this we have contacted the district administration in a bid to prove our ownership. Hope the Model Town MC will soon submit its report in this regard," he said.

## Woman set on fire by husband

By Our Staff Reporter

shifted the burnt Melbhoomi to the Nishtar Hospital where she was said to be in critical condition.

Shah Rukhi Alian police registered the case against Adil on the complaint of the victim's father, Asghar.

Multan City Police Officer Sadia Dogar took notice of the incident and directed the police to arrest the suspect. A police team, led by Senior Assistant SP Arshad Tajuddin, arrested the suspect.

The initial investigation revealed that the suspect was an addict and demanded money from his wife for drugs.

Police said the victim suffered burns on 40pc of her body and was admitted to the burn unit at Nishtar Hospital.

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## PESHAWAR

Summer 07-31°C  
Summer (Humidity) 05-07am  
**NEXT 24 HRS**  
Minimum 27°C  
Maximum 41°C  
Outlook Mostly Sunny



YOUNGSTERS bathe in a Khushab Park swimming pool in Peshawar to beat the heat on Saturday. — White Star

## Govt appoints another PTI doctor as its focal person for healthcare

Dr Mudir insists he will ensure streamlining of health affairs

By Asifq Yusufzai

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has appointed another member of the ruling PTI's Intra Doctors' Forum as its focal person for healthcare in the province.

Last March, health minister Syed Qasim Ali Shah made provincial PIDP president Dr Nabi Jan Afridi as his focal person for affairs of public sector health employees.

Now, Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has appointed PIDP central president Dr Mudir Khan as his focal person on health matters.

For the first time, serving doctors belonging to the ruling party have been assigned the roles in the government directly.

Both the doctors are actively practising in their fields, with Dr Mudir work-

ing as an orthopaedic surgeon and assistant professor at the Lady Reading Hospital Peshawar and Dr Nabi serving in the orthopaedic department at the Khyber Teaching Hospital Peshawar.

Dr Mudir is the founder of the PIDP. On March 26, the government notified PIDP MNA Dr Arjaj Ali Khan as the CM's focal person to look after health projects in the province.

Dr Arjaj, a former president of the 'Young Doctors' Association, is a full-time political roo.

He has many projects, including the Institution of Liver and Bone Marrow Transplants, to start these health services for the first time in the province on the directions of the CM.

The latest government notification read, "In order to facilitate and assist Dr Arjaj Ali Khan, focal person to the chief minister on health sector and ensure effective coordination of health related activities in the province, the chief minister has been pleased to nominate Dr Mudir Khan, president PIDP Pakistan and assistant professor orthopaedics LRB, as focal person on Health Sector with immediate effect."

It added that the services of Dr Mudir would be utilized without payment of remuneration or compensation.

Now, the health sector in the province is overseen by a team of four individuals comprising health minister Qasim Shah, his focal person Dr Nabi, and two focal persons to the chief minister Dr Arjaj and Dr Mudir.

They're collectively responsible for managing the healthcare affairs in the province.

Sources in the health department told Dawn that the PTI government had appointed both PIDP leaders to "stay safe from their pressure regarding the affairs of the health department."

They said instead of listening to the PIDP's demands regarding improvements in the health sector, the government has asked the former's top leaders with helping in bring improvement in the health sector.

The sources said unlike other political parties, which also had doctors' wings, the PIDP of the PTI was "very strong" as its leaders had direct access to the party's leadership, including founder and former prime minister Imran Khan.

They insisted that the PIDP leaders' appointment as focal persons to the CM and health minister would save the government from listening to their notes and views.

The sources said the PIDP had been playing a key role in the implementation of the Medical Teaching Institutions Reforms Act in the province.

When contacted, Dr Mudir said that he had offered his services to help the government streamline health affairs in the province.

"I will continue serving in the Lady Reading Hospital," he said, adding that the new assignment of working as the CM's focal person is honorary.

Dr Mudir said there was a need for developing more trauma centres in the province.

"We have a 200-bed accident and emergency department in the LRB, while other public sector hospitals don't have this specialty," he said.

The focal person also said Dr Nabi Jan Afridi performed his duty as the KTH and attended meetings with the minister and officials as the minister's focal person about the problems of health employees.

## Journalists resent 'manhandling' at security checkpost

By Our Correspondent

KHYBER: Journalists in Khyber tribal district have strongly resented the 'rough' treatment they were meted out at a security checkpost in Shamsi Kamar area of Bannu the other day.

Fayrouz Afridi, a Bannu-based journalist, told his colleagues at the local press club that he along with two other reporters, Jahanzeb Afridi and Khawar Khan, was on his way to

Jamrud on Friday to participate in a protest demonstration against the brutal murder of one of their senior Lambi Kosal colleagues.

However, he said they were stopped at the checkpost despite showing their personal identity cards as journalists and registered members of the Bannu Press Club.

Fayrouz alleged that the armed staffers at the checkpost not only confiscated their CNICs but they also tried to smash their mobile phones,

which they resisted.

He said that upon their refusal to surrender their mobile phones, they were made to wait on the main road for over an hour under the blazing sun.

He said that he along with two other colleagues repeatedly pleaded with the security staff that they were journalists and wanted to not only participate in the protest demonstration but also to report the event to their respective media organisations.

Fayrouz said that they were allowed to go only after the incident was highlighted on the social media.

He and the other two journalists appealed to the security officials to take action against those responsible for manhandling them.

Meanwhile, the Saltankot tributary held a protest demonstration in Takkiya area of Lambi Kosal on Saturday against the murder of a local journalist, Khalid Jilani.

The protesters blocked the

main Kankoram road for several hours while demanding arrest of the unknown attackers involved in the killing.

They expressed their serious concern over the recent rise in targeted killing in Lambi Kosal at least three persons, including a policeman and Khalid Jilani, were targeted within a span of three months, but the law enforcement agencies had failed to initiate any action against the experts involved in these incidents of targeted killings.

The protest ended the

## ATC acquits Gandapur, his brother in murder case

They were accused of planning, financing suicide attack against minister

By Muhammad Irfan Mughal

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court here on Saturday acquitted Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, his brother and two others in a decade old case about a suicide attack on the then provincial law minister, Imaullah Khan Gandapur.

Judge Sohail Sharif pronounced acquittal of Mr Gandapur, his brother and mayor of Dera Ismail Khan city Umar Amin Gandapur, Mianullah and

All Mas'ud, after lawyers for both sides finished arguments.

Senior lawyer Syed Iqbal Hussain Shah Gillani appeared in the court for the accused.

Last month, the defense counsel filed an application with the court under the Code of Criminal Procedure, for the acquittal of the accused, insisting that no evidence of the involvement in the attack was available against his clients.

He contended that the accused were named in the case without "any valid grounds."

"As there is no possibility of their [accused] conviction after the completion of trial, they should be acquitted," he said.

The lawyer referred to several superior court judgments to support his contention.

Advocate Moinul Ali appeared for

the complainant in the case and opposed the acquittal of the accused.

He argued that the complainant had directly accused the accused of committing the offence and therefore, they should not be acquitted at the current stage of the trial.

Former provincial law minister Imaullah Khan Gandapur was killed on Oct 16, 2013, in a suicide bombing when he was greeting locals at his residence in Kalabagh village here.

Six other people were also killed in the terrorist attack.

Initially, Nizamullah alias Ghaffar Khan was named the prime accused in the case. However, he was acquitted by the anti-terrorism court due to the lack of "concrete evidence" against him.

In 2018, Mr Irfan's brother, Imaullah Khan Gandapur, who is currently working as the deputy director at the Federal Investigation Agency,

named Mr Gandapur and Umar Amin in the case.

He alleged that both Gandupars planned, financed and facilitated the suicide bombing.

The complainant also addressed news conference, reiterating allegations against Mr Gandapur and Umar Amin.

In 2018, he requested the then Supreme Court Chief Justice, Saqib Nisar, to take a suo motu notice of his brother's murder.

The police and a joint investigation team probed the case for almost four years.

The JIT later declared that no concrete evidence of the involvement of Gandapur brothers in the suicide bombing was found.

However, as the complainant insisted, a chitran, the final charge sheet, was submitted to the anti-terrorism court against both the accused.



Portugal ease past Turkey to book spot in knockout phase

Pg.22 SPORT

## Two killed as car rams into roadside tree in Swabi

By Our Correspondent

SWABI: Two cousins died and their four friends suffered injuries when the car they were travelling in rammed into a roadside tree on the Swabi-Jhangri Road here on Saturday.

Rescue 1122 officials said that six youngsters travelling from Jhangria village were on their way to Pehlu High Level Canal in Jhangria area for taking bath when their car met with a fatal accident.

Mohammed Sami, 18, and Mohammed Musa, 20, died on the spot.

Lumgian Khan, a Rescue 1122 official, said that the bodies were taken to the District Headquarters Hospital for autopsy, while the injured were shifted to Biecha Khan Teaching Hospital, Sialkot, where condition of two of them is stated to be critical.

The injured were identified as Essa Khan, 20, Samiullah Khan, 16, Sattullah, 17 and Yahya Khan, 14.

A fire broke out in a forest on the Qaleghani mountain in Gaddum Amazai area on Saturday.

Rescue 1122 officials said that after receiving information teams of firefighters had been dispatched to the area.

## 11 injured as coach overturns on KKH

By Our Correspondent

MANSEHRA: Eleven people sustained critical injuries when a Gilgit-bound passenger coach overturned on the Karakoram Highway while speeding in Chakai area of Lower Kohistan district on Saturday.

"The condition of three of the injured is critical, who have been shifted to a hospital in Abbottabad," said Ali, district emergency officer of Rescue 1122, Lower Kohistan, told reporters.

The coach was on its way to Gilgit from Rawalpindi.

A Rescue 1122 squad along with ambulances rushed onto the scene and shifted eight of the injured to a nearby health facility, and the rest to Ayub Medical Complex Hospital, Abbottabad.

"Our team provided immediate medical relief to all those injured in the accident, and shifted three of the critically injured to Ayub Medical Complex Hospital, Abbottabad," Mr Ali said.

He said those injured in the accident included Liaqat Ali and Imran Khan of Mandi, Nasir Khan of Attock, Mohammad Sadiq and Sardar Khan of Haripur, Isha Khan, Rehan Ali and Haemat Hussain of Lower Dir, Rasheed Ahmed of Chitral, Ahsanullah of Bajaur, and Javed Khan of Baitkhela Malakand.

## Kohistan people plan protest against lack of facilities

MANSEHRA: The people from different segments of society on Saturday announced to launch street agitation against the lack of education and health facilities and excessive power outages in the Upper Kohistan district.

"We are going to launch a street agitation for our rights as people in the district are still without basic rights, including educational, health and infrastructures," Muzaffar Attaur Rehman, prayer leader of the central mosque, told a consultative meeting held in Kamalia area.

The meeting also decided to block the Karakoram Highway and observe a shutdown strike. "We have been facing excessive power outages and have been without potable water supply for the last nearly weeks. Despite taking this issue with authorities concerned, no remedial measures are put in place as yet," Muzaffar Attaur Rehman asserted.

He said that Kohistan was home to the Dera and Chander-Batash hydropower projects, but it was still without basic health, education and road facilities.

Speaking on the occasion, former MPA Malik Qadeem Khan said that the government had ignored the people of the district, forcing them to plan street agitation for their rights.

"We are going to announce the protest schedule within a couple of days as traders, lawyers, clerks and local government representatives are part of our agitation," he said.

Mr Khan said that local-government chairmen and councilors from Kamalia, Jafar, Heetan and other areas were also invited, and they would take part in the planned sit-in on the Karakoram Highway. — Correspondent

## PRAYER

Fajr	05:23
Zohar	12:19
Aza	05:18
Maghrib	07:00
Isha	09:14

Starting time in Pakistan

## REFLECTIONS

DO NOT INTRODUCE RIDICULOUS TOPICS IN YOUR TALK EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO REPEAT SAYINGS OF OTHERS 53

— HAZRAT ALI (A.S.)



PEOPLE holding banners stage a rally in support of cricketer Shahid Afridi outside Peshawar Press Club on Saturday. — White Star

## Tariff reduction sought for people affected by power projects

### Activists plan launch of movement to claim rights

By Our Correspondent

HARIPUR: Political leaders and rights activists here on Saturday demanded reduction in power tariff for the communities affected by the Tarbela Dam and other hydropower projects in Mansehra Division.

They also said a movement would be launched to claim legal rights for the residents.

The demand was made by former minister Ejaz Ali Khan Durrani, former adviser to the

chief minister Zafarul Khan, former Iesco director (legal) Aslam Ziaur, Samajni Tarayean Muttahidah Tarbela Dam president Ejaz Khan, and PML-N leader Sajid Khan Bagha during a news conference.

They said the people of Haripur, Mansehra and Torkham districts suffered their birthland, the only source of their livelihood, for Tarbela Dam but most of them were compensated as promised by authorities.

The political and rights activists said the national grid got 60 per cent of the hydel power from the Tarbela Dam, while the power generation capacity of Mangla Dam was 1120MW.

They said the people hit by these projects were properly compensated.

The activists said the government sent the people affected by Mangla Dam to Europe in the 1970s for livelihood and not only were they having a good life but some of them were currently part of the local parliament as well.

They said the communities affected by the Tarbela Dam should be compensated appropriately.

The activists said the government recently announced free electricity for residents of Aman Janmeh and Kharar, but unfortunately, there was no such relief for Tarbela Dam's victims.

They said the Wapda had installed half a dozen national hydropower projects in the Mansehra Division, so these electricity should be provided to the residents to reward their contribution to the country's development.

They announced the formation of an action committee comprising activists from across the political divide in Mansehra Division to take up the matter with authorities.

DRONEED: Three

teenagers, including a girl, drowned in different bodies of water in Khampur tehsil, police said on Saturday.

The incidents occurred at the three defined bars on bathing in rivers, dams and streams.

Police said Ahmed Riaz, 18, and Waheed Shah, 19, both from Haripur, drowned in the Jabb Waterfall as they along with a group of playmates were bathing.

Their bodies were recovered by rescue workers and residents, who shifted them to the tehsil headquarters hospital for identification.

In a separate incident, 16-year-old Sabir Billo from Rawalpindi's Chakar area slipped into deep water while bathing in a stream near Tarmala Bridge and drowned.

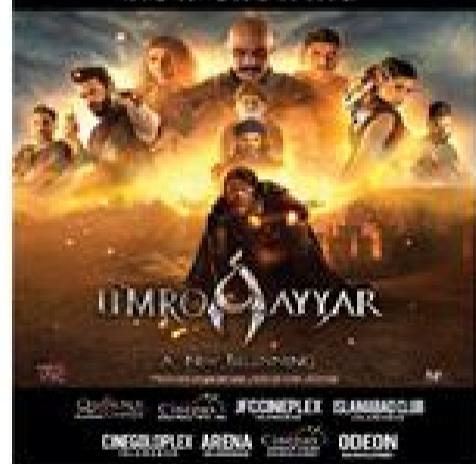
The district retrieved his body, which was taken to the Khampur hospital.

These incidents increased the death toll to six, including a girl, in the last three days, all of whom died while bathing in Khampur dam and River Shar, despite the ban.

The district retrieved her body, which was taken to the Khampur hospital.

These incidents increased the death toll to six, including a girl, in the last three days, all of whom died while bathing in Khampur dam and River Shar, despite the ban.

### NOW SHOWING



JUMRO QAYYAR  
A PAK FILM  
DIRECTED BY:  
SAFIA KHAN  
PRODUCTION DESIGNER:  
CINODEXPLEX SUMANGI  
CINODEXPLEX ARENA CINODEXPLEX ODEON

GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA  
PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UNIT  
KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA RURAL ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT  
COMMUNICATION & WORKS DEPARTMENT KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA  
Phone No: 14114400, Khyber Khan, Khetak Road, University Town Peshawar  
Phone No: 091-9220212 E-mail: pcrwa@kpk.gov.pk

### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST For Hiring of Junior Education Specialist

Country: Pakistan  
Project: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rural Accessibility Project (KPRAP)  
Credit No.: 7143-PK  
Reference No: PK-KP-C&W-301514-CS-QS

- The Government of The Islamic Republic of Pakistan has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rural Accessibility Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for the hiring of Junior Education Specialist.
- The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following website: <https://www.cwd.gkp.pk/> or can be obtained at the address given below.
- The Project Implementation Unit, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rural Accessibility Project, Communication & Works Department, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, House No. 14 F-4 & B, Khushal Khan Khattak Road, University Town, Peshawar hereby invites EOI from eligible applicants for providing requisite services as per the TOR. Interested Applicants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.
- Qualification: Masters' Degree (at least sixteen years of education) in Development Studies or Social Sciences or equivalent degrees.
- Experience: Seven (07) years of documentary verifiable experience in social and gender studies, designing and managing programmes and advocating for enrolment enhancement with the national/international agencies. Excellent written and spoken communication skills in English.
- The attention of the interested candidates is drawn to Section III - Governance, paragraphs 3.14 [Conflict of Interest], 3.16 and 3.17 [Consulting Services] of the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IFIP Borrowers November 2020, setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
- Expressions of interest may reach the address mentioned below on or before 28 July 2024 at 1600 hours (PST).
- Selection will be made in accordance with Para 7.22 of the World Bank's Procurement Regulations following an Open Competition Market approach.
- Further information can be obtained in writing at the address given below during office hours i.e., 0900 to 1700 hours.
- Females are encouraged to apply.

Address:

Project Director  
Project Implementation Unit  
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rural Accessibility Project  
Address: House No. 14-F-A & B Khushal Khan Khetak Road,  
University Town Peshawar Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan  
Phone No: 091-9220212  
Email: pcrwa@kpk.gov.pk  
Website: [www.kprap.gov.pk](http://www.kprap.gov.pk)

ISB-GD IMPRINT 1437/2024

## Several PTI aspirants withdraw from Bajaur by-poll race

By Our Correspondent

BAJAURO: Several Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf candidates on Saturday withdrew their candidacies from the by-election on PK-22 after successful talks with a three-member committee headed by MPAs from Khyber district Mohammad Sohail Khan Afridi.

The jalsa (meeting) between visiting team members formed by Chief Minister Ali Amran Gondalpur and PTI aspirants was held at the residence of party's leader Dr Ghulam Yousaf Darbari in Khanpur area, a day after hundreds of party workers named Akhtar Gul as independent candidate in protest against the PTI parliamentary board's decision of awarding ticket to Rahmatullah Khan Afridi.

Besides PTI aspirants, MPs Aswaryar Khan, Dr Hamidur Rahman and Nasrullah Raftab, council chairman Dr Khadim Raftab were also in attendance.

Speaking at the jalsa, Sohail Afridi, who heads the committee, said that they visited Bajaur on the special invitation of Chief Minister Ali Amran Gondalpur to settle differences among the party's local leaders over allotment of poll ticket.

He told the aspirants that the decision

to award the ticket to Rahmatullah Khan by the PTI parliamentary board was purely on merit and for the party's larger interest.

Mr Afridi said the party's parliamentary board's decision was aimed at choosing the best candidate for the ticket, and that no one had the right to challenge its decision.

He asked the aspirants to accept the decision and withdraw their candidacies for the party's larger interest.

The head of three-member negotiating team told candidates that the chief minister was perturbed over their decision of contesting the polls as independents, adding the CM would nominate membership of those, who won't withdraw their candidature.

On the occasion, about a dozen candidates, including Dr Ghulam Yousaf Darbari, Mohammad Aswaryar Khan, Dr Hamidur Rahman and Nasrullah Raftab, council chairman Dr Khadim Raftab, announced to withdraw their candidatures.

However, Akhtar Gul and few others sought some time from the committee members for consulting their families and supporters.

The committee members accepted their request, but asked them to withdraw their candidatures till Monday to avoid any possible action from the party's provincial leadership.

## Posting of principal demanded

LOWEY DM: The faculty staff of the Tumergara Medical College has demanded that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa minister and secretary of health services re-appoint a principal to the college so that the college can be made functional.

In a letter written to the secretary health here on Saturday, the faculty staff said that they were appointed candidates for one year on April 2 this year. They complained that hundreds of other employees were getting their salaries at home without any work as the college was not functional for years.

They said that the concerned officials of

the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) had not visited the college so far, and it had not been accorded registration with the PMDC so far. The faculty has requested the high-ups of health services to appoint a principal to the college.

JAIL: VINT: The additional deputy commissioner Bashir Khan along with additional assistant commissioners Tariq Khan, deputy controller food and assistant director Hafiz Iftikhar Hussain visited the district jail Tumergara on Saturday.

The officials checked the kitchen and food section of the jail. — Correspondent

## CADET COLLEGE SANGHAR SITUATION VACANT

Applications are invited from eligible Male & Female Candidates from all over Pakistan for the following posts:

SL. NO.	NAME OF POSTS	GRADE / SCALE	AGE	MIN. QUALIFICATION & EXPERIENCE
1	Lecturer in English, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Botany, Urdu, Islamiat & Computer Science	1B	Not more than 45 years	M.A/M.Sc in a relevant subject with at least 2nd Division.

**NOTE:**  
1. Complete Bio-data (Type) with attested photocopies of relevant certificates and (II) recent passport size photographs (one copy of II) each interested must be attached with the application.  
2. The Application Form can be downloaded from college website [www.sangharcadet.edu.pk](http://www.sangharcadet.edu.pk) and send to college address: Cadet College Sanghar of Jam Nawaz Ali via Route Attock but must be filled in all respect with the attached photocopies of relevant certificates.  
3. Age can be relaxed in case of deserving & outstanding candidates.  
4. The applicants arriving in front, Services should send their applications through postmaster.  
5. Preference will be given to highly qualified and experienced hands.  
6. Minimum Qualities as per regulations of the College will be insisted.  
7. No TA/DA or allowances will be given for interview.  
8. Applications should reach to the above address latest by 15 July 2024 positively.

COMMANDANT / PRINCIPAL  
CADET COLLEGE SANGHAR

At Jam Nawaz Ali, Ph: +92-335-543000, 543124

### "SAY NO TO CORRUPTION"

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN  
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

## NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY (MUZAFFARAMAD REGION)

### INVITATION TO BIDS

#### 01X EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE WORK ON S-2

1. National Highway Authority (NHA) invites bids from the contractor registered with Income Tax Department and who are Active Taxpayers List of the Federal Board of Revenue having valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in Category mentioned below inside table with Specification in CE-01 & CE-02 for the work mentioned below:

SL. NO.	CONTRACT NO.	DESCRIPTION	ROUTE	ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE (RS.)	PIC CATEGORY
1	EM-AJK-24-02-00	CONSTRUCTION OF PLUM CONCRETE BREAST WALL AT KM 20+200-205	S-2	11,546,966	C-3 (CE-01 & CE-02)

2. The bidding documents containing method of procurement (Single Stage - Two Envelopes), detailed terms & conditions etc. will be available on the website mentioned above from June 25, 2024 for download free of cost. Prospective Bidders are also advised to follow the said website for updates of schedule and tender notice(s), if any.

3. The Bids presented in accordance with the instructions provided in the bidding documents, must reach at the address mentioned below on or before July 05, 2024 before 1100 Hours. Technical bid will be opened on the same day at 1100 Hours.

4. This Advertisement is also available on NHA website at [www.nha.gov.pk](http://www.nha.gov.pk).

**GENERAL MANAGER (S-2/S-3 & IMDC)**

National Highway Authority  
House No. 4-B, Lane-1 Lake View Lanes, Main Karak Road Banjalis, Islamabad  
Phone: 051-9334527 & Email: [sangharcadet@gmail.com](mailto:sangharcadet@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.sangharcadet.edu.pk](http://www.sangharcadet.edu.pk)

**Invitation to Bid  
Service Contract of Group Health Insurance™**  
National Productivity Organization (NPO) Pakistan invites sealed bids from reputed and registered insurance companies (Minimum A Rated) with proven track record for group health insurance (Individual only) including their dependent (parents, spouse and children only) residing at anywhere in Pakistan. This coverage/policy will be extendable subject to satisfactory services on same terms & condition as prescribed, PPA rule 56-A (1) regarding framework applied. The bidding document carrying all the details can be purchased during office timings from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at NPO Head Office, Islamabad by writing a request to company's letter head and on the payment of Rs. 5,000/- (non-refundable, cash/cheque in favor of National Productivity Organization). The bids should contain two sealed envelopes within one envelope; clearly marked Technical & Financial Proposal separately.  
Sealed bids along with Technical & Financial proposal must be delivered at NPO Head Office 11<sup>th</sup> floor Shahid-e-Millat Secretariat, F-6/F, Islamabad, Pakistan on or before 09<sup>th</sup> July, 2024 11:30 AM. Any proposal received after the indicated time shall be rejected. Technical bids shall be opened on the same day at 12:00 PM. NPO reserves the right to reject any/all bids prior to acceptance of a bid or proposal as per the Rules & Regulations under PPA-33. Submission of any false statement/documents shall disqualify the bidder.  
For further details or any query, please contact on below mentioned contact details.

**Deputy Manager, Administration**

NPO Head Office, 11th, Floor, Shahid-e-Millat Secretariat, F-6/F, Islamabad  
Ph: 051-9244254-5, Email: [info@npo.gov.pk](mailto:info@npo.gov.pk)

FAX: 051-79156 / 23

## Gujar Khan faces acute water shortage

Residents say solution to problem lies in construction of overhead water reservoir

By Hamid Asghar

**GUJAR KHAN:** The residents of Gujar Khan city face acute water shortage and residents believe that its solution lies in construction of overhead water reservoir but the concerned authorities are waiting for the provincial planning and development (PPD) department approval for its construction.

According to a survey conducted by this reporter there are about 170 thickly populated residential wards in these seven councils of the city falling under the jurisdiction of Gujar Khan municipality. The population in the town is over 200,000.

The residents of Gujar Khan urban headquarters complained that the municipality supplied water twice a week for 30 minutes.

Mohammed Hussain, a resident of ward No 1, complained that he was getting water for 20 minutes after three or four days and was not provided on a fixed time as a result of which they often could not store water.

Mohammed Hussain, a resident of Barki Javedi area, said they had been facing water scarcity for the last 10 years and no serious effort had been made by the government to resolve it.

Syed Sadiq Aliwan Kazmi, the managing officer of infrastructures (MOI) Gujar Khan Municipal Administration when contacted, said the current infrastructure of water supply consists of 23 tanks and only one overhead reservoir with the storage capacity of 100,000 gallons.

He said the overhead reservoir constructed in the

station had been in dilapidated condition and was awaiting demolition.

He said that out of 23 water pumps 21 were working and due to unavailability of any other overhead reservoir the municipality was forced to supply water to the consumers through direct pumping in the supply lines, that, according to the officer, was not appropriate.

He said that five tube wells and four water reservoirs were required to be constructed to meet the needs of over 100,000 population.

He further said that a proposal for the construction of one overhead water reservoir with the capacity of 75,000 gallons storage was planned by the municipality and the scheme was duly approved by the district development committee (DDC) Rawalpindi and funds for execution of the project were available with the municipal committee but the approval from the Punjab government was awaited.

Mr Hussain, the supervising engineer (SE) of Public Works Engineering Department (PWD) when contacted said that it was a feasible and feasible project and is repeatedly sent to the provincial government for inclusion in the annual development programme of the Punjab government. But unfortunately it could not be carried for want of political backing from local representatives.

He said that if the political backing of the elected representatives given water shortage issue in Gujar Khan would be resolved on long term basis.

Senator Pervez Rasheed when approached by Mr Shaukat Qureshi, a prominent journalist about the aggravated situation of water shortage in the city, the senator said that the water shortage issue would be resolved by bringing the issue into the notice of the chief minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif at the earliest.



A MAN holds onto gas cylinders held in a pickup vehicle in Islamabad on Saturday. — White Star

## Pesco restores power supply from Peshawar grid station

### Fault caused grid to shut down

#### Bureau Report

**PESHAWAR:** After enduring over 24 hours of everlasting heat and sleepless night without fans, power consumers finally heated a sigh of relief on Thursday evening as workers of the Peshawar Electric Supply Company (Pesco) restored power supply to the city from the Kohat Balak grid station.

The grid got shut down after developing a fault at protestors

settled on feeders serving scheduled load-shedding.

A spokesman for the Pesco told Dawn that the power utility had to resort to load management in several parts of the city after one of the grid's three transformers developed fault following the protesters' interference in their working.

He said that throughout the day, Pesco's technical staff kept working on the damaged transformer and managed to repair it on Saturday evening. He said that testing of the repaired transformer was underway at present and the full power supply to all 32 feeders would start shortly.

Another official requesting anonymity told Dawn that the damaged transformer was supplying power to eight areas of the city and its load was shifted to the remaining two working transformers, which caused inconvenience to the power consumers.

The suspension of electricity from the grid station had affected more than 72,000 consumers on 32 feeders.

Kohat Balak grid station, which is located on the Ring Road area of the city, has turned into hub of ongoing power generation in provincial capital. On Friday, a group of protesters, led by a ruling party lawmaker,

hopped onto the grid station and forcibly removed the power supply to the feeders undergoing scheduled power cuts.

On the other hand, residents of Torkhar district also demanded of the high-ups of Pesco to end daylong power cuts in the district.

The tributaries have regularly been paying their electricity bills, but the Pesco suspends electricity supply to them according to the schedule.

Rohman Baba grid station, which is located on the Ring Road area of the city, has turned into hub of ongoing power generation in provincial capital. On Friday, a group of protesters, led by a ruling party lawmaker,

stage power outages in that hot weather where mercury surged to 40 degrees Celsius.

He said after talks with district administration, local tributaries recently paid Rs 6 million to the Pesco but even then they were facing the daylong power cuts.

The tributaries have regularly been paying their electricity bills, but the Pesco suspends electricity supply to them according to the schedule.

The local PTI leader realised that the people of Torkhar had rendered great sacrifices for the construction of Rohman Baba grid station, and even the graves of their ancestors were buried under its reservoir, but they were still facing terrible load shedding by the Pesco authorities, he regretted.

## SCCI rejects increase in electricity tariff

#### Bureau Report

**PESHAWAR:** Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) president Faizul Ishaq has rejected the recent unprecedented increase from 300 to 355 per cent in fixed charges of electricity for industrial consumers, stating that imposition of fixed charges on domestic consumers is highly unjust, which would further make life of common man miserable.

In a statement here on Saturday, SCCI chief said the major increase in fixed charges was tantamount to destruction of industries and burying people alive.

The chamber president warned the government of launching an agitation campaign against increasing increase in fixed charges.

He also made it clear that if in case, the decision couldn't be withdrawn immediately, aggressive and harsh steps would be taken against unfair and unjust hike in fixed charges, and government and relevant authorities would be responsible for any undue trouble, he added.

The SCCI president said the government and the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) had

made a whopping increase in fixed charges from 300 to 355 percent for industrial consumers, which was completely unjust, unfair and pushed industry to further destruction, and was tantamount to putting the nail in the coffin of this important sector.

"Attempts are being initiated to add the onus of the business community, which is highly condemnable," Faiz Ishaq said.

He urged the business community will strongly resist anti-business policies of the government and was being forced to resort to wide agitation. Owing to flawed policies of the government, he added, the industrial growth had slowed down and a number of units were shut down in the province.

He warned that government's poor policies would completely close the industry and trigger further unemployment. He urged the concerned quarters in the government to revisit overall policies and let industries and economy flourish.

The SCCI chief said it was totally incomprehensible that consumers were already paying various charges on power units, and there was no justification for imposing fixed charges on consumers, he added.



FLOWERS on Amritas tree bloom on a green belt along a road in Q-8 sector of Islamabad. — White Star

## Political struggle of Mukhtar Bacha lauded

**PESHAWAR:** Speakers at a conference reference lauded the political struggle of former president of National Party Pakhtunkhwa Mukhtar Bacha, saying the vacuum created due to his death would never be filled.

The conference reference was organised by the National Party Pakhtunkhwa Wazirat at Peshawar Press Club here on Saturday.

Leaders of different political parties, including provincial president ANP Mirza Ishaq Khan, general president QWP Sikandar Hayat Khan Sherpao, Mandusai Khan Party central president Afzal Khanum, Kukhundara Nasir Maryam Baba, National Party Pakhtunkhwa Wazirat leader Taimur Khan, Haider Zaman and Ali Akbar participated.

The speakers said that Mukhtar Bacha stood by his thoughts till the end of his life.

They said the world valued his

ideas and thoughts, and that his services to the workers were not hidden from anyone. They said he worked in every field and people respected him a lot.

Mukhtar Bacha was born on February 25, 1948 in Pir Baba area of Buner district. In 1965, after doing BS in botany from Karachi University, he did MSc from the University of Peshawar. He taught in the high school of his village for some time. But soon he left teaching due to interest in politics. Then he worked as an agricultural officer in Tarmay Farm for some time, but on the insistence of his friends, he started regular politics in 1971 as the first secretary of the Communist Party of Pakistan.

He inaugurated an office in the name of Khan Jirga in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and started the struggle for class politics.

Communist Party was the most popular in Khyber due to its contacts with college friends. — Bureau Report

## IHC fines appellant for dragging siblings in litigation

#### By Malik Asad

**ISLAMABAD:** Justice Munawar Hassan Arangwadi 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 Sohail had filed an appeal against the order of a civil judge in which he declared that the disputed house situated in the pash sector II-C can be partitioned and gave verdict in favour of the petitioner's siblings.

Dr Farah Sohail, who occupies the property, impugned the preliminary judgment and decree 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 900.33 square yards by Anjum Ara Sohail and Zarina Zahoor who jointly purchased the land from Mohammad Hanif in 1981.

One portion bearing House No 181-A was in the possession of Anjum Ara Sohail, 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 Anjum Ara Sohail, her share in the suit property was transferred to her four daughters, Dr Farah Sohail, Dr Farida Haileyen, Huma Sohail and Humaira Sohail.

Zarina Zahoor gifted her share in the suit property to her two daughters Bahria Sohila Zahoor and Ayesha Zahoor.

In order to ascertain the factual

position, Justice Arangwadi appointed CBA Abdur Rehman, Advocate as local commissioner with the direction to submit a report regarding the approximate value of the appellant Dr Farah and her respondent sister's property and share.

The court also appointed Deputy Registrar Usman Tariq as pro bono Medicare in this matter.

As per report dated Oct 23, 2023 submitted by the mediator, the contesting parties, including respondents partition 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 Rs 60,000 to each of the respondents.

## Sikh pilgrims reach Punja Sahib to mark Ranjit Singh's death anniversary

#### By Our Correspondent

**TAXILA:** The visiting Indian Sikh pilgrims on Saturday arrived at 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 Dawn on their arrival at Gurdwara Panja 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 Guru (Master).

A total of 447 Indian Sikh pilgrims arrived in Hassanabdal to offer their respects in connection with the 150th death anniversary of Maharaja Ranjeet Singh, who

ruled over Punjab in the 19th century and was the first maharaja of the Sikh Empire.

Sardar Bhawna Singh, who was heading the party 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 this 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 Singh said Pakistan was very important for Sikhs because this was where Guru Nanak Dev was born and died.

He said the death anniversary of Maharaja Ranjeet Singh

was an important event in the Sikh religious calendar as he was the first ruler of the Sikh Empire.

Mr Qureshi said the local administration in collaboration with the ETPB, police and Pakistan

Parliamentary 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 filtered cold water, clean restrooms 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 Panja Sahib in Hassanabdal on June 24 and then return to Jassa Akbar Nankana Sahib on June 25, they will visit Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib in Lahore, and after a one-day stay they will proceed to Gurdwara Baba Sahib in Ummatnagar on June 27, before returning to Lahore. The rituals will end with the commemoration of Maharaja Ranjeet Singh's death anniversary on June 29 at Gurdwara Baba Sahib in Lahore.

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



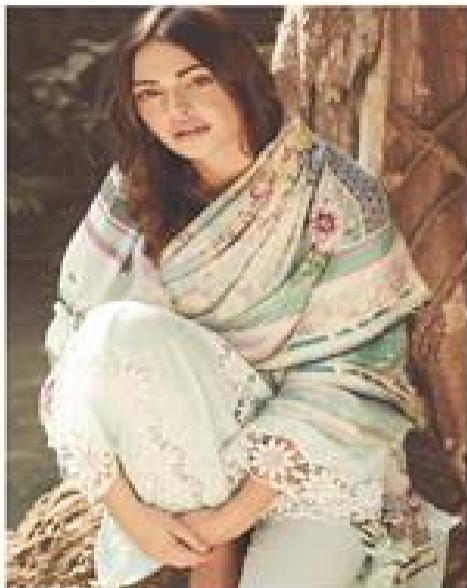
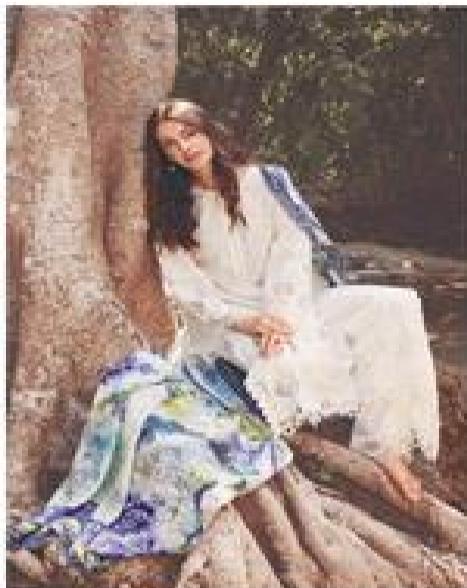
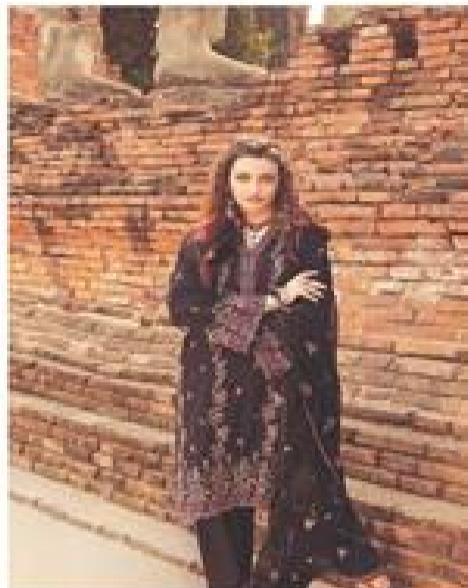
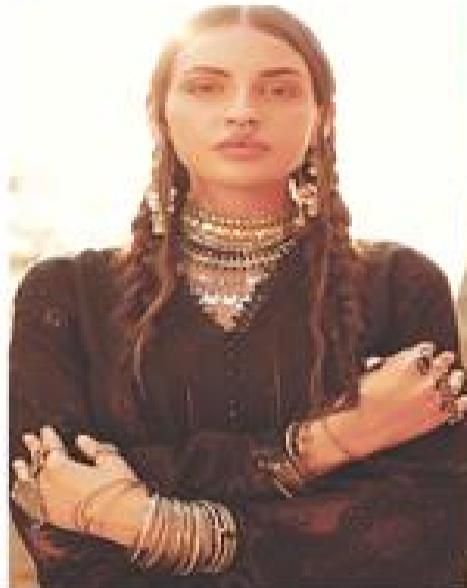
JOURNEY TO NOWHERE

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SUNDAY JUNE 23, 2024

@icondawn

## ► STYLE



## THE BUSINESS OF FASHION 101

By Maliha Rehman

**B**rand 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 is, ultimately, a business.

One brand that has understood this well is Image Fabrics, the high-street stalwart that was born back in 1993 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 faddy daddy. 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 centre ranges priced down on site.

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

"Growing up in a business-oriented 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, Umar and Marium Ahmad — the fourth member, Farnaz's husband Asad Ahmad, is missing — at their head office on Karachi's Sharar Jaisal. As we sit in a meeting room, I notice they are all wearing outfitts from various Image Fabrics collections.

"Only the fabric is outsourced, from some very reliable suppliers," Farnaz tells *Icon*. "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 embroidery, stitching, cutting, the addition of details, before the final look emerges."

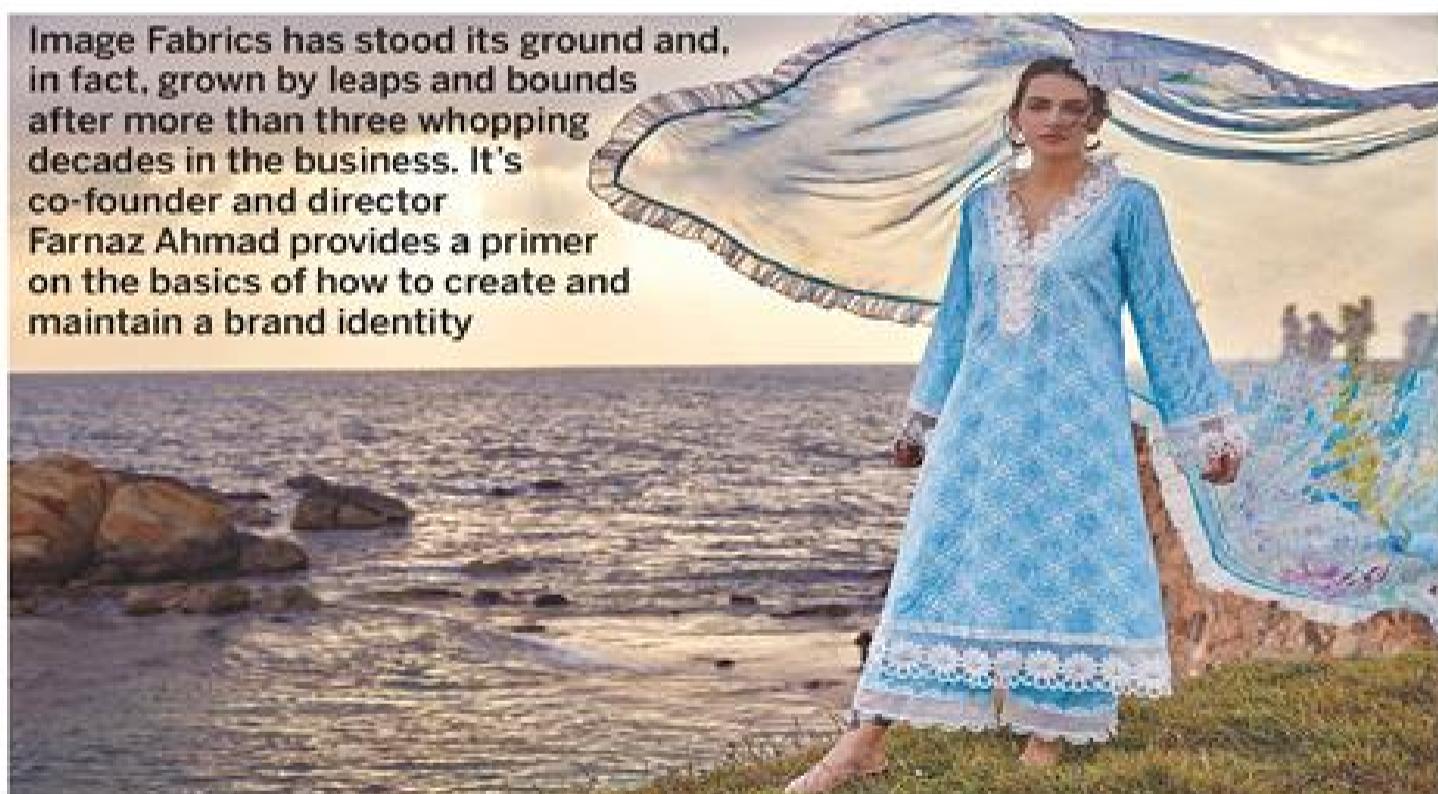
"There is a beauty to seeing the CAD [Computer-Aided Design] team at work, and for the fabric to pass through the embroidery machine and to see a flower come to life with thread or laser cut-work."

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

"Umar 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 Serafiki 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



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 lawn line, Lawikari."

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

embellishments they would want to add to it. With Lawikari, we have done the thinking for you: the shalwar front, back, sleeves, duppata and kameez 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 cinema on a technicality, Rohit Roy plays Hari 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 likeness — and uses it to provide "better service."

This Google-like service, called Blaah version 3.0, 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-wearing hacker who has broken into the unbreakable system and uses it to selectively kill key members of Hari's board, each worth millions.

The lot includes Tiya (Tia Sharma), Jasmin (Kartika Kausik), Inam (Rakshit Bhambhani) and Raffi (Ameet Chana) — all relatively bad, immoral, corrupt and uninteresting people in their own right. Hari, also as bad as the others, however is kept alive and made witness to the killings by the hacker.

Hari, 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 maf-boss played by Naseeruddin Shah, who should one be cheering for?

That decision-making is alleviated somewhat by director Sam Bhattacharya and screenwriters Sam Bhattacharya 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 mere 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 depth by the unexciting songs and the constrained 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 does justice to its tech-no-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. ■ — *Mohammed Kamran Jawaid*

*Released by Eros Now, *IRaH* is rated PG by the Sindh Censor Board. Other than some brief instances of jingoism, a song featuring elements with little clothes, and scenes that affirm the sexual independence of characters, there isn't much to worry about here. Honestly, now that I think about it, keep the kiddies away from this one.*

## 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 buildings 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 personalised emotions: Anxiety, Embarrassment, Envy and Lust. 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*, Family 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 rates 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 come when anxiety increasingly takes over. A new concept introduced to the development of the sense of self, made up of strands

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* showed 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

Reproduced from *The Conversation*

## ► CINEMASCOPE

Nicolas Cage's post-apocalyptic pastoral in *Arcadian* is a beautiful mess

# RETURN TO NATURE

By Matthew Leggatt

In her 1965 essay, "The Imagination of Disaster", critic Susan Sontag wrote that: "The science fiction film... is concerned with the aesthetics of destruction, with the peculiar beauties to be found in wrecking havoc, making a mess."

There is certainly beauty in director Benjamin Baymen's new movie, *Arcadian* — but there is also, unfortunately, plenty of mess.

*Arcadian* follows Paul (Nicolas Cage) and his two teenage sons, Joseph (Jaeden Martell) and Thomas (Maxwell Jenkins), 15 years after some undisclosed calamity has befallen the planet. Although it is implied that humans were to blame, the net result is that humans now roam the countryside. During the day people are able to go about their business, but, at night, they must barricade themselves in their homes.

Paul and his sons live on an isolated farm and their only interaction with other survivors comes through Thomas' burgeoning romance with Charlotte (Charlotte Severson), who lives in a small community nearby. Their romance provides a great deal of the movie's tension, as Thomas takes several risks to pursue the relationship.

One day, while rushing to return home before sunset, he slips and needs rescuing. Paul saves the day — but at some cost. He is incapacitated, leaving the brothers to fend for themselves.

*Arcadian* manages to be both highly derivative and also quite surreal. It is part thriller, part horror and part creature feature (the creatures are odd, disturbing and easily the most memorable element in the movie). There's even a bit of body horror thrown in. In some regards, it can be compared to the 2019 adaptation of H.P. Lovecraft's short story, *Colour Out of Space*, which also starred Cage.

The movie also shares similarities with *A Quiet Place* (2018) in terms of its tense claustrophobia and, rather less fortuitously, with the science fiction horror *Cloverfield* (2008), from which it borrows shifty handheld camerawork that I found quite off-putting. Cage gives an assured and somewhat understated (for him) performance, and he's ably supported by the cast of young actors.

The movie does play with some interesting ideas but, with a short runtime of around 90 minutes,



Maxwell Jenkins, Nicolas Cage and Jaeden Martell in *Arcadian* | H.E. Film and Shudder

they rarely go anywhere. Near the beginning of the movie, Paul and his sons are having dinner. Paul has to intervene to stop their arguing — they are typical brothers, constantly at war with one another.

"You wanna be animalist?" shouts Paul. "Are we not man?" he asserts, before plunging his knife into the table. In an odd moment, the two boys repeat the phrase and the language immediately draws attention to the lack of women in the movie. But, aside from a poised comment from Charlotte, there's little else to draw from this narrative thread, other than concluding that the boys have too much testosterone.

More interesting is the relationship between the two brothers. The responsible brother, Joseph, is keen to learn and better understand the world around him. At one point, he captures one of the creatures, intent on studying it. In an early scene, we see Joseph with a chess board in front of him, not playing but instead studying famous games.

By contrast, Thomas, the irresponsible one, is more interested in play. He is, to all intents and purposes, not a "man" after all, but a normal kid in abnormal circumstances. In one scene, as he tries to impress Charlotte, he juggles playfully with some toys before claiming it as a trick that Joseph had taught him.

Another "game" the two play frames the movie's rather thin backstory. "Where play happy apocalypse?" Charlotte asks, hoping to steal a few

more minutes with Thomas before he runs back home. This "play" involves trying to narrate, in just 10 seconds, what they imagine led to the apocalypse their families have survived.

It seems safe to assume that Cage's Paul is the "arcadian" of the movie's title, but this is also left unsaid. At one point, he states that he believes optimistically that, post-apocalypse, the world is getting cleaner. There's a lovely shot of him resting by a waterfall. The daytime scenes in the movie have a serenity to them. This is the pastoral idyll to which the movie's title alludes, and to which Paul, presumably, longs to return.

Without spoiling it, the ending of the movie also draws on these ideas of a return to nature. Only now, it is the young protagonists who offer restoration in their search for a new paradise.

Brewer's movie is timely, given its depiction of a post-apocalyptic world, in which an appreciation of the natural world offers a way forward, and given its perspective on the importance of family in troubled times.

But, despite its occasional beauty, it largely misses its opportunity to say anything profound. ■

*The writer is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of English & Creative Writing at the University of Winchester in the UK*

Reprinted from *The Conversation*

## THE TUBE

### THE WEEK THAT WAS

**Chaa! Geo TV, Daily 200pm**

**E**ven with the caveat that this is a highly commercial soap-style drama, the lack of attention paid to detail or characterisation in this show is disappointing.

Wealthy businessman Shaukat (Firdaus Agha) and Sami (Shahroz Ali) were once best friends but have become implacable enemies. To their shock, their children Rabbah (Areez Ahmed) and Alina (Babbarwir Khan) fall in love and refuse to give up their relationship. Shaukat and Sami eventually bow to their children's wishes, but Sami wants a guarantee, insisting his daughter Rabbah (Zulfiqar Rana) also marry Shaukat's son, Sikander (Ali Ansari). Shaukat admits Rabbah from afar and readily agrees. But Rabbah loves someone else and feels trapped.



She is presented as a spoiled "bad" girl, even though she has a right to be angry at being forced into marriage, even if her own choice of husband is a red flag. Ali Ansari plays the likable, good guy trying to win her over from an advantage-taker. Forced marriage to love story tropes are popular with the masses but the long episodes and general characterisation of the characters are a negative.

**Habil Aur Qabil** | Geo TV, Fridays 9.00pm

It has been another minute, so it may be time for another drama written by Zaheeb Aslam, who seems to have a secret factory where formulaic, commercialised dramas are written and produced.



Harris (Aqib Ali) is the typical narcissistic character that is the driving force in every Zaheeb Aslam story: a high achieving, perfectionist, whose arrogance and selfishness knows no bounds. Qadir (Asad Siddiqui) is his gentle brother, a successful young man always overshadowed by his brother. Harris has been spoiled by their indulgent mother and is always demanding things, especially anything Qadir likes. Sohia (Nasrat Sapooj) is a poor relative whose avarice is fuelled by the brothers' wealth and achievements. She first traps the eponymous Qadir but soon makes a move for the more "alpha" Harris.

The characters are mostly black-and-white, unthinking stereotypes and reinforced by the author's signature confrontations-to-nowhere scenes. Aqib Ali and Asad Siddiqui have worked on their roles, and if there is a reason to watch, it is their performances.

**Zard Patten Ka Gunn** | Hum TV, Sundays 8.00pm

Despite the many obstacles in her way, Meena (Sajal Aly) moves closer to her dream of becoming a doctor. While Meena's regressive, good-for-nothing brothers are busy trying to throw obstacles in her way, author Mustafa Afridi balances this perspective with more positive male characters in the show.



Meena's father, the local imam, and even a mechanic help and encourage Meena without questioning or judging her. The importance of birth control for female health and quality of life, added to the lack of healthcare facilities in rural areas, is brought sharply into focus with the death of Meena's pregnant friend. In a parallel track, city doctor Dr. Nasif (Imran Schafti) is broken by the corruption and commercialisation that lead to the death of a young mother at the private hospital he works in.

Like Meena, he finds quiet solace and strength from his supportive father, showing us that the Disney-style presentation of hope and humour captures our interest, while the makers add touches of stark realism to keep the messages about female health in focus. The makers have hit on a great formula that manages to entertain and inform without preaching.

### WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR (OR NOT)

**Kabhi Main Kabhi Ram** | ARY, Coming soon

Fahad Mustafa returns to our screens with Hania Amir in a whimsical, sentimental romcom for the much-anticipated serial, *Kabhi Main Kabhi Ram*, written by the queen of romantic fiction, Farhat Fahad. ■ — Sanaif Hashmi



### THIS WEEK ON SPOTIFY

#### TOP 10 PAKISTANI SONGS

S.R#	SONG	STREAMS
1	<i>Wishes</i> Hasan Raheem, Umair, Tahwinder	213,205
2	<i>Tu Hoi Kahani</i> AUR	152,833
3	<i>O Yaara</i> Abdul Hannan, Kaavish	144,853
4	<i>Come Through (feat. Abdullah Maharvi, Talha Anjum)</i> Umair, Abdullah Maharvi, Talha Anjum	141,163
5	<i>Sadqay</i> Aashir Wajahat, NAYEL, Nehaal Nasreen	124,728
6	<i>Bikra</i> Abdul Hannan, Rovvio	102,455
7	<i>Tera Mera Hai Pyar (From "Ishq Murshid")</i> Ahmed Jahazeb	87,452
8	<i>Long Time No See</i> Taimour Baig, Raffey Anwar, AUR	86,620
9	<i>Iraasday</i> Rovvio, Abdul Hannan	79,110
10	<i>Kahani Meri</i> Kaffi Khalil, Anmol Daniel	76,680

### FARNAZ AHMAD, FROM PAGE 1

required a manual in order to get assembled. I would see so many mismatched lines that would comprise of ten different pieces that the tailor would have to put together. Often, he would get them wrong.

"I wanted our collections to be simple, beautiful, fuss-free. I was never interested in coming up with a line that would be the same as that of many others in the market. It may have brought in the numbers temporarily but, then, I would have got stuck in a rut race, ensuring that my product sold, by bringing down prices and, also, lowering quality. Our fabric needed to reflect the Image signature."

The very first unstitched line — Lawakari — led to the creation of others. At this point, Image Fabrics introduces at least six unstitched collections every year. Ready-to-wear has similarly expanded, running the gamut from basic casuals to lightly embroidered day-wear to Western wear to formal evening-wear.

The recently launched Image Studio line is more high-end, utilising luxe fabrics and embroideries, and offering them at a lower price than the avant-garde that form fashion's top tier.

While the Image umbrella may have widened with more collections under Farnaz's watch, the brand is yet to have ventured into mega-stores — the sprawling, shiny stores packed with clothes and accessories, as well as Instagrammable corners that other high-end boutiques have been setting up across the country. Why not?

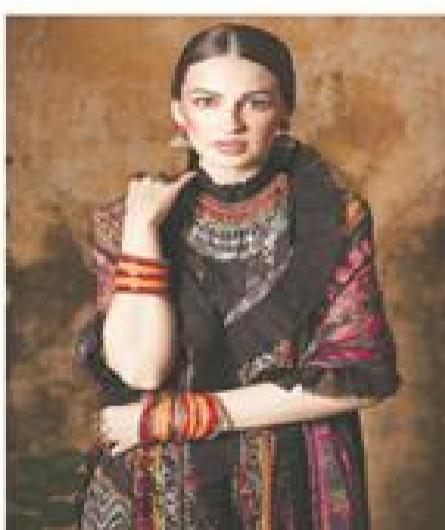
"Why should we?" counters Farnaz. "Ultimately, this is a business and we have to meet our bottom-line. Our stores need to be big enough to stock all our various lines, but that's all we need. It's very easy to get distracted by the media attention and opening a big store merely as a show of clout. It would lead to me opening an even bigger one and inevitably losing track of my expenses."

"A sprawling outlet is not important. What's important is that the customers enjoy the product they pick up. The store's ambience, courteous staff and efficient service help enhance their experience but that's all that is needed."

She continues. "In any other business, you could be thriving and no one would know. The downside to working in the fashion industry is that it's very easy to get dazzled by the glamour. There's a risk that your eyes won't stay on the ball and you'll start focusing on showmanship rather than on the brand."

"For me, it's always been important to keep the brand alive rather than push myself or my girls, as the face of the brand. It's essential to keep your feet on the ground."

There have been times, though, when the brand



has indeed put a tentative foot forward in the limelight, venturing on to the catwalks with shows in one of the Pakistan Fashion Design Council's (PFDC) fashion weeks in Lahore and then, in 2017, at the Ibra Showcase.

"We felt that it would work well for the brand," says Farnaz. "I remember at Ibra Showcase, most designers were leaning towards Western cuts and silhouettes. I was adamant that I wouldn't put forward a collection that didn't resonate with my brand's roots and my audience. We created a festive line, worked with gees, and it was very well-received."

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## ► THE ICON REVIEW

## ICON



Abhi was made over two long years and it shows. The problem with the film is... well... just about everything

# JOURNEY TO NOWHERE

By Mohammad Kamran Jawaid

**A**s much as it pains me to say this, *Abhi*, the long-gestating production starring Kubra Khan and Golbar Mumtaz that finally released this Eid-ul-Azha, should have stayed that way: partially complete and on the edit-table.

For producers, it would have been a great way to apply for a tax write-off and, for the audiences, the facade of a better film would have been maintained.

For almost the entire run-time of two hours and 20 minutes (give or take a few minutes), my eyes, ears and brain searched for the relevance of the title. Despite willy-nilly pronouncements of rising up for justice (Abhi means now, or right now), *Abhi*, the title, doesn't mean much... unless you count the fact that the lead character has a social media channel by the name of... yes, you guessed it, *Abhi*.

This is a channel we don't get to see anywhere in the film, by the way? That bin is thrown in as a passing dialogue and then relegated to oblivion... like every other bit of logic in the film.

Written by a bunch of people — the screenplay by Shoaib Rabbani, the concept and the story by Mumtaz, dialogues by Rabbani and Ali Majeed, and script consulting by Tariq Shoaib Mumtaz — the plot appears to have been thrown out of the window of a speeding train so that the story could be contorted to highlight the lead actor.

In case one is wondering, that actor is Mumtaz, who plays Hamza Ahmed, a youngster from Multanababud pining to be a pop-singer.

Hamza's wish becomes a young damsel-in-distress' command. This unknown damsel sprouts up to a car repair shop where Hamza assists his older brother Hassan (Safoora Sheikh), good enough, and demands safe asylum from three hoods who turn out to be his bodyguards.

The chief of her chasers is Marhoon Ahmad Bilal, putting up an effeminate persona for the sake of comedy that doesn't work. Bilal, by the way, disappears from the film after this scene.

The girl announces herself as Zara (Kubra Khan), a minister's daughter from Lahore visiting Multanababud, who takes an immediate liking to Hamza. By immediate, I mean, after a series of sniped scenes that fail to stir any notion of love and romance (the film is supposed to be a romance-drama).

Hamza masters up the courage to get his mom (Iffat Bayati) and brother's blessing, and travels to Lahore on Zara's belief that his singing prowess can make him big. That doesn't happen.

Hamza is booted out by the manager (Irfan Motiwali) of a five-star hotel after his first gig, when he professes to not know the words of *Musafir Badoush Hafiz*. The song had been requested by Zara's drunk, cigar-chomping minister dad and his other minister friends (Umar Peerozai, in a half-hearted performance, and Mahmood Aslam, wearing a bad moustache, respectively).

Despite being let go, Zara tells Hamza that he will get



another gig the next day at the very same hotel. The gig, she tells him, will be to sing at a birthday party — and no, you don't get points for deducing that it is Zara's own birthday. Oh, the singer! — but not the one, one is probably thinking of.

The party sequence starts with a brief exterior shot that leads to the song 'Pyar di nahe', which leads to two follow-up locations in a continuing sequence. In these scenes, we see Mumtaz's face, pat and hairstyle change so dramatically that one literally believes that there is a time-jump in the story.

But there are no time-jumps. The sequence had simply been shot in a span of years, not months, and that glaring fact alerts and attunes one's senses to look for other jumps in the physicality of actors.

One is not disappointed — though that disappointment pales in front of the film's actual big reveal.

As the song sequence ends, and romance tries to finally blossom (*it doeswala*), Hamza — a lone nobody from nowhere, and not the minister's good-looking doppelganger — is kidnapped by terrorists. Gasp!

This big twist (evident from the trailer) introduces haphazard, slapdash ideas about Indian terrorism, gopuram media crusades about saving a nobody (or Hamza), and Hamza's dad's backstory (the dad is played by Shahzad Nawaz, donning a low and heavy voice).

In this latter half of *Abhi*, many actors are disdained

into roles that mean nothing, nor give them room to do anything! Utterly wasted are the talents of Adnan Shah Tipu in a role of a mere few scenes and even fewer lines, and Hareem Farooq, an exceptional actress playing an unexceptional character who is visually impaired.

Farooq comes out of the blue in the story and is whisked off just as suddenly without intel ligence. She is not the only actor who is on the receiving end of weak characterisation though not bad acting, per se. That credit also goes to Kashif Javed, who plays a minor character named Salim that gets a generous amount of screen time to practically do nothing meaningful for the story. This, of course, is the screenplay's fault, and not the actor's.

Salim is the second officer to a slightly portly character named Salman (Sana Miraj Khan). Muhammad Adnan's son, and despite being blamed in the span of two years, Javed's look and gait remains as consistent as his performance. If anything, that commitment is applause-worthy.

The applause for consistency in performance also goes to *Abhi*'s director Asad Mumtaz (also known as Asad Malik and Asad Malik Mumtaz), who plays the role of a semi-bad terrorist from Pakistan's beautiful, barren South Waziristan region.

As an actor, Asad Mumtaz has been around since forever, though his recent claim to fame comes from the serial *Pyaar Ka Saavdhan*. Mumtaz is also an ace cinematographer

from television (one of his credits include the serial *AMT*). As *Abhi*'s cinematographer, Mumtaz's expertise with the camera lends a consistent "big-screen than look" to the scenes — though what good are the looks when scenes are noticeably chopped and forced-fit to create a hasty working narrative in the edit?

I think I don't have to extrapolate an answer.

*Abhi*'s problem is... well... just about everything. The soundtrack is okay-ish. With Golbar Mumtaz coming from a pop music background — he was the founding member of the phenomenal band *Jal* — delivering just an okay soundtrack is akin to a crime.

The technicalities are somewhat okay. The narrative, characters arcs, plot, sub-plots, conflicts, high-points, resolutions, acting are lack-laced and unconvincing.

At times, one sees neck-to-neck competition between Kubra Khan's surface-level performance of a bubbly, carefree yet serious girl, and Golbar Mumtaz's flat acting of a motionless character on a journey to nowhere.

That is one competition one shouldn't see, *now ever*.

*Released by Rham Films in association with Main-TS Films, Abhi is produced by Praveen Kennedy Productions & GM Productions. The film is rated (U) and is suitable for audiences of all ages., who can stomach half-baked films*

## ► WIDE ANGLE

# OUR RELATIONSHIP TO AI

Seventy years of AI on film tells us that the human relationship with artificial intelligence is as much fascination as it is fear

By Paula Murphy

**I**n 2024, AI is making headlines daily. We may be aware of the science, but how do we imagine AI and our relationship to it both now and in the future? Fortunately, film may provide us with some insights.

Probably the best-known AI in film is HAL 9000 from Stanley Kubrick's 2001: A Space Odyssey (1968). HAL is an artificially intelligent computer housed on board a spacecraft capable of interstellar travel.

The film was released less than a year before humans landed on the moon. And yet, even in this optimism about a new era of space travel, HAL's portrayal sounded a note of caution about artificial intelligence. His motivations are ambiguous, and he shows himself capable of turning against his human crew.

This 1960s classic demonstrates fears that are common throughout AI film history — that AIs cannot be trusted, that they will rebel against their human creators, and seek to overpower or overthrow us.

These fears are contextualised in different ways during different historical eras — in the 1950s they are associated with the Cold War, followed by the space race in the 1960s and 1970s. Then, in the 1980s, it was video-gaming and, in the 1990s, the internet. Despite these differing preoccupations, fear of AI remains remarkably consistent.

My latest research, which forms the backbone of my new book *AI in the Mirror*, explores how "strong" or "human-level" AI is depicted in film. I examined more than 50 films to see how they shed light on human attitudes to AI — how we interpret it and understand it through characters and



HAL, the merciful supercomputer AI from Stanley Kubrick's 2001: A Space Odyssey (1968) | TCD/Prod Off / Alamy

stories, and how attitudes have changed since AI's beginnings.

#### TYPES OF AIs

The idea of AI was born in 1956 at an American summer research project workshop at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire, where a group of academics gathered to brainstorm ideas around "thinking machines."

A mathematician called John McCarthy coined the name "artificial intelligence" and, just as soon as the new scientific field had a name, filmmakers were already imagining a human-like AI and what our relationship with it might be.

In the same year an AI, *Hobby the Robot*, appeared in the film *Forbidden Planet*, and returned the following year in 1957, in the film *The Invisible Boy*, to defeat another type of AI, this time an evil supercomputer.

The AI-as-adolescent-computer appeared again in 1968 as *Alpha 60*, in the chilling

dystopia of Jean-Luc Godard's *Alphaville*, and then in 1969 with Kubrick's memorable HAL in 2001: A Space Odyssey.

These early AI films set the template for what was to follow. There were AIs that had robot bodies and later robot bodies that looked human — the first of these appearing in *Westworld* in 1973, where a robot malfunction at a futuristic amusement park for adults creates chaos and terror. Then there were AIs that were digital, like the evil *Johova* in the 1977 horror *Demons Seed*, where a woman is impregnated by a supercomputer.

In the 1980s, digital AIs started to become connected to network computing — where computers "talked" to one another in an early incarnation of what would become the internet — like the one stumbled upon by Matthew Broderick's high-school student in *MacGyver* (1985), who almost accidentally starts a nuclear conflict.

From the 1990s, an AI could move

between digital and material realms. In the Japanese animation *Ghost in the Shell* (1995), the Puppet Master exists in the ebb and flow of the internet, but can inhabit "shell" bodies. Agent Smith in *The Matrix Revolutions* (2003), takes over a human body and materialises in the real world. In *Her* (2013), the AI operating system Samantha eventually moves beyond matter, beyond the "stuff" of human existence, becoming a post-material being.

#### MIRRORS, DOUBLES AND HYBRIDS

In the first few decades of AI film, AI characters mirrored the human characters. In *Collateral: The Forks Project* (1970), the AI supercomputer reflects and amplifies the investor's own arrogant overarching ambition.

In *Terminator 2: Judgment Day* (1991), Sarah Connor has become like the AI Skynet's Terminator herself: her strength is her美貌 and she hunts to kill.

By the 2000s, human-AI doubles began to overlap and merge into each other. In Spielberg's *AI: Artificial Intelligence* (2001), the AI "son" David looks just like a real boy, whereas the real son Martin comes home from hospital connected to tubes and wires that make him look like a cyborg.

In *AI Machine* (2004), the human Caleb tests the AI robot Ava, but ends up questioning his own humanness, examining his eyeball for digital traces and cutting his skin to ensure that he bleeds.

In the past 25 years of AI film, the borders between human and AI, digital and material have become porous, emphasising the fluid and hybrid nature of AI creations. And in the films *In The Machine* (2013), *Transcendence* (2014) and *Chappie* (2015), the boundary between human and AI is eroded almost to the point of non-existence.

These films present scenarios of unhumanism — in which humans can evolve beyond their current physical and mental constraints by harnessing the power of artificial intelligence to upload the human mind.

Although these stories are imaginary and their characters fictional, they vividly depict our fascinations and fears. We are afraid of artificial intelligence and that fear never goes away in film, although it has been questioned more in recent decades, and more positive portrayals can be observed, such as the little trash-collecting robot in *Wall-E*.

But mostly we are afraid that they will become too powerful, and will seek to become our masters. Or we fear they may be hiding among us, and that we might not recognise them.

But at times, too, we feel sympathy towards them: AI characters in films can be pitiful figures who wish to be accepted by humans but never will be. We are also jealous of them — of their intellectual capacity, their physical robustness and the fact that they do not experience human death.

Surrounding this fear and envy is a fascination with AIs that is present throughout film history — we see ourselves in AI creations and project our emotions on to them.

At times, enemies of humans, at times uncanny mirrors, and sometimes even human-AI hybrids, the past 70 years of films about AI demonstrate the inextricably intertwined nature of human-AI relationships.

The writer is an Assistant Professor at the School of English at Dublin City University 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



PHOTOGRAPH BY SABRINA KHAN

**K**arachi 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.

Equally 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 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) plan, including the circular railway for Karachi, is Rs 520.6 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.**

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 lobby. 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 footpath either do not exist or are in a bad state of repair, or are encroached upon by billboards, ad-hoc trees, and disorganized spaces for hawkers. Therefore, it is safe to say that the vision for Karachi should be for a pedestrian and consumer-friendly city.

Women especially feel 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-defined pavements and benches for waiting and clean toilets, they can be increased both in number and length.

This is especially true of inner-city areas and streets leading to Shar-e-Faisal and Nazimuddin Avenue. This will not only reduce the cost in 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 forgo 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 from 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

**KARACHI DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2047, PAGE 2**

# 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 counted.

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 119 billion per year as retailers. This does not include the supply and manufacturing chain, 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 built 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.

Bazar (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 large 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 incomes 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 grocery (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 as 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 Research Centre (KURC), 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 | A.E.P.

schools for children. The other option is to buy or rent in a multi-storey karbi 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 payment (goodwill money) and in instalments.

All low-income areas in the city have doctors but surveys suggest that they are "spastic." 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 medicines, 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 houses, 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.

IRC 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 parks, even in karbi 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 seafront and beaches of Karachi are being consumed by real estate developers and the military authorities for their amorous 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 Defense 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 damaged 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 Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's time, an Urban Metropolitan Training Centre was established to carry out research and training of bureaucrats and managing councils, to relate policy and its implementation to ground realities. There was also a very active Karachi Development Authority (KDA) Masterplan Group of Offices that covered 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 NED Urban 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 prime 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 DART stopped? What is the Kirthar National Park? And should 6,000 acres of land along the coast be handed over through the Defense 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 policies. 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. ■



Stalls set up on Mir Karim 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

The writer is an architect and urban planner. He can be reached at arifjahan.17@gmail.com or www.arifjahan.org

## ► NEIGHBOURS

# SO, WHAT HAPPENS TO HINDUTVA NOW?

It is not easy to undo deep polarisation introduced into society due to organised hatred

By Ram Puniyani

**T**he failure of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to get past the 272 majority mark has brought back the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) into the forefront.

While Atal Bihari Vajpayee came to power and led the NDA government in 1998, there was a strong imprint of the BJP's policies in the government.

Among other things which were part of the Hindutva agenda at that time was the appointment of the Venkateshwaran Commission to review the constitution, and the sanitisation of the textbooks and introduction of courses in astrology and Purushayoga [rituals] in the curriculum.

Twice, in 2014 and 2019, Modi came to power as the NDA, but as the BJP on its own had an overwhelming majority, the other components of the government were on a 'silent mode' and the BJP aggressively launched its Hindu nationalist agenda, which included the building of the Ram Temple and the reading down of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir.

In addition, people who were referred to as "fringe elements" killed Muslims and Dalits on the pretext of beef and gave the bogey of "love jihad" a free hand, enjoying impunity from the state.

The other authoritarian streaks of the Modi government, including the subordination of constitutional institutions, gained prominence, along with the conversion of mainstream media into 'Godji' media.

All this woke the opposition to up and come together as INDIA (Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance). Despite this formation coming into being, Modi and the BJP carried their election propaganda around an anti-Muslim rhetoric.

The campaign began with calling the Congress manifesto an imprint of the Muslim League. Most other slogans and promises of Congress were turned into something anti-Hindu and intended solely for Muslims. The prime minister called Muslims 'gharwaavie' [infiltrators] and a community that "had many children." Modi's propaganda reached a new

low when he said Congress will do major damage which emerged during Mughal rule for them.

The system has been so biased that names of many Muslims did not find place in electoral rolls and, at election booths, many Muslims were turned away by the police. Muslims have been effectively turned into second-class citizens and have been made politically invisible. All this intensifies the prevalent hate against this hapless community.

As the BJP failed to reach the propagated "400 plus" for NDA and more than 320 for BJP, there was a big sigh of relief in the community. As the results came and Modi declared himself the next prime minister, he toned down his language to recall "sarve bhavar namoham" [equal respect for all religions]. That this was peak hypocrisy in the light of what happened to minorities during the last 10 years does not bear mention.

## WHAT IS IN STORE FOR MINORITIES IN THE TIMES TO COME?

The impunity enjoyed by fringe elements may be slightly curtailed. This, though, is a big if, as they are well-rooted in the system. Whether allies like Nitish Kumar and Chandrababu Naidu will be able to raise their voice against this mounted anti-Muslim violence is yet to be seen. How effective they can be against the strong-arm tactics of the Modi party, only time will tell. The base spread by the Hindutva movement is so widespread that it may not be easy to curb it.

It is likely that the third pillar of Hindutva politics, the Uniform Civil Code, may be deferred. The Citizenship Amendment Act, which discriminates against Muslims, is like a hanging sword and time alone will tell us how much pressure the BJP will put to implement it.

Surely, after the remarkable Shaheen Bagh movement, the BJP will not insist on it, unless they feel that they can bulldoze their way despite Naidu and Nitish, who are more tactical in these matters. Note that Naidu has not moved from his 'reservation for Muslims' plank.

The other major issue of caste census, to which the BJP is opposed, may have to



A sea of saffron-coloured turbans at a Hindutva rally in India | Reuters/File photo

be rethought, as it was Nitish, as the chief minister of Bihar, who initiated it.

There is a strong national sentiment for it and there are few buyers for Modi's propaganda that the NDA alliance will remove the reservations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes and give them to Muslims.

What can we expect about Muslims' social, political and economic conditions? The hate spread against this community by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and BJP combine has sunk deep into social thinking. Anti-Muslim thinking has become part of the perception of a large section of the society.

The consistent work of the RSS and BJP is made easier by changes in textbooks, the role of media and the word of mouth.

These myths and misconceptions are the solid pillars on which hate is constructed,

and violence and subsequent polarisation brought in. While the role of RSS in the 2024 elections needs further analysis, it is their machinations which keep the base against Muslims and Christians alive.

Interestingly, the number of RSS akharas [Hindu theological schools] during Modi rule has more than doubled. In a state like Odisha, where the Kandhamal violence took place and Photor Stalin was burnt alive, the BJP is now in power again.

While in Kerala, BJP did win over a section of Christians for various reasons, nationally, Christians too are a target of Hindu nationalist politics, as seen by the rising sub-radar attacks on prayer meetings of Christians.

All said and done, the marginalisation of Muslims will continue. It is not easy to undo the deep polarisation introduced into society due to the work done by this organisation.

What RSS has been doing was well diagnosed by our first home minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, when he wrote after banning RSS in 1948: "All their speeches were full of communal poison, as a result of the poison, the country had to suffer the sacrifice of [the] invaluable life of Gandhi."

This aspect of our political life was not curtailed and it grew into a multi-headed hydra, using every opportunity to intensify the religious division of the society. We cannot build the India of the dreams of our freedom fighters without undoing the massive hate which grips social understanding. \*

Ram Puniyani is president of the Centre for Study of Society and Secularism in Mumbai, India

By arrangement with The Wire

## ► HEALTH

# IS YOGA ALL IT'S CRACKED UP TO BE?

The ancient practice of yoga is a worldwide phenomenon due to its many touted mental and physical health benefits. But do these claims stand up to scientific scrutiny?

By Taha Ali

**I**nternational Day of Yoga is celebrated worldwide on June 21, in 2018, when this was first commemorated, some 26,000 enthusiasts — including the Indian prime minister, Narendra Modi, and dignitaries from 84 countries — lined up in New Delhi, for the world's largest yoga session.

Sessions were also held on the bank of the River Thames in London and under the Eiffel Tower in Paris. Last year, Modi led a yoga session at the UN headquarters in New York. Also last year, the Indian city of Surat hosted the world's largest yoga session, with over 150,000 participants.

Yoga has thoroughly permeated global consumer culture and everyday news ranges from the glamorous to the absurd. The Louvre has announced yoga classes for visitors to coincide with the Olympics in Paris in June. Italy recently banned "puppy yoga", saying only adult dogs could participate, for reasons of animal welfare.

## UNIVERSAL APPEAL

According to one estimate, some 300 million people practise yoga worldwide. Yoga has also made significant inroads in Pakistan over the last decade. A quick search in major cities reveals an abundance of programmes and studios.

Many of these options are backed up with glossy Instagram feeds of models, twisting their bodies into the trademark poses, once so fantastical but now entirely familiar. In May, Islamabad's Capital Development Authority launched complimentary classes for residents in the F-9 Park.

But beyond the glamour and buzz, the average person has questions: what is all this hype about? How is yoga different from other fitness routines? Is it actually something special?

## FROM THE SCIENTIFIC LENS

Some of yoga's scientifically documented benefits are only to be expected: studies show that yoga significantly improves flexibility; it helps combat asthma; yoga is effective against carpal tunnel syndrome; it eases chronic lower-back pain; and it seems to be a promising aid in weight loss.

Yoga has a pronounced meditation component, and studies show significant stress reduction, which can have cascading effects on reducing risk of heart attacks, strokes, chronic disease, etc.

But when one starts to delve deeper, things get interesting fast.

Consider an early and intriguing study from



Residents of Islamabad take part in a free yoga class at the F-9 park in the federal capital | CDA Islamabad

Duke University, which compared health benefits of yoga with aerobics for almost a hundred adults.

At the time of the study, in 1989, the magical secret to fitness was to increase one's maximal oxygen uptake, the VO2 max, in the maximum volume of oxygen consumed during rigorous exercise. Decades of science and research demonstrated that aerobic exercise did precisely that, making it the dominant fitness paradigm of the era. The study results were also very clear: over the four-month study period, subjects participating in aerobics raised their VO2 max significantly. There was no increase for the yogis at all.

However, when researchers surveyed participants' quality of life, the response was overwhelmingly positive for both groups.

At the end of the study, yogis also felt healthier, they reported higher energy levels, endurance, flexibility and better sleep. Their social lives improved markedly. Memory and concentration were enhanced. They had less loneliness, improved self-confidence and life satisfaction. They even felt that they looked better.

## THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH?

The literature on yoga abounds with counterintuitive findings like these. Another fascinating study from 2008 confronts the popular claim that yoga is restorative

and anti-ageing. Could yoga really play a role in human longevity?

Biological ageing is linked to telomeres, which are DNA strands at the very tips of chromosomes. Every time a cell divides, these tips get shorter, marking them kind of clock, indicating the cell's lifespan. This discovery — an alternative way of counting biological age — was significant enough to secure the Nobel Prize.

In their study, researchers investigated a group of 20 men with low-risk cancer and introduced "comprehensive" lifestyle changes for them, including a low-fat diet, a walking routine, and "yoga-based stretching, breathing and meditation."

After three months, they reported substantial health improvements, including decreased blood pressure, cholesterol, body mass index, etc. The researchers also discovered that telomerase activity — the enzyme that counteracts the shortening of telomeres — increased by 30 percent.

A follow-up study five years later, featuring 10 of the same subjects, confirmed significant increases in telomere length.

The authors noted the potential of these findings for cellular longevity, tissue renewal, disease prevention, and "increases in life span." Even in the understated language of science, this is bold new fountain-of-youth territory.

**AN AURA OF SPIRITUALITY**

Yoga has always had this mystique, a touch of the exotic and the supernatural.

In 1945, B.K.S. Iyengar — the man who did more than any other to popularise yoga in the West — wrote in his seminal book, *Light on Yoga*, how this practice can bring one "to the cruxes of his destiny."

I remember coming across an old book, in a library overseas, with the intriguing title *Christian Yoga*. Written in the 1960s by a French priest, J.M. Deuchars, the book was an intricate and inspiring memoir of his experiment to reconcile yoga with the Christian tradition.

Early in the book, he notes that reading the Bible made the contemplative lives of prophets seem distant from our noisy modern existence. Later, he realises that practising yoga, surprisingly, allowed him to experience, to an extent, the serenity he'd read about.

These are very interesting claims. We see a faint reflection of these in the science. For instance, a review paper surveying some 20 studies finds that "yoga may be positively associated with several aspects of spirituality."

In his book, *A Life Worth Living*, author Mac Stone describes a complaint that many of us will find familiar: "In the morning I can't wake up, in the day I am bored, in the evening I am tired, and at night I can't sleep."

"Yoga can be a wonderful antidote. Even a

few weeks of practice are enough to realise that yoga facilitates a contemplative state.

Multiple surveys, from different countries, find that, whereas most people start yoga for its physical benefits, a large number end up maintaining the practice, primarily for its spiritual side-effects.

## MORE STRENDOUS THAN SPORTS?

However, for those who may be motivated to jump on a mat right away, it is important to sound a note of caution. The good news is that injuries on yoga are largely reassuring: the rate is low.

A Danish study of almost 3,500 participants reported an injury prevalence of one percent for yoga. To get a sense of comparison, this figure was 38 percent for soccer players, 19 percent for runners and nine percent for those undertaking strength training. However, the bad news is that there are abundant accounts of injuries and harm.

Journalist William Broad, author of the highly recommended book *The Science of Yoga*, comments that "[yoga] makes most other sports and exercises seem like child's play."

There are reports of students pushing their bodies beyond their limits to achieve challenging poses, resulting in torn tendons, popped ribs and blood clots. When one digs into these incidents, two main reasons pop out.

One is basic common sense: a wide-ranging survey of yoga teachers, therapists and clinicians finds that the most commonly cited culprit were "poor technique or alignment, previous injury, excess effort, and improper or inadequate instruction."

The second reason behind injuries is more serious and more subtle: ego. Some people tend to bring a materialist and competitive drive to yoga and push themselves into advanced poses, out of a sense of achievement. But the pose should always be part of the journey and not the goal. It is vital to listen to the body intuitively.

To quote author Mac Stone again regarding yoga's transformative magic: "Remember, it doesn't matter how deep into a posture you go — what does matter is who you are when you get there."

Like most quotes on yoga, this, too, can be maddeningly cryptic for an outsider. At the end of the day, the secret of yoga cannot really be explained. Like many of the truly good things in life, it can only be experienced. \*

The writer teaches at the NUST School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Islamabad. He can be reached at [sabirali@gmail.com](mailto:sabirali@gmail.com)

## ► BOXING

Nineteen-year-old Malaika Zahid is the first woman boxer from Balochistan and already a five-time national champion. She has her sights set on a very long career...

# MALAIKA OF THE RING

By Shazia Hasan

**W**hen she was younger, sporty Malaika Zahid from Quetta was very much into climbing trees, scaling walls, cricket and football. But, knowing how much her father loved boxing, she became totally drawn into that sport.

Then she got so involved in boxing that it was only a matter of time before she ditched everything else, except for her education. "I used to see how excited Baba would be when watching boxing matches on his mobile phone," Malaika, 19, now, tells *Dawn*. "I would also be by his side, watching the bouts with him."

Sowing her enthusiasm for boxing prompted her father to take her to a boxing club, despite her mother's reluctance, fearing her daughter might break her nose or scar her face. The Aina Mohammad Club was run by Malaika's father's friend Aina Mohammad Kakar, and it was a boxing club for boys. Malaika at nine became the only girl throwing punches there.

"No girl in Balochistan was interested in boxing other than me," she says. "In fact, I am the first woman boxer from Balochistan. So, as a kid, while I practised at the club, my father used to make sure he was there the entire time. He would sit there watching the practice for hours."

"And my poor mother, well she would be home praying for my safety. I did get punched in the face and everywhere. But, quite frankly, I'm used to taking punches. It doesn't bother me; it is all part of this sport."

Obviously, Malaika's mother does not share Malaika's enthusiasm about such matters.

"Moving on from the initial stages of my practice, my mother has become worse — now she fears on the day that I fight," Malaika laughs. "Still, like Baba, Mama also supports me with all her heart and wants me to follow my dreams," the five-time national women's boxing champion adds.

"My parents' support has made me thick-skinned. Earlier, when other girls used to stare at me and comment on my boxing, Baba used to tell me not to pay attention to them. I have also stopped bothering about people staring at me or talking about me now. Their comments don't matter. I matter. Nothing should stand in the way of my becoming the top female boxer in the country and beyond," she says.

Such is Malaika's dedication to the sport that when her long hair was coming in the way of her sport, she had it cut short. "Baba supported me there as well," she says.

One of Muhammad Zahid's three daughters and one son, Malaika was the only one to get into boxing. "My sisters are both younger than me and they are not



Malaika Zahid (left) in action

interested in sports," she says. "My brother is older than me by a year. Earlier, he did accompany me to the boxing club, sometimes, but he enjoys the sport too. He is far more interested in trains and in his studies."

"Actually, he has also inherited this interest from our father, as Baba serves in the Railways Police," she states, adding that she has also not given up on her education for the love of boxing:

"Education is one thing our parents have always stressed on. I just completed my first year of pre-engineering," she says.

Meanwhile, her boxing accolades continue to pile up. They include many titles, such as national gold medalist (several times), provincial gold medalist twice, All Balochistan gold medalist six times, Millennium Best Child Award (three), PC Operational Excellence awards, other excellence awards, youth awards and best female player awards.

Malaika's boxing has also landed her a contract with the Pakistan Army. "I feel very proud to be representing the Army. It has a good sports department. Earlier, I was too young to get a permanent job with

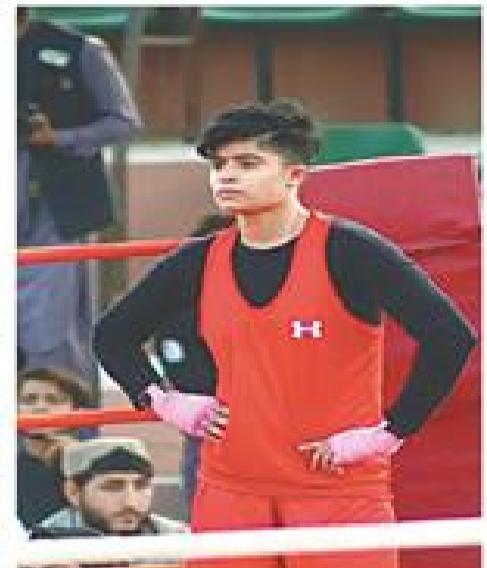
the Army but, now that I'm 19, I hope to be made permanent. Then I will also get an Army uniform," she says proudly.

She also feels happy to represent Balochistan during the annual National Boxing Championships and is a five-time national champion. "I have remained unbeaten for the past five years in my flyweight category," she says, adding that she has thus far only represented Pakistan once internationally. That was in the Asian Youth & Boxing Championship in Jordan in 2022, where she lost at the quarter-final stage.

"Had I reached the semi-finals, I would have earned a bronze medal for Pakistan," she says.

Asked if she is supposed to wear shorts and a vest when competing abroad, Malaika says that there are no restrictions as far as sports gear is concerned. "Muslim girls are allowed to wear tights under the shorts and also wear an undershirt inside the vest. The gloves and the head guards we all wear. So we all look like boxes," she laughs.

Malaika says that she has so far beaten all the female boxers in the country, including the Hamra



The teenage boxer in deep thought

girls from Balochistan and the Lyari girls from Karachi, so there is no woman boxer in particular here whom she looks up to. She is a fan of Pakistan's Mohammad Wasim though.

"Before you say I'm being biased because he also hails from my city Quetta, I'll tell you that I like his quick style in the ring," she says.

"My family may have settled in Quetta because my paternal grandfather was posted here, but we are originally from Azad Kashmir. We still go there to stay with relatives during holidays," she states.

Coming to her international boxing favourites, she brings up the professional American boxers Ryan Garcia and 'Tank' or Gervonta Davis. "Tank has recently also converted to Islam," she informs me.

When asked about her future, she gets a dreamy look in her eyes. "There is so much to do. I want to turn professional too, one day. But before that, there are the Olympics, the Asian Games and the Commonwealth Games..." ■

The writer is a member of staff. X: @ShaziaHasan

## ► CULTURE

# THE SONGS OF BALOCH WOMEN

A new breed of female Baloch musicians, buoyed by the success of their male counterparts, is keen to revitalise Balochi music through fusion

By Somaiyah Hafeez

**I**t's a sight to behold — a Baloch woman, attired in the traditional purple tan ankle-length embroidered dress, often with hand-woven threads — and wearing the black Baloch *chador* — with stripes of red, yellow, blue and white — as a turban, while strumming a guitar as she sings.

These are visuals from the music video, *Mehe Owhid*, sung by Pari Zafar and Mahsuk Dad.

The 23-year-old Pari, who hails from the small town of Panjgur in Balochistan's west, wanted to be a rock star since childhood. But when she shared her dream with those around her, she was mocked and ridiculed.

That was a long time ago. Now, when one sees Pari perform in her unique attire and style, one's gaze comes to mind: rock star.

## RETURNING TO THE ROOTS

Like many youngsters across Pakistan, Pari grew up listening mostly to Western music, instead of traditional Balochi music. She wants to change this by promoting Balochi music among the newer generation.

In her attempt to make the music popular and accessible, while also promoting the Balochi language, she has been working on fusion music. Her journey hasn't been without obstacles. While her father has become supportive over the years, initially he was reluctant.

"I still remember buying my first guitar by saving my pocket money," she tells *Dawn*. "I would then practise in my room late at night, when everyone slept."

Although Pari says she had no female Balochi singer to look up to as a role model, Baloch women have always held an integral role in Balochi music in professional and non-professional roles.

Over a popular folk song sung for the mother and the newborn after childbirth, success in today's song for the bride and bridegroom, halo (wedding song), mard (mourning song) and rabiwi (classical song of separation) are some forms of Balochi music, which have been historically sung by Balochi women, both in private and professional gatherings.

However, over time, the art of singing for Balochi women professionally has become an act of defiance. The women who brought glory to Balochi music have been erased from history books. Ask any Balochi music aficionado to name female singers in the language, and he or she would find it hard to provide more than a few names.

## A FORGOTTEN ART

This is despite music and singing playing a

vital role in Balochi society and culture. Just like minstrels in medieval Europe and bards in Celtic culture, Balochi had *pahwans* (singer of classical poetry).

These *pahwans* served as custodians of storytelling and culture, reciting and performing key events from Balochi history, explains Prof Sabir Badal Khan, who has written extensively on Balochi music, especially on *talbloo*.

The tradition of singing among Baloch women — similar to that of the *pahwans* — is an ancient as the art form itself.

In his essay on *talbloo*, Prof Khan mentions that, according to Baloch poet and historian Gul Khan Naseer, *talbloo* were originally composed by Baloch women. The women sang *talbloo* for their menfolk, who were away from home for various reasons, such as wars or business or in search of pasture land.

## THE CLASS CEILING

The essay states that the best known non-professional female singers of *talbloo* in Makran belonged to a low social class called *mard* (maid-servant), who had to perform housework for a family.

These *mard*'s were mainly from low social classes, probably descendants of former slaves of African origin; however, such domestic servants also came from other low social groups. (The Baloch believe that God endowed them with sweet voices, which, under the burden of heavy tasks, allowed them to sing naturally, expressing the whole picture of their suffering and hard life.) It reads.

Baloch women from other socio-economic backgrounds too sang *talbloo* while performing daily tasks, such as grinding grain. "The melodies of the *talbloo* were said to follow the movements of the hand-millstone," Prof Khan writes in his essay.

The essay adds that other forms of dancing and singing were said and still are deemed appropriate for women from lower socio-economic backgrounds in Balochi society. For a long time, music has been considered as a profession fit only for the economically vulnerable strata of Baloch society — both *pahwans* and *mard* (professional female singers who usually perform at weddings) came from the same segment.

"Those from the upper class would write poetry, which was seen as a sign of intellect, but if they wanted to sing or if they were called *pahwan*, it was looked down upon and considered an insult. Even if a man from an upper social class wanted to play a musical instrument, it was looked down upon," Prof Khan tells *Dawn*.

## DEFYING THE ODDS

Although such taboos around singing still exist, Baloch men have been emancipated from the restriction; one of the most renowned Baloch singers, Noor Khan Bizenjo, belonged to the well-off Bizenjo tribe.

For Baloch women, though, gender discrimination has replaced class restrictions, which is being challenged by singers such as Pari Zafar, Ishaq B, Uzma Hayat and others.

While more Baloch girls are defying the odds to record music, there are concerns that certain traditions that are centuries old might be at risk of being forgotten altogether, such as that of *sawti*. *Sawti* are invited to sing in wedding functions and other women accompany them in chorus, especially for *wedda*.

One such *sawti* is Hiba Zarina, 20, from Turbat. "I started singing at weddings professionally when I was 40," Zarina tells *Dawn* in a phone interview. She says this despite the resistance from her brother, who is a religious teacher.

"He told me it is *haram* (forbidden) and that I would be punished in the afterlife," she says. She says the thought is scary but she finds solace in the fact that, when women sing on happy occasions like births and weddings, it brings joy to those in attendance.

## PLUNGED INTO DARKNESS'

During his fieldwork on Baloch oral tradition in the early 1990s, Prof Khan noticed that professional Baloch female singers had almost become non-existent, especially in the gatherings of men, which was not the case before.

This "drastic change, like an earthquake that plunged us into darkness" happened overnight, he says, citing increasing religiosity as a result of the war in Afghanistan and the revolution in Iran.

"I was able to record one *sawti*, famously known as Sharmin or Sharzaan. She had a hypnotic voice. I later heard that she was unfortunately beaten and tortured for her singing," he tells *Dawn*.

Before this, especially in the 1980s, cassette shops in Lyari would be brimming with customers, seeking to buy recordings of female Balochi singers.

## TURNING A CORNER

One singer who was able to garner an audience for herself is Samina Karwal, a Hazara Baloch singer, whose career debut coincided with the launch of a regional language state-channel, PTV Baloch, in 2005.

"When I performed on PTV Baloch, everyone in Balochistan loved my singing," she told *Dawn* in a phone interview from Nasirabad. She even took part in special transmissions and also once performed at the presidential palace.



Balochi singer Pari Zafar during a performance | Courtesy Pari Zafar

But it wasn't all smooth sailing for her.

Despite growing up in a family of musicians — both her parents were professional singers — she was stopped from pursuing music by her father, who married her off while she was only 14.

Luckily, her husband supported her passion and even accompanied her to shows and recordings.

"After my husband's death, singing turned into my main source of income and helped

me take on the responsibility of my children as their mother and father," she continues.

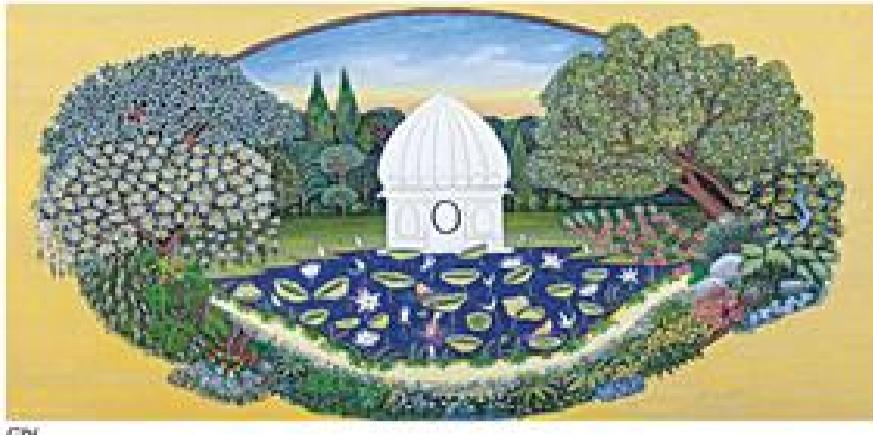
She believes there are fewer restrictions now on women who want to take up singing professionally.

She is confident that her 16-year-old daughter, currently training to be a musician, would soon make her debut and contribute to the revival of Balochi women singers. ■

The writer is a freelance journalist. X: @SomaiyahHafeez

## ► EXHIBITION

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



CHI

# HALLOWED GROUND

By Amna Nizar

**S**ayeda M Habib's latest exhibition, 'Mifl', displayed at Canvas Gallery in Karachi, is an explosion of the interconnectedness between the spiritual and the terrestrial, serving as an endeavor that melds ancient wisdom with contemporary artistic expression.

The series encapsulates Habib's philosophical engagement with the natural world, reflecting her reverence for *mirl* (earth) as both a material and a metaphor for creation and existence. The central ethos of the exhibition is underpinned by a verse from Surat al-Anam 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 materials' 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 celestial Kaaba 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 lines, 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 A/W* delve into the metaphysical realm of the hidden, or *barrin*. 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. ■

'Mifl' 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 multipurpose 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 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 *anathematotheolder* systems of community-based learning. The Greeks discussed philosophy in the Agora — a marketplace. Such 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 Firdaus Hall library is situated in a large garden and part of a magnificent community hall. On a more intimate scale is the Khaliqdin 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 spelling 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 durriyakazi2018@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

**I**n November 1979, around 600 armed men seized the Grand Mosque in Mecca. The group was led by Juhayman al-Otaybi, 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.

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

The archaeologist Sam Chalil calls such delusions the 'bullets to water belief complex.' This 'complex' has been rather common among African tribes. According to Chalil, during uprisings against European colonials 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 Nunn 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.



Nunn 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 1851 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 Nazism, 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-climactic 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 reinforce his messianic connection with his supporters.

Khan's bulletproof image is as symbolic as Modi's was. Khan's most recent 'enemy', the military establishment, tried to spot 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! ■



## ► 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 Bahar**  
By Mahmood Shaam  
Altanta Publications  
ISBN: 978-996-601-512-3  
860pp.

Reviewed by Waqas Ali

**A**utobiographies 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.

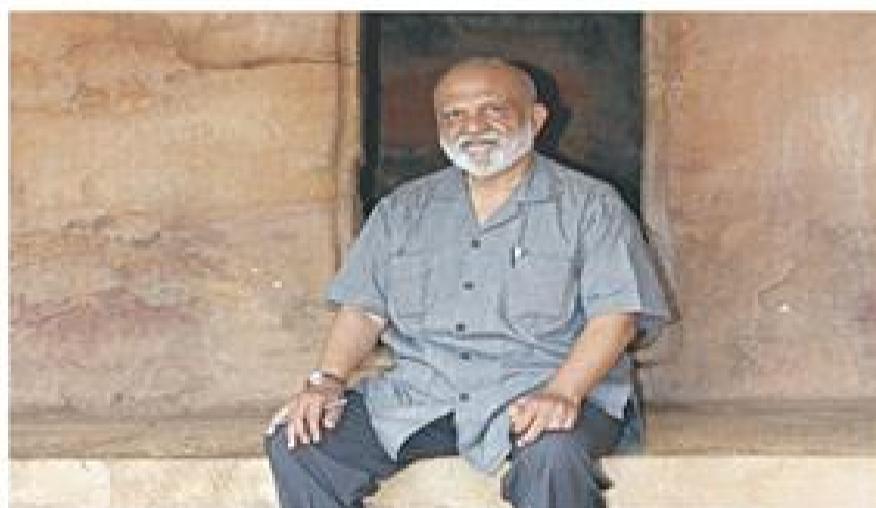
Titled *Shaam Bahar*, this voluminous book of more than 800 pages tries to capture 80 years of Shaam's life. It begins with him saying in the first few pages that he finds nothing beautiful in his childhood, which 'normally' is a joyous and beautiful time in one's life. But that is understandable in 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 shots 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

Urdu 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 polarization in society. Furthermore, all of these 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 barring 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 Qaumi Movement (MQM) and its leader Altaf 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 unusable 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 Mohammad Ali Jinnah's mausoleum on September 11, 1971. During the speech Mr Bhutto is quoted as saying: "Ar mere Quaid, hum se jannat ki rast kab khun hoga? Humko Quaid, kya aap ne Pakistan ki life bana kar le le jannat kahan par hukoomat kar rahe hain? [O my leader, when will the right 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 foremost, despite the fact that Shaam criticizes 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 hampered democracy and hampered progress in this country and have pushed society to extremism, violence and poverty, among multiple other menace.

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: @WaqasURRajput*

## ► 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: 978-1623711054  
234pp.

Reviewed by Sara Daniel

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

It is a fast-paced, unearthened 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 insurgents. At the same time, it is a reflection of stark themes such as remorse and alienation, occasionally peppered with humour and sarcasm.

The vivid description 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 tense 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 novel begins with Adam Elsawy, a name given to him by his Egyptian parents, to integrate religious elements into English culture after immigrating to the UK. After his father gets into a fight with some skinheads who call him a "Shirk Al-Shariah", 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 narration 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 (friendly called Mamu) — 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 perilous 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-old, 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 psychiatry, 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 Belt 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**

## ► FICTION

An anthology of Qurratulain Hyder's selected works translated in English is a good introduction to the doyenne of Urdu literature for the present generation

# The selected Hyder



**At Home in India: Stories, Memoirs, Portraits, Interviews**  
By Qurratulain Hyder  
Edited and translated by Fatima Rizvi and Sufia Kidwai  
Women Unlimited  
ISBN: 978-93-85606-44-1  
446pp.

Reviewed by Rehana Alam

In Urdu literature, the name of Qurratulain Hyder is so lofty that an anthology of her works is bound to garner interest. Fatima Rizvi and Sufia Kidwai, editors and translators of *At Home in India*, are academics in Lucknow. For the English-language reader who has been unacquainted with the works of Hyder, the anthology they have compiled provides a good introduction to the author and her life and times.

*At Home in India* is divided into four parts: Stories, Memoirs, Portraits, and Interviews. The first section opens with 'Sherbet Wall Gali' (Sherbet Street) a simple story peopled by one-dimensional characters. 'The Secretary', the second story, has more depth. It revolves around a civil servant who deals with old age, widowhood, and the loss of her son by hiring good-looking secretaries. A Western backpacker is the hero of 'Aavargard' (Wanderer) who, like many others of his ilk,ough it out as he travels the world. 'Kasoor-e-Harmayn Ha' (The View Is Within) is an engaging tale about a

schewing woman who becomes the recipient of karmaic justice.

The last and longest story in this section is 'Naseebat' (Exile). This is a thought-provoking narrative about belonging. Hyder, who has translated it into English herself, calls it a prose novel. According to her, the vagueness of historical events such as Partition make people view themselves and others differently. She points out that, "We are condemned to live within the walls of our own skulls."

The second section of the book, Memoirs, contains two accounts of Hyder's childhood, 'Dalmatali' and 'Augusat Ki Daryay' (The World of Fireflies), and then long excerpts from 'Kasoor-e-Jahan Daraz Ha' (The Cosmic Arc Is Long), which is an autobiographical non-fiction novel. 'Dalmatali' has been written from the point of view of the child that the author must have been when the grandmother was familiar but the radio was still considered an innovation.

'Augusat Ki Daryay' creates the uncomplicated world of a happy childhood. The author thrives as she spends her vacation with a bevy of cousins. But that time, when everything is fun and attainable, is as fleeting as youth itself.

The passages from 'Kasoor-e-Jahan Daraz Ha', when taken as a whole, paint a comprehensive picture of Qurratulain Hyder's antecedents and achievements. Her maternal and paternal families were landowners from Uttar Pradesh (UP) for whom education for both genders was of supreme importance. Hyder's father, Sajjad Hyder Vikiyan, was the registrar at Aligarh Muslim University and was well-known as a writer and poet. Her mother, Nazar Sajjad Hyder, was a novelist, short story writer and committed feminist.

Nazar Sajjad Hyder came from a devout Shia family. The traditions of Ahl-i-Bait, as practised by her folks, were upheld annually. In relating these customs, the text is peppered by a lot of names, even famous ones, and the ramifications of familial relationships. Rather than become overwhelmed by this barrage of personalities and titles, it is advisable to let the feel of a bygone era wash over one and be entertained by the obvious eccentricities and quaint customs.

The advent of Qurratulain Hyder's writing career and the death of her father are all part of the emerges from 'Kasoor-e-Jahan Daraz Ha', as in her process of choosing a university. She disappointed of Aligarh Muslim University because women could not attend lectures with male students, except from behind a curtain. The University of Delhi she labelled as boring. She finally settled on the University of Lucknow for herself.

## CONTINUATIONS

### THE BRUTAL COST OF WAR, PAGE 06

car explosion.

In the midst of a hospital under chaotic attack, Luke narrowly avoids being shot by an assassin. He encounters Max, who has taken over the care of the hospital in Hyakim's absence and is commanding the hospital with his men. Max establishes a command centre in the hospital, forcing the medical team to stay while promising to protect them and organise resources for their survival.

Luke envisions a daring plan to raise awareness of their captive situation by contacting the media. Fearing uncertainty and danger, they negotiate with the attackers to secure a ceasefire. Max suggests a bold approach, involving threats of NATO strikes. Luke, uneasy but resigned, decides to proceed. After a failed negotiation with the attackers, a chaotic showdown ensues.

*Guns and Absence* MAF describes Yemen as a "time capsule of ancient land surrounded by forgotten mountains. A land where the political system is an endless game of musical chairs. Reasons for fighting are abundant, and war is the only pastime for people who are excited to kill and not afraid to die."

The constant tension and relentless cycle of war injuries might overwhelm some readers, making it a challenging read. But by and large, the novel succeeds in portraying the agency and vulnerability inherent in humanitarian

work amid war, leaving a lasting impact on its audience.

The author brings a personal and professional depth to his experiences. Luke emerges as an exceptionally multifaceted character, possessing numerous layers and a captivating backstory, offering significant insights into his current personal circumstances.

The author skillfully dispenses information gradually throughout the book, enhancing the reader's engagement and understanding. Ameen, shaped by the challenges and nightmares she faces due to the mission's difficulties, is resilient and dedicated to her duties. Amid the chaos of war, Ameen's pragmatic approach and philosophical discussions provide a contrasting perspective on aid work. His dismissal of the idea of saving the world and his moments of reflection offer a more grounded view of their mission. Max, with his commanding presence in the hospital, illustrates the intricate and often morally ambiguous nature of our survival as humans.

In general, the novel goes on to show the undeterred work of those working at the frontline during a war. And it becomes all the more relatable with the world fraught with ongoing wars in Palestine and Ukraine. ■

The reviewer is a content lead at an agency. She can be reached at amna.amj@formatt.com

Some portions of 'Kasoor-e-Jahan Daraz Ha' lament the loss of friends and relatives. The author compares the length of temporal life to a goat's mouse. Other passages extoll the beauty of the Tamil region, especially of Neelamper, Hyder's ancestral town, and recall, with nostalgia, her Tagik origins.

The third section of the anthology is Portraits. Rasheed Jahan is the subject of 'Waqt-e-Ki Khwaab Dethkay Wal' (The One Who Dreamed of Shakes). The title refers to Rasheed Jahan's communist leanings, which spurred her to care for the plight of the poor, even though she herself came from privilege. 'Darwesh-Miraj Ha' (The Darwesh Woman) is about Anis Kidwai, who wrote with aplomb and humour despite not having had any formal education. The Times Group of Newspapers is the 'UK Lady of Both Islands'. Here, Hyder writes of Wajida Tahseen, a domineering woman who wrote soft porn and of Kashiwan Singh, the editor of *The Illustrated Weekly of India*, who had a penchant for Pakistan.

In 'Khadija Masoor Ki Massahay' (Missores From Khadija Massur), Hyder favourably compares the letter-writer to Jane Austin. 'Naya Hindustan Ki Unmali Haat' (The Mythical Being of New Hindustan) is Amiya Hossain Habibullah, author of *Sunlight on a Broken Column*. Hyder comments that, before Independence,



Qurratulain Hyder

incoming British officers were told not to miss seeing the Taj Mahal and meeting the beautiful Anjum Begum. The last portrait, 'El Ahd-e-Sara Adilkaan' (An Era-Delining Actor), relates to Nargis. It discusses Nargis's integrity and her self-confidence, which is evident in never denying or concealing her origins.

The last section of the book is composed of two interviews of Qurratulain Hyder. Shafiqur and Abd Kalim Qasmi are the interviewers in the first one. A telling observation on Hyder's part is about Urdu and Tamil. She points out that these languages had been important under British Raj but, after independence, they have been sidelined and replaced by English.

In the second interview, Hyder reminisces that music and musical instruments have always been acceptable to her family. This departure from the norms of Muslim convictions of the day permits her mother to play the sitar and Hyder to spend years mastering the piano.

The editors of this anthology do not elucidate the logic behind making these selections. It cannot have been easy to choose from the large body of work that Qurratulain Hyder has left behind. As it stands, *At Home in India* provides a good insight into the art of Urdu literature's doyenne. However, it is perplexing that there is no mention of her most famous novel, *Any Ke Daryay* (River of Fleec), and the controversy it sparked.

The anthology is easy to read. It constitutes a welcome addition to English translations of notable Urdu works. Women Unlimited are to be commended for publishing this book, so as to keep the works of Qurratulain Hyder current for the present generation. ■

The reviewer is a freelance writer, author of the novel *The Tea Trolley* and translator of *Toufan Se Peleky: Saffari-Europe Ki Diary*.



## COLUMN



# The art of storytelling — Part III

By Musharraf Ali Farooqi

In this last column in the series on the Art of Storytelling, I will write about my most recent adventure in storytelling. The protagonists in this case were Grade 9-10 girls from public schools from Larkana, Gilgit, and Islamabad villages, and my role was limited to designing a programme that helped them write stories about themselves, using their educational journey as the central plot — all within a space of five lessons.

Now, if you send out a stranger in a classroom who starts asking children about their lives, they are unlikely to open up. In order to break the ice, I used storytelling as an engagement tool. The story selected was my favourite folktale about a poohie's (small weaver bird's) adventures as it sets out to rescue the poohie from the clutches of a king. By narrating it interactively, and using theatrics and humour, the children were prompted to join the storytelling activity.

They were invited to come out and narrate small bits from the story before the class and, in this manner, a norm was established to tell stories before one's classmates. At the end of the first lesson, they were told that, just like the poohie, we also have our adventures and it was time to tell our own stories. They all happily agreed. Over a 40-minute period of telling stories to each other, we had become friends, which is a testament to the socialising power of a good story.

At the start of the second lesson, I asked the students some basic information about their parents and family, their ambition in life, their support system, and the challenges they saw in achieving their ambition. These simple questions helped the students narrate a fair bit about their family situation and their challenges — whether poverty, lack of family support, or active opposition to their continuing their education.

The support system that helped them continue their education was also revealed. As homework, I asked them to write what they had narrated to us in the class, in the form of a personal narrative.

In the third lesson, the students were again asked to read out what they had written. Most of the students fell into two categories: Those who willingly narrated their issues before the class, but did not disclose the information which was of a personal nature when writing it. And there were students who were reluctant to give out any personal information before their class, but felt more comfortable writing about their family issues, and sharing them with us, often with a request to not read it out before the class.

At this stage, the students had both narrated and written about themselves, listened to the narratives of other girls, found similarities in their own and others' narratives, had a fair sense of what could be a part of a personal narrative, and were ready for the next exercise in the programme.

At the end of the third lesson, I asked everyone about their favourite place in their home. For many girls, their favourite place was some nook inside their home or the rooftop, where they could be themselves.

Next, I asked them to imagine that they were sitting in their favourite place, reflecting about who they were, their past life and their future, and then write about their lives.

This exercise offered a loosely structured format to help the students think about and rework in a new format some of the material they had already narrated and written, and weave as well incidents from their own lives they had recalled while listening to other girls' narratives.

At the start of the fourth lesson, I asked the girls to read out what they had written of themselves and their lives while sitting in their favourite place. And it was noticed that most students had a more developed, complex personal narrative.

But between the oral narrative told on the first day, and the two written narratives submitted on days three and four, there were interesting elements in each narrative that were missing in the other versions. We discussed how all these elements could be woven together to make a comprehensive narrative, which I asked them to submit on the fifth day, when the best manuscripts would be selected for future publication.

The programme's progress can be gauged by the following factors:

**Complexity of narrative:** This was a good measure of understanding whether or not the exercise in self-expression is working, and allowing the student to develop a more complex and nuanced understanding of her narrative.

**Proof of a wide number of students participating voluntarily:** As the programme was not compulsory but voluntary for the students to participate in, as the programme progressed, we noticed that more and more girls joined their classmates in narrating their stories. They had earlier not participated in the programme, and kept to themselves, and a number of them often brought us very moving stories on the last day, as we were winding up the programme in their school.

**Proof of greater integration between the girls at programme end:** In a number of schools, where girls were often struggling with issues of permission to continue their education, poverty and family issues, they would become less communicative. As a result, their bond with their classmates would also weaken. After these girls had mustered the courage to tell their stories, and a true picture of their challenges and difficult situation emerged, their classmates rallied to their support.

All these elements were a proof of the programme's success. Like all teaching assignments, this too was a learning experience, and it was I who learned most from all of them. ■

The columnist is a novelist, author and translator. He can be reached on X: @microMAF or via his website: micromaf.com

## ► EPICURIOUS



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

By Faisal Quraishi

**T**he iconic Hotel Eurotel on Sarwar Shahid 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.

Its 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 Mist 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.

Overs 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 flavours, 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 savoury.

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.  
X/faisal\_quraishi



## ► GARDENING



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

**I**n 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 Aloo 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 lightness of watery gravy, no better than 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 that bowl of whole wheat.

For me, the recipe and taste suggested that it was a meal for patients with gastric issues. I would realize 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 meals, 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  
Illustration 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 *prasinocylindra foetida* 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 Subcontinent

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 vines 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 scored 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, sowing 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.

Please send your queries and emails to [doctor.gardening@gmail.com](mailto:doctor.gardening@gmail.com). The writer is a physician and a host for the YouTube channel "Doctor 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 dream. 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 emphasize 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: [auntie@eos.dawn.com](mailto:auntie@eos.dawn.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.

# ADVERTISER



## ANNOUNCEMENT

## BOUTIQUE FOR SALE

A running boutique 20 years old trend business of ladies Boutique and its workshop at Zamzama Commercial Lane 7th phase karachi is on sale.

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## LGG Block 2-3 &amp; 6

## SINDH MUSLIM SOCIETY

## Block A &amp; B

## AND ALL OTHER SOCIETIES

## AND ALL CITY OF SABZEVA

## SABZEVA AND AMBALA

## AND ISLAMIA COLLEGE

## CLIFTON - BATH ISLAND

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**PERSONAL ANNOUNCEMENT**  
DREAMWORLD Resort Membership  
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Resort Membership is available in 12 lots only. For more information  
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REQUERED Finance Manager, ACCA  
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experience of managing company  
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with emphasis in the educational  
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**CHILLER FOR SALE** Capacity 100 Ton

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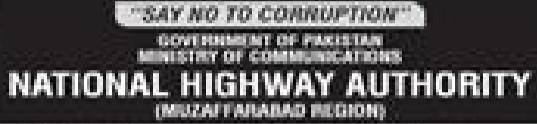
### Security Guards

(Contact at Earliest)

Kindly visit the office on 27 June 2024 along with complete documents.

**Eligibility:** Physically Fit and Infantry Soldiers preferable.

**H.R Department**  
For Abdul Qadir Shah Javedi Institute of Medical Sciences, Islamabad



### INVITATION TO BIDS

#### 01X EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE WORK ON S-2

1. National Highway Authority (NHA) invites Bids from the contractors, registered with Income Tax department and who are an Active Taxpayers List of the Federal Board of Revenue having valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in Category mentioned below inside Table with Specification in CE-01 & CE-10 for the work mentioned below:

Sl.	CONTRACT NO.	DESCRIPTION	ROUTE	ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE (RS.)	PEC CATEGORY / SPECIALIZATION
1.	EM-AJC-24-02-08	CONSTRUCTION OF PLUM CONCRETE BRIDGST WALL AT KM-29+560	S-2	11,548,986	C-5 (CE-01 & CE-10)

2. Bidding documents, containing method of procurement (Single Stage - Two Bidding), detailed terms & conditions etc. will be available on the website mentioned below from June 25, 2024 for downloading fee of cost. Prospective Bidders are also advised to follow the said website for updates of schedules and addendum(s), if any.

3. The Bids, prepared in accordance with the instructions provided in the bidding documents, must reach at the address mentioned below, on or before July 09, 2024 before 11:00 Hours. Technical Bids will be opened on the same day at 11:30 Hours.

4. This Advertisement is also available on PFRPA website at [www.pfrpa.org.pk](http://www.pfrpa.org.pk).

**GENERAL MANAGER (S-2/S-3 & IMDC)**

National Highway Authority

House No. 4-B, Lane-1 Lake View Lanes, Main Karim Road Banjara, Islamabad  
Phone: 051-9334567 & Email: [dhm@nha.gov.pk](mailto:dhm@nha.gov.pk)

Website: [www.nha.gov.pk](http://www.nha.gov.pk) PHONPH12345

### OPEN AUCTION FOR 30 YEARS DEVELOPMENT LEASE OF EVACUEE TRUST PROPERTY NO. AM-183-200, SUB-UNIT NO. G-15 TO G-20, SITUATED AT SHAHRA-E-IRAQ NEAR PASSPORT OFFICE, SADDAR KARACHI.

Evacuee Trust Property Board (Government of Pakistan) intends to lease out its property bearing No. AM-183-200, sub-unit No. G-15 to G-20, measuring 311.330 Sq Yards, situated at Shahra-e-Iraq near Passport Office, Sadr-e-Karachi on "AM 15% WHERE IT IS" basis for a period of 30 years (subject to mutually agreed terms & conditions) under Clause 7 of UAC of Urban Scheme 1977 respectively.

#### Auction Schedule:-

Date of Auction	09-07-2024
Venue:-	Office of Legal Administrator, Evacuee Trust Property, House No. 104-105, Tariq House, Pashawar Road, Karachi.
Note:-	In case of no offer is received on the above mentioned date or due to any reason upon request no new bid will be given after the date of the offer received in no way considered, otherwise dates shall be 10-07-2024, 11-07-2024, and 12-07-2024 in the same time and venue.

#### Detail of Property and Reserve Station are given below:-

No.	ERP No.	Area Sq. M.	Seq No.	Description	Reserve Rate by Non-Bankable Security	Fee Seq. No.	Area Sq. M.	Offer	Provisional Reserve Rate
1.	AM-183-200	311.330	1-15	Shahra-e-Iraq near Passport Office, Sadr-e-Karachi	General Plot Rs. 117/- per sq. m.	Plot Rs. 100/- per sq. m.	311.330	Rs. 35,000/- per month	Rs. 35,000/- per month

#### Recapitulation, criteria for participants in Auction procedure:-

1. Bank statement for one year.
2. National Identity Card.
3. Certificate to the effect that participant is neither government department nor Defense of CTPB or any other government department.
4. Active Tax Payer Certificate.

#### Terms and Conditions:-

1. Each and every non-Pakistani citizen can participate in the open auction proceedings except government employee and defense of Evacuee Trust Property Board.
2. The interested persons/parties who desire to participate in the public auction proceedings shall submit a self deposit/ Demand Draft of 10% of the reserved value in the name of Administrator, Evacuee Trust Property Office, Karachi prior to the auction proceeding, which shall be returned to the respective depositors after the auction proceedings except the highest bidder within a period of five weeks or after approval of auction proceedings by the Competent Authority/ Authority in earlier.
3. Highest bidder will be determined on the basis of offered bid.
4. The highest bidder shall deposit 20% of remaining highest bid amount within a period of 10 days after auction proceedings, failing which the already deposited CDD / Demand Draft shall be dissolved and auction will be postponed on the above mentioned next date.
5. Results of proceedings after auction will be placed before the Chairman, ETP Board having the Competent Authority for final considerations / approval who is empowered to reject or accept the results of auction proceedings without assigning the any reason by informing the proceedings in writing.
6. The highest bidder shall deposit remaining amount of highest bid within a period of ten (10) days after approval of auction proceedings by the Chairman ETP Board and in case of default already deposited amount shall be forfeited.
7. The highest bidder is bound to pay the cost of Superstructure to be assessed by Technical Board.
8. After final approval of auction proceeding of the Competent Authority, the successful highest bidder / developer will be granted 90 months for seeking approval of construction plan and after 90 months from the concerned departments at his own expense. After that period, construction period of 30 months or till completion of construction (whichever is earlier) shall commence.
9. No extension in the construction period shall be granted.
10. The highest bidder/developer shall be responsible for payment of existing debts and encumbrances of the property.
11. The cost of construction shall be borne by the developer, shall not claim at any stage.
12. The induction of tenure shall be made within 06 months after construction.
13. That all joint terms and conditions, Lease agreement between the proposed developer and ETP Board will be signed on prescribed standard format.
14. The proposed rent shall commence from the date of handing over possession / signing of agreement whichever is earlier and shall continue to be paid by the highest bidder / developer / lessee till conclusion of induction period of 06 months.
15. The already approved per sq. ft area will start automatically after completion of induction period of 06 months or lesser whether the building is completed or not. In case of default, the lease agreement shall be cancelled by the competent authority and the amount deposited by the highest bidder shall be forfeited.
16. The developed/ built up area can deduct amounts under tax and taxes and amounts under tax shall be jointly and severally responsible for the payment of tax to the department.
17. Further information can be collected from the undersigned during office hours.

**(Signature)**  
Deputy Administrator  
Evacuee Trust Property Office,  
Karachi  
Phone: 051-9334567

PIN#134032

## CORRIGENDUM

Reference advertisement bearing INF-KRY No. 197204, dated 14-06-2024, all the prospective bidders are informed that the said auction rescheduled to be held on 26.06.2024 at 11:00 a.m. The contract shall be renewable/ extendable for upto three years subject to satisfactory performance of the bidder with an increase of 20% each year. Other terms & conditions shall remain the same.

**Sd/-**  
**DIRECTOR GENERAL**  
**COAL MINES DEVELOPMENT**

INF-KRY 2024/04

Digitally signed by  
Sohail Ali

Date: 2024.06.26 11:00:00 +05'00'

Location: D.G.CMD, Coal Mines Development, Islamabad, Pakistan

**GOVERNMENT OF SINDH**  
**SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY DEPARTMENT**

**CORRIGENDUM ADDENDUM TO THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**MANAGEMENT & OPERATION OF GIRLS ELEMENTARY PUBLIC SECTOR SCHOOLS UNDER PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP MODE**

**NOTIFICATION** Issued for Management & Operation of Girls Elementary Public Sector Schools under Public-Private Partnership Mode (PPPM) for the education of Girls. With regard to the above mentioned Addendum to the Request for Proposals, it is hereby notified that the following changes have been made:

1. The present document does not contain any specific information regarding the mode of management, which is now being done through a consortium of two organizations, namely, Sindh Education Board and the Private Sector Organization, namely, Sindh Education Board and the Private Sector Organization.

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59. The present

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

SPECIAL CASE NO.71/2024

The State  
Versus  
Arsalah Sabzai & OthersCourt No. 10 of 2004  
Under Section 202(2)(b), 148, 149 PTC &  
147 AIA  
Police Station: Ghosar

Whereas, the accused namely 01.Arsalah s/o Piyaro Sabzai C.N.I.C.No.43503-0444090-9,  
02. Sirajuddin @ Siraj S/o Piyaro Sabzai  
03. Babu @ Babu S/o Arsalah Sabzai  
04. Khadim @ Chango @/s Unknown  
Jagran all are R/o Katcho Taluka Kandhkot have shown as absconders in above cited case.

And whereas non-bailable warrants were issued by this court for the arrest of above named accused, which returned unexecuted, with report of police that the accused have absconded and are not traceable.

Therefore, proclamation u/s 87 Cr.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 Kashmore 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 12th day of June, 2024

(SPECIAL JUDGE)  
ANTI-TERRORISM COURT  
KASHMORE AT KANDHKOT

DPP-KOT/2024/24

Dawn Sunday - 23 June 2024

OFFICE OF THE  
TOWN COMMITTEE JHOL  
DISTRICT SANGHAR

No.TCA/Jhol/174/ of 2024 Dated: 11-06-2024

## AUCTION NOTICE

The recovery rights for collection of following tax/fees of Town Committee Jhol for the period 01-07-2024 to 30-06-2025 on 03-07-2024 at 11:00 am in Town Committee Jhol. In case of failure of first attempt, 2nd attempt will be held on 04-07-2024 and 3rd attempt on 05-07-2024 at same place and time.

Sl. #	Name of Council	Particular of Contract	Official Bid	Security Deposit (%)
1.	Town Committee Jhol	Sabzai Mandi Fee	1400/500	1400000
2.		Patt Phir Chhapri Tax	2020/17	202000
3.		Cattle Tax	1130	113
4.		Advertisement Signboard Fee	42185	4218

Interested parties/companies and firms are invited to participate in the auction after depositing 10% amount of the official bid shown against each in the deposit only in the name of Town Committee Jhol. No cash/travelling D.D will be accepted. The deposit will be refunded to the unsuccessful bidders on the next day. The defaulters of any Council will not be allowed to participate in the auction.

The terms & conditions and schedule can be seen in the office of Town Committee Jhol during office hours on any working day. The auctioning authority reserves the right to accept or reject any bid or all bids in accordance with Sindh Public Procurement Rules 2010.

TOWN OFFICER  
Town Committee Jhol  
DISTRICT SANGHAR

DPP-KOT/No.2024/24

Dawn Sunday - 23 June 2024

NATIONAL ELECTRIC POWER  
REGULATORY AUTHORITY (NEPRA)FEDERAL GOVERNMENT  
OF PAKISTAN

POWER WITH SAFETY

www.nepra.org.pk

Tender No. 07/2024  
INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF FIRMS/SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR  
ORACLE ERP-(EBS) SUPPORT SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS THROUGH  
OPEN FRAMEWORK AGREEMENTS

National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA), a statutory body constituted under Act of Parliament (No. 1997) to regulate the provisions of electric power sector, NEPRA invites applications from Oracle OEM Authorized Firms/service providers for Support, Development and Integration related solutions through Open Framework Agreement(s) and are:

1. Registered with Income Tax /Sales Tax Departments.
2. Active taxpayers' list of the FBR.
3. Having minimum three (03) years relevant experience
4. Oracle Authorized Firms/service providers
5. Min. Four (04) Nos. of Oracle ERP - (EBS) Professionals
6. Min. Four (04) Nos. of Certified Oracle ERP - (EBS) Professionals
7. Not blacklisted in the public/private sector in Pakistan or abroad.

2. Bids, prepared in accordance with the instructions in the tender documents, must be submitted through E-Pak Acquisition and Disposal System i.e. e-PADs on or before 18th July, 2024 @ 1400 hours. Technical proposals will be opened on the same day at 1400 hours. This advertisement and necessary tender documents are also available on NEPRA & PPRA websites at [www.nepra.org.pk/tenders](http://www.nepra.org.pk/tenders) and [www.ppra.org.pk](http://www.ppra.org.pk), respectively and may be downloaded free of cost.

Contract Details / Instructions (01)  
NEPRA Tower, Attock Avenue (East), D-511, Islamabad  
Phone: +91-51-20133200, Fax: 051-90102013,  
[www.nepra.org.pk](http://www.nepra.org.pk), [www.ppra.org.pk](http://www.ppra.org.pk)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST  
(RFI) FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF VENDORS /

FIRMS FOR SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND  
MAINTENANCE OF IP & GSM BASED BURGLARY  
& FIRE ALARM SYSTEM IN FAYSAL BANK 2024/Q2  
NEW / EXISTING BRANCHES.

Faysal Bank Limited invites Expression of Interest (RFI) for pre-qualification with well-established and financially sound Vendor / Firms having their network nationwide.

Interested firms must have experience for supply/installation and maintenance of IP & GSM based Burglary Alarm Systems & Fire Alarm System of Bank's 7 Branch offices. Applying firms should preferably be authorized users of manufacturing firms of respective brands and must have their own well equipped team of qualified engineers and skilled workers with practical knowledge of used techniques in remote monitoring. Following details must be furnished:

- a. Registration with SECP.
- b. Copy of NTN.
- c. Proof of financial soundness with a scheduled bank accompanied with bank statement for the last one year.
- d. Performance Certificate by three major clients where your security company has been providing security services in the last two years.
- e. Company to specify its operation area i.e. Per Pakistan specific or any province.
- f. Valid emergency contact no number must be shared for future communication.
- g. Detail of monitoring system installed for branch monitoring.
- h. Detail of support centers other than head office with strength of staff and location, if any.
- i. Certificate for availability of sufficient stock of inventory from the manufacturer/Suppliers/Service throughout the year.
- j. Applications along with detailed company profile should reach FBL Head Office, Karachi by 10/7/2024.

Faysal Bank Limited reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications without assigning any reason.

For submission of RFI and clarification / information (if any) in this regard, please contact,

Regional Head Security  
Faysal Bank Limited, Security Department,  
Faysal House, ST-22, Shahrah-e-Faisal, Karachi  
Ph. 041 11-247-247 (021-88103, 8471, 8491)  
Ph. Direct 021-32795417-8813-8491

www.faysalbank.com

FaysalBank

MAKE YOUR BUSINESS GROW.  
ADVERTISE ININDUSTRY  
SUPPLEMENTS

Call Manager Supplements are  
Karako Lahore or Islamabad  
on UAN: 111-444-777

CONFERENCE ROOM - PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT NADRA HQ  
NADRA HQ Building (Ground Floor)  
30 - Main Area D-10/A, Islamabad - 44000.

Procurement: 051-90392862 | Fax No: 051-9108188

DAWN  
the complete  
newspaper

COMPETITIVE & LIVABLE CITY OF KARACHI  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT  
GOVERNMENT OF SINDHRequest for Bids  
(Non-Consulting Services)

Employer: Local Government Department, Government of Sindh

Project: Competitive and Livable City of Karachi (CLICK)

Contract Title: Third-Party Validation of UPT Survey in Karachi

Category: (Procurement)

Issue No.: (Procurement-PAV)

RFI No.: (Procurement-PAV)

Issued on: (1st June 2024)

1. The Government of Sindh has received financing through EAF, Govt. of Pakistan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) towards the cost of Competitive and Livable City of Karachi (CLICK) project and intends to apply part of this proceeds toward payments under the contract "Third Party Validation of Urban Sustainable Property Tax (UPT) Survey in Karachi".

2. The Competitive and Livable City of Karachi (CLICK) project now invites qualified bids from suitable bidders for the activity "Third Party Validation of Urban Sustainable Property Tax (UPT) Survey in Karachi". The requirement details have been mentioned in the RFI document.

3. This procurement will be conducted through national competitive procurement using a Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for PPP Bidders" (July 2016), revised November 2020 ("Procurement Regulations"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information about the bidding document from the Office of Procurement (Planning-UPT), Competitive CLICK Project, Local Government Department, Government of Sindh, either through email at [procurement@planning.upt.sindhp.gov.pk](mailto:procurement@planning.upt.sindhp.gov.pk), or in person, during office hours (i.e. 0800 AM to 1700 hours) at the address given below.

5. The bidding document in English may be purchased by interested eligible bidders upon submission of a written application to the address listed and payment of a non-refundable fee of PKR 5,000/- The method of payment

will be through either Cash or Cashier's Check or Pay Order drawn on a scheduled bank of Pakistan in favor of "Program Director, CLICK Project". The document is also available for download on the website of CLICK Project ([www.click.sindhp.gov.pk](http://www.click.sindhp.gov.pk)). The bidders who prefer downloading the document will need to submit prescribed fee on the day of bid submission.

6. Bid must be delivered to the address listed on or before Monday, 22nd July, 2024 By 03:00 p.m. Electronic Procurement will not be permitted and late bids will be rejected. The outer bid envelopes marked "ORIGINAL COPY" and the inner envelopes marked "TECHNICAL PART" will be publicly opened in presence of bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below on the same day i.e. Monday, 22nd July, 2024 at 03:00 p.m., immediately following submission. All envelopes marked "SECURITY ENVELOPE FINANCIAL PART" shall remain unopened and will be held in safe custody of the Purchaser until the second public opening.

7. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of PKR 2,500,000/- (PKR Rupees: Two Million Five Hundred Thousand/-).

8. Attention is drawn to the Procurement Regulations requiring the Bidders to disclose information on the successful bidders' beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document.

9. The address referred to above is (a):

CLICK Office  
Local Government Department  
Government of Sindh  
8th Floor, Bahria Complex-I  
M.T. Khan Road, Karachi  
Ph: +9231 9333627-29

DPP-KOT/No.2024/24

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 program in the Basic Medical Sciences Institute (BMSI) for the subjects of Anatomy, Microbiology, Pathology, Pharmacology and Physiology.

Applicants are also invited for admissions in Ph.D (Microbiology and Physiology).

Note:- All degree programmes are affiliated with the University of Karachi.

ELIGIBILITY FOR M.PHIL:

1. Graduate in M.B.B.S only.
2. One year House Internship as recognized by PHEC/PAEC for M.B.B.S. degree holders.
3. Three PHEC/PAEC Registrations.

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

1. Four recent passport size photographs.
2. Matriculation Certificate & Marks sheet.
3. Intermediate Certificate & Marks sheet.
4. M.B.B.S. degree with Commensurate Marks sheet.
5. House Internship Certificates.
6. Three PHEC/PAEC Registrations.
7. One year valid teaching experience certificate from the Principal Registrar of the concerned University.
8. Copy of Research Papers/Publications.
9. Books.
10. Two Commemurate National Merit Card.
11. Copy of PAEC license.

MERIT: Admission shall be on merit basis.

Admission will be granted on the basis of Test and Interview by the Departmental Committee of the concerned department. Merit list will be given in Annexure-I.

All candidates will be required to appear in interview for an interview to be conducted by the respective Departmental Research Committee (DRC) to fixate the admission procedure.

Two years teaching experience will be preferred in the relevant subject field from a recognized Medical Institution/Medical College/University on the closing date of the admission of test.

Further merit marks will only be awarded to candidates who have published research papers in PHEC/PAEC/UGC recognized journals.

Note: Qualifying the admission test does not guarantee the 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 fixate the admission procedure.

Two years teaching experience will be preferred in the relevant subject field from a recognized Medical Institution/Medical College/University on the closing date of the admission of test.

Further merit marks will only be awarded to candidates who have published research papers in PHEC/PAEC/UGC recognized journals.

## Prerequisites Admission for M.Phil

1. Applications for Prerequisites admission will be considered on the basis of eligibility, merit, availability of seats and supersession.
2. Prerequisites bid will be prepared by the DRC according to the following formula:
  - a. Two Marks obtained in pre requisite degree examination will be given 60% weightage.
  - b. The marks secured in the Entrance Test (ET) will be given 30% weightage.
  - c. The Index Relation to the Merit will be given 10% weightage.
3. Distribution of Merit Marks are given in Annexure-II.

Prerequisites (Maximum 2 and Maximum 4 years) from the date of Prerequisites admission for further admissions will be given.

M.P.Hil. Pre Course and Research Work:

1. All selected candidates and the required to complete the required courses work from respective departments within stipulated time frame.
2. Candidates are required to attend at least 75% classes of each course.
3. The student has to pass the course with CGPA 3.0 or more.

4. A student who has declared about CGPA 3.0 about 60% in his/her first year will be given a chance to appear in the entrance testing twice. Results will be given only if First Entrance Test (FET) issued by M.Phil. Dept. Minimum 3.0 CGPA is required for First Entrance Test.

5. After passing this course with CGPA 3.0 or more, the student will be required to apply through proper channel for continuation of admission and approval of research project within one year.

6. The student will submit a research project containing a brief summary of the project along with a copy of the Marks certificate issued by the concerned DRC.

7. The student will submit a research project along with a copy of the Marks certificate issued by the concerned DRC.

8. The student will submit a research project along with a copy of the Marks certificate issued by the concerned DRC.

9. The student will submit a research project along with a copy of the Marks certificate issued by the concerned DRC.

10. The student will submit a research project along with a copy of the Marks certificate issued by the concerned DRC.

11.

**BEFORE SPECIAL JUDGE ANTI-TERRORISM COURT, KASHMOR AT KANDHKOT****SPECIAL CASE NO.74 of 2023****THE STATE VERSUS WAZEER ALI & WALI MUHAMMADANI & OTHERS**

Case No. 43 of 2024  
LAW-2023-2024-744, 149 PTC & 407-A03  
Police Station, (Bilawal Kandhkot)

Whereas, the accused namely 01. Waizer Ali @ Wall Sir Gul Baig Muhammadani, 02.Rahzar @ Lahorwala Bilal Muhammadani, 03. Bhangar @ Kakar @ Bilal Muhammadani, 04.Sajan @ Ghaffar Sir Bilal Muhammadani, 05. Ali Jan @ Salind @ Mushtki @ Dharo Bux @ Sher Muhammad Muhammadani, 06.Rahimuddin @ Mohsin @ Oluand Bux @ Sher Muhammad Muhammadani all are in Khairi Shah, Taluka Kandhkot, 07. Altaf Muhammad @ Popal Sabzai, 08. Nasir Nawaz Benjari, Taluka Kandhkot, 09. Raseef Bux @ Rehmat Sabzai, 10. Sajjan Sabzai, 01.Babul @ Asif @ Bhoro Sabzai, 11. Sajjan Sabzai Taluka Kandhkot have shown as offenders in above cited case. And whereas non-testable elements were raised 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 w/o CrPC read with section 18(1)(d) of Anti-Terrorism Act 1997 be issued with directions to the above named accused persons to appear before this court at Subordinate Court Building Kashmore 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 12th day of June, 2024.

**SPECIAL JUDGE  
ANTI-TERRORISM COURT  
KASHMORE AT KANDHKOT**

INJURIOUS SOURCE

**KARACHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN  
PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE  
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT****CORRIGENDUM**

Ref. Nro. CPD/ED/KA/004/2024 Date: 05-06-2024  
Ref. KDA/ADVT-1402/2024 / IMP-KSY No. 1885/0024  
PFRM ID: T0612-23-00011

**SUBJECT: EXTENSION OF RESPONSE TIME**

NAME OF WORK: REHABILITATION / IMPROVEMENT OF SHANAH-E-JAHANGIR FROM LAHORE ROAD TO YASIRABAD,  
LADDI # 2745 of 2023-24

The schedule of bid issuance, submission and opening has been revised as under:

SCHEDULE	DATE & TIME
Receiving of Applications/ Issuing of Tenders	Extended till 08.07.2024 during office hours.
Dropping of Tenders	09th July, 2024 08:10:00 am
Opening of Tenders	09th July, 2024 at 09:00 am

The venue and all other terms and conditions shall remain the same.

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
Chairman  
Procurement Committee  
KDA**

Ref. KDA/ADVT-1402/2024  
Ref. KSY No. 1885/0024

**OPEN AUCTION FOR 30 YEARS DEVELOPMENT LEASE OF EVACUEE TRUST PROPERTY NO. JM-947 SITUATED AT BHADUR YAR JUNG ROAD, SOLDIER BAZAAR, KARACHI.**

Notice That Property Board Government of Pakistan awards to lease out its property bearing No. JM-947 measuring 978 Sq.Yard on "AS IT IS WHERE IT IS" basis for a period of 30 years (subject to mutually agreed terms & conditions) under Clause 16-C of Urban Scheme 1997 respectively.

**Action Schedule:-**

Date of Auction	BB-07-2024
Venue:	Office of Legal Advisor, Evacuee Trust Property, House No. PM-111, Firdaus Road, Firdaus MA, Karachi.
Note:	In case no offer is received on the above mentioned date or due to any reason beyond control it will be held on the given date or the offer received is not worth consideration, alternate date shall be 19-07-2024, 20-07-2024 and 21-07-2024 at the same time and venue.

**Detail of Prospects and Reserve Bids are given below:-**

S. No.	ETP No.	Area	Reserve Bids for Non-Behindable Security	Per Sq.Ft. area after development	Provisional Monthly Rent
1	947-947	978 Sq.Ft.	Rs. 11,00/- per sq.ft. Rs. 1,00/- extra for every 1000/- dimension and 100/- monthly Rent.	Ground Floor: Rs. 11/- per sq.ft. Floor Above: Rs. 11/- per sq.ft. Mezzanine: Rs. 11/- per sq.ft. Roof: Rs. 11/- per sq.ft. Other Floors: Rs. 11/- per sq.ft.	Rs. 10,00/- per month during construction

**Classification criteria for participants in Auction proceedings:-**

1. Bank statement for one year.
2. National Identity Card.
3. Certificate to the effect that participated in neither government department nor Defense of UTPM or any other government department.
4. Active Tax Payer Certificate.

**Excluded Conditions:-**

1. Each and every citizen of Pakistan can participate in the open auction proceedings except government employee and defense of Evacuee Trust Property Board.
2. The interested persons/participants who desire to participate in the public auction proceedings shall submit a self deposit Demand Draft of 10% of the reserved price in the name of Administrator, Evacuee Trust Property Office, Karachi prior to the auction proceeding, which shall be returned to the respective bidders after the auction proceedings except the highest bidder within a period of four weeks or after approval of auction proceedings by the Competent Authority whichever is earlier.
3. Highest bidder shall be determined on the basis of offered PDR.
4. The highest bidder shall also deposit 25% of remaining highest bid amount within a period of 03-days after auction proceedings, failing which, the already deposited 10% / Demand Draft shall be forfeited and auction will be conducted on the alternate next date.
5. Results of proceedings after auction will be placed before the Chairman, ETP Board having the Competent Authority for final considerations / approval who is empowered to reject or accept the results of auction proceedings without assigning the any reason by informing the participants in writing.
6. The highest bidder shall deposit remaining amount of highest bid within a period of ten (10) days after approval of auction proceedings by the Chairman ETP Board and in case of default already deposited amount shall be forfeited.
7. The highest bidder is bound to pay the cost of Superstructure to be assessed by Technical Branch.
8. After final approval of auction proceeding of the Competent Authority, the successful highest bidder / developer will be granted 06 months for seeking approval of construction plan and other NOCs from the concerned departments of his own expenses. After that period, construction period of 30 months or till completion of construction (whichever is earlier) shall commence.
9. No extension in the construction period shall be granted.
10. The highest bidder/developer shall be responsible for payment of existing leases and occupancy of the property.
11. The cost of construction shall be borne by the developer, shall not claim at any stage.
12. The induction of leases shall be made within 06 months after construction.
13. The an joint terms and conditions, Lease agreement between the proposed developer and ETP Board will be signed on prescribed / standard forms.
14. The proposed work shall commence from the date of handing over possession / signing of agreement whichever is earlier and shall continue to be paid by the highest bidder / developer / lessee(s) till conclusion of induction period of 06-months.
15. The already approved per sq. ft. area will start automatically after completion of induction period of 06-months or earlier whether the building is completed or not. In case of default, the lease agreement shall be cancelled by the competent authority and the amount deposited by the highest bidder shall be forfeited.
16. The developer/ lessee can induce leases under him and leases and tenures under him shall be jointly and severally responsible for the payment of rent to the department.
17. Further information can be collected from the undersigned during office hours.

(Signature) ARJ  
Deputy Administrator  
Evacuee Trust Property Office,  
Karachi  
Phone No. 021-39033263

PIDHL4034

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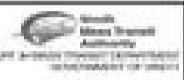
**CADET COLLEGE SANGHAR  
SITUATION VACANT**

Applications are invited from eligible Male & Female Candidates from all over Pakistan for the following posts:

S. NO.	NAME OF POSTS	GRADE / SCALE	AGE	MIN. QUALIFICATION & EXPERIENCE
1	Lecturer in English, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Botany, Urdu, Islamic & Computer Science	16	Not more than 45 years	M.A./M.Sc. in a relevant subject with at least 2nd Division

- NOTE:**
1. Complete Bio-Data (Type) with attested photocopies of relevant certificates and (2) recent passport size photograph alongwith a copy of CNIC duly attested must be attached with the application.
  2. The Application Form can be downloaded from website [www.cadetsanghar.edu.pk](http://www.cadetsanghar.edu.pk) and send to college address: Cadet College Sanghar of Jam Nawaz Ali via Route A1001 Mianwali.
  3. Age can be relaxed in case of deserving / outstanding candidates.
  4. The applicants already in Govt. Services should send their applications through proper channel.
  5. Preference will be given to highly qualified and experienced hands.
  6. Miscellaneous benefits as per regulations of the College will be provided.
  7. TA/DK is not payable if and when called for interview.
  8. Applications should reach on the above address latest by 14 July 2024 positively.

**COMMANDANT/ PRINCIPAL  
CADET COLLEGE SANGHAR**  
At Jam Nawaz Ali, Ph: +92-235-546008, 546124

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST****SELECTION OF EMPLOYEE**

1. The Department of Health requires services of following professionals / individuals for a donor funded project. Interested applicants may express their interest in providing the services through this.
  2. Eligible applicants shall have the following qualifications, experience and skills as mentioned against the position:
- | Position       | DIRECTOR PLANNING & DESIGN / SENIOR ENGINEER (TECHNICAL) --- One Position   |
|----------------|---|
| Qualifications | Bachelors / Masters degree in Civil Engineering / Transport Engineering in related discipline from a HEC recognized university.               |
| Experience     | + 20 years of post qualification relevant experience for Director and 10 years of post qualification relevant experience for Senior Engineer. |
|                | • Including 5 years of at Management level position. Preference will be given to MPhil / Project Experience.                                  |
|                | • Demonstration of excellent knowledge in field of planning, Construction management & Contract management.                                   |
|                | • Work experience with donor funded projects on Infrastructure works in an aided environment.   |
|                | • Professional team building, presentation on any other skills considered essential for this position.  |
|                | • Must be registered with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC).   |
3. The mentioned vacancy is purely Temporary / Contractual Basis. It is on annual consultancy basis on the basis of performance funded through the International funding Agency.
  4. The concerned state has no right to claim any regularization of service in the future under any prevailing government policy.
  5. Candidates holding the minimum eligibility criteria for qualification and experience shall be shortlisted for interview.
  6. Selection will be purely on merit and other necessary requirements of the donor agency.
  7. Interested candidate must submit his Expression of Interest in the form of a Covering Letter along with CV and supporting documents through e-mail to Project Director of the concerned organization addressed: [expressionofinterest@cadetsanghar.edu.pk](mailto:expressionofinterest@cadetsanghar.edu.pk) along with Covering Letter and CV may also be forwarded through Email postbox(s) of concerned office held by Mr. IFTIKHAR KHAN during office hours.
  8. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted, the successful candidate will be offered a competitive based package as per government guidelines.
  9. The duration of contract will be determined by government guidelines and has a donor administration policy in place, with a general statement and formal agreement in place to address and resolve any such requirement.
  10. Persons are encouraged to apply and they will be given equal opportunities as per Government Policy.

**PROJECT DETAILS**  
RAJAHAN MOBILITY PROJECT, 1000 FEET YELLOW LINE  
D-42, Sector-4, Block-L, Lahore, 54000, Pakistan  
Tel: 0311-39033263

**CAREER OPPORTUNITY**

"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 focus 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 position in the area of Audit and Inspection based at Karachi.

The individuals who fulfill the below basic-eligibility criteria may apply for the following position:

Q1	Position / Job Title	Divisional Head – Technology Audits (SVP / EVP)
Reporting To	Chief Internal Auditor	
Educational / Professional Qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum Graduation or equivalent from a local or International university / college / Institute recognized by the HEC.</li> <li>Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) / CISSP / Master's Degree in IT or Information Security / Cyber Security related qualifications and / or relevant certification(s) would be preferred.</li> </ul>	
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum 15 years of experience in Information Technology Audits and / or Information Technology and / or Information Security and / or Enterprise Risk Management of a Bank / Financial Institution.</li> <li>Candidates having experience in supervising / leading Information Technology Audit / Information Technology Department / IT projects of a Bank / Financial institution will be preferred.</li> </ul>	
Other Skills / Expertise / Knowledge Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ability to work in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment.</li> <li>Excellent English communication and presentation skills, both written and verbal, especially for drafting comprehensive IT Audit reports.</li> <li>Good knowledge and understanding of regulatory requirements, international standards and best practices for IT Domains, Information / Cyber Security, Digitalization and Data Protection / Privacy.</li> <li>Excellent leadership skills and emotional intelligence.</li> <li>Good understanding of sampling methodologies, testing IT general controls, application and other controls using data analysis and automation for audits.</li> <li>Understanding of approaches for continuous audit of IT controls, continuous monitoring and control self-assessment.</li> <li>Excellent interpersonal and relationship management skills to negotiate and agree audit issues, etc.</li> </ul>	
Outline of Main Duties / Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To conduct risk assessment of Information Technology area of the Bank and develop related audit engagement plans.</li> <li>To deal with and respond to relevant internal and external stakeholders including regulators, external auditors, consultants, auditee management.</li> <li>To manage or lead IT projects and present to top Management and Chief Internal Auditor.</li> <li>To prepare and keep updated the related audit documents such as Risks Controls Matrices (RCMs) / audit checklists / Audit Programs for effective audit coverage of Information Technology Audit.</li> <li>To manage a team of IT professionals, providing guidance, training and support as needed.</li> <li>To supervise the audit teams for timely completion of the audit assignments.</li> <li>To hold meetings with the auditee management to discuss the Information Technology audit issues.</li> <li>To supervise processing, finalization of audit reports and their release to the auditee management.</li> <li>To analyze, document, report and validate the implementations of security recommendations identified during Cyber / IS / IT security audits.</li> <li>To ensure follow-up of corrective Action plan of Information Technology.</li> <li>To identify the vulnerabilities and flaws in related controls (design and implementation) in networks, operating systems, data centers, etc.</li> <li>To prepare summary of control issues of Technology for reporting to senior management, Chief Internal Auditor, etc.</li> <li>To keep Chief Internal Auditor and Senior Management updated on IT Audit Progress, IT Audit findings and suggest controls for improvement in the system.</li> <li>To manage the audit software of the internal audit group.</li> <li>To perform any other assignment as assigned by the supervisor(s).</li> </ul>	
Interview(s)	Only shortlisted candidates strictly meeting the above-mentioned basic eligibility criteria will be invited for 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.adiafpkdn.com.pk/careers](http://www.adiafpkdn.com.pk/careers) and apply online within 10 working days from the date of publication of this advertisement as per given instructions.

Applications received after due date will not be considered in any case. No TA / DA will be admissible for interview.

National Bank of Pakistan is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications from all qualified individuals, regardless of gender, religion, or disability.



Registered Office: CLT/A State Life Building # 10, Abdur Raheem Road, Karachi, Pakistan. Vision: 21st Century Infrastructure. Fax: +92 21 30000077/78. 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, DO Tractor, CHP Vehicles, PTO Tanker, Rare Mill Classifier, and more available on "As Is and Where Is Basis". Terms of reference with a valid NTP and registered with FBR and SBM are eligible to participate in this tender.

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

Quotations, along with a Play Order or Demand Draft of 10% of the quoted value (returnable) in favor of Thatta Cement Company Limited, should be submitted at Thatta Cement Company Limited, CL 54, State Life Building #10, Mian Abdur Raheem Road, Karachi. The submission of bids will commence on July 1, 2024, and will close on July 10, 2024.

Successful bidders will have to deposit the remaining amount of the tender within 7 working days else 10% returnable amount will be confiscated.

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

### (BEFORE SPECIAL JUDGE) ANTI-TERRORISM COURT KASHMORE AT KANDHKOT

#### Special Case No.52/2024

The State  
Versus  
Sarwar Oghal & Others

Court Act: 14 of 2004.  
Under Section: 2(4), 2(4A), 2(6), 2(6A), 4(2),  
4(2), 14(2) PPC & 17(2) AIA  
Police Station: Karanpur

Whereas, the accused namely 01. Sarwar Ali Sharief, 02. Asif Ali Ghulam Nabi, 03. Saeed Ali Akbar, 04. Sabah Ali Jagan, 05. Satter Ali Arbab, 06. Naimeullah Ali Younis, 07. Manzoor Ali Galo Ali Kamal, 08. Asghar Ali Laloo Ali Mohammad Shaban all by Case Oghal Rio Phittal Band Village Khair Muhammad Nasreen 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(1)(c) of Anti-Terrorism Act 1997 be issued with directions to the above named accused persons to appear before this court at Subordinate Court Building Kashmore 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 KASHMORE AT KANDHKOT

INF-A/PY/2024/04

### DR. PANJWANI CENTER FOR MOLECULAR MEDICINE AND DRUG RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES UNIVERSITY OF KARACHI, KARACHI-75700

#### NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

No. CED/100/0907/2024

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, SBIB and PEC in Category C-B or above with Specialization Codes MIE 01 and MIE 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, SBIB and PEC Registration Certificates from 24th JUNE, 2024 along with Original Deposit Slip or Online Transaction Receipt (Receipt of Payment of Rs. 1,000/- Non Refundable) 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 (last by 11:30 AM on 08th JULY, 2024 in the shape of Play 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 Bidders 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 SBP Rules.

5. This Bid Advertisement can also be browsed at ICCBS Official Website [www.iccs.edu.pk](http://www.iccs.edu.pk) and [www.punjabitg.gov.pk](http://www.punjabitg.gov.pk).

For detail or any information, contact:  
Mr. Saitia Javeen Aslam  
Sr. Civil Engineer, ICCBS  
Tel # (011) 333-262 (Ext. 202)  
Email: [asrj@iccs.edu.pk](mailto:asrj@iccs.edu.pk)

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 fulfill the below basic-eligibility-criteria may apply for the following positions:

01	<b>Position / Job Title</b>	Unit Head – FATCA / CRS & Financial Institution's Review (AVP / VP)
	<b>Reporting to</b>	Wing Head – AML / CFT Governance and Analytics
	<b>Educational / Professional Qualification</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minimum Graduation or equivalent from a local or international university / college / institute recognized by the HEC</li> <li>▪ Candidates having Master's Degree and / or any other relevant professional certification(s) will be preferred</li> </ul>
	<b>Experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minimum 07 years of banking experience including 04 years in Compliance preferably in the area of FATCA / CRS or AML / CDD review / advisory</li> </ul>
	<b>Other Skills / Expertise / Knowledge Required</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Good knowledge of general banking, Anti Money Laundering (AML) / Counter Financing of Terrorism (CFT) related laws, rules and regulations</li> <li>▪ Knowledge of banking services / products</li> <li>▪ Good communication, interpersonal and analytic skills</li> <li>▪ Effective team players</li> <li>▪ Proficiency in MS Office (preferably in MS Word, MS PowerPoint and MS Excel)</li> <li>▪ Good reporting and presentation skills</li> <li>▪ Ability to prioritize and accomplish task with strict deadline</li> </ul>
	<b>Outline of Main Duties / Responsibilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To provide compliance advisory after review of documents submitted by business in line with the EDD performed on Financial Institutions &amp; Money Service Business (MSBs) at time of onboarding and annual renewal</li> <li>▪ To respond to the queries raised or adverse news highlighted by correspondent FI / Banks</li> <li>▪ To respond to AML / CFT questionnaires received from local banks, international banks, MSBs and other organizations</li> <li>▪ To coordinate with Operations Group and other relevant groups to obtain the data related to FATCA / CRS reporting</li> <li>▪ To process and compile the data related to FATCA and CRS as per the defined timelines. Also, renew FATCA digital certificate as per IRS directives</li> <li>▪ To perform any other assignment as assigned by the supervisor(s)</li> </ul>
02	<b>Position / Job Title</b>	Unit Head – Compliance Testing (AVP / VP)
	<b>Reporting to</b>	Wing Head – Monitoring and Quality Assurance
	<b>Educational / Professional Qualification</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minimum Graduation or equivalent from a local or international university / college / institute recognized by the HEC</li> <li>▪ Candidates having Master's Degree and / or any other relevant professional certification(s) will be preferred</li> </ul>
	<b>Experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minimum 07 years of banking experience, out of which 04 years in Compliance and / or Controls and / or Audit and / or Treasury function</li> </ul>
	<b>Other Skills / Expertise / Knowledge Required</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strong interpersonal and communication skills</li> <li>▪ Strong MS Office Skills</li> <li>▪ Should be able to lead teams of reviewers / auditors and meet the timelines</li> </ul>
	<b>Outline of Main Duties / Responsibilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 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</li> <li>▪ To act as Subject Matter Expert (SME) of trade related transactions / testing and supervise review</li> <li>▪ To provide guidance to the staff for retesting of SBP Treasury Code of Conduct, various regulatory returns</li> <li>▪ To assist Wing Head for devising annual assurance plan covering key areas as per CRM guidelines and closely working with CRM team, carry out re-testing of RCAs as per approved plan and given methodology</li> <li>▪ To supervise or conduct basic compliance related verification, use data for analysis and test embodiment of controls in response to penalties, evaluate the revised process in close coordination with CRM</li> <li>▪ To prepare reports / dashboards and analysis of the control gaps / non-compliances for senior management</li> <li>▪ To follow up identified gaps during private, offsite reviews, RCAs re-testing exercises with the relevant units for timely rectification / closure</li> <li>▪ To maintain an updated dashboard of the status of planned / unplanned assignments against the plan for ready reference</li> <li>▪ To perform any other assignment as assigned by the supervisor(s)</li> </ul>
03	<b>Position / Job Title</b>	Unit Head – SBP Coordination Wing (AVP)
	<b>Reporting to</b>	Wing Head – SBP Coordination
	<b>Educational / Professional Qualification</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minimum Graduation or equivalent from a local or international university / college / institute recognized by the HEC</li> <li>▪ Candidates having Master's Degree and / or any other relevant professional certification(s) will be preferred</li> </ul>
	<b>Experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minimum 07 years of banking experience, out of which 04 years in SBP Coordination and / or Inspection or Regulatory Compliance</li> </ul>
	<b>Other Skills / Expertise / Knowledge Required</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Good command over MS-Office</li> <li>▪ Sound communication skills</li> </ul>
	<b>Outline of Main Duties / Responsibilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To act as a focal person / liaison officer with State Bank of Pakistan on matters related to SBP coordination</li> <li>▪ To act as contact person internally and should be able to maintain strong relationship with all internal stakeholders</li> <li>▪ To coordinate between SBP and internally for requests regarding information, clarifications or extension in timeline and guide internal stakeholders</li> <li>▪ To be able to interact at senior level and clarify the requirements / queries in a clear and concise manner</li> <li>▪ To be able to ensure that staff followed relevant policies and procedures in letter and spirit</li> <li>▪ To maintain and keep track of the data / facts for monitoring related to the coordination matters and ensure adequate and pro-employee escalations to direct supervisor</li> <li>▪ To ensure that adequate checks are performed and clarity is obtained before submitting the final information outside of the bank</li> <li>▪ To perform any other assignment as assigned by the supervisor(s)</li> </ul>
04	<b>Position / Job Title</b>	Manager – FATCA / CRS & Financial Institution's Review (OG-II / OG-III)
	<b>Reporting to</b>	Unit Head
	<b>Educational / Professional Qualification</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minimum Graduation or equivalent from a local or international university / college / institute recognized by the HEC</li> <li>▪ Candidates having Master's Degree and / or any other relevant professional certification(s) will be preferred</li> </ul>
	<b>Experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minimum 03 of years banking experience including 01 year in Compliance preferably in the area of FATCA / CRS or AML / CDD review / advisory</li> </ul>
	<b>Other Skills / Expertise / Knowledge Required</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Good knowledge of Anti Money Laundering (AML) / Counter Financing of Terrorism (CFT) related laws and regulations</li> <li>▪ Basic knowledge of banking services / products</li> <li>▪ Good communication, interpersonal and analytic skills</li> <li>▪ Effective team player</li> <li>▪ Proficiency in MS Office (preferably in MS Word, MS PowerPoint and MS Excel)</li> <li>▪ Good reporting and presentation skills</li> <li>▪ Ability to prioritize and accomplish task with strict deadline</li> </ul>
	<b>Outline of Main Duties / Responsibilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To provide necessary coordination / support on FATCA &amp; CRS implementation effort within respective functional area</li> <li>▪ To maintain and update MIS pertaining to FATCA &amp; CRS reportable data</li> <li>▪ To provide compliance advisory after review of documents submitted by business in line with the EDD performed on Financial Institutions &amp; MSBs at time of onboarding and annual renewal</li> <li>▪ To respond AML / CFT questionnaires received from local banks, international banks, MSBs, and other organizations</li> <li>▪ To perform any other assignment as assigned by the supervisor(s)</li> </ul>
05	<b>Position / Job Title</b>	Officer Compliance Risk Management (OG-II / OG-III)
	<b>Reporting to</b>	Department Head – Compliance Risk Management
	<b>Educational / Professional Qualification</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minimum Graduation or equivalent from a local or international university / college / institute recognized by the HEC</li> <li>▪ Candidates having Master's Degree and / or any other relevant professional certification(s) will be preferred</li> </ul>
	<b>Experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minimum 03 years of banking experience, out of which 01 year in Compliance and / or data analytics and / or control function of a bank</li> </ul>
	<b>Other Skills / Expertise / Knowledge Required</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Good interpersonal communication</li> <li>▪ In-depth knowledge of local regulatory requirements</li> <li>▪ Proficient in Microsoft Office suite including excel, power point and power BI</li> </ul>
	<b>Outline of Main Duties / Responsibilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To prepare compliance control sheet for all new circulars and disseminate it to relevant functions</li> <li>▪ To follow up and track implementation timelines of the regulatory requirements with different functions</li> <li>▪ 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</li> <li>▪ To prepare MIS and maintain detailed compliance risk reports of the overviews, not yet due terms along with analysis of the validation failures</li> <li>▪ 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</li> <li>▪ To perform analysis of various themes coming out of the validation results</li> <li>▪ 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</li> <li>▪ To manage and update regulator repository of all circulars / guidelines / Prudential Regulations etc. on timely basis</li> <li>▪ To prepare monthly compliance bulletins and disseminate to all staff</li> <li>▪ To prepare compliance risk management updates for management committee meetings</li> <li>▪ To perform any other assignment as assigned by the supervisor(s)</li> </ul>
	<b>Assessment Test / Interview(s)</b>	Only shortlisted candidates strictly meeting the above-mentioned basic eligibility criteria will be invited for test and / or panel interview(s).
	<b>Employment Type</b>	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.usidathrydes.com.pk/tenders](http://www.usidathrydes.com.pk/tenders) 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.

## 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, safe 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 fulfill the below basic-eligibility criteria may apply for the following positions:

01	Position / Job Title	Product Manager - Secured Running Finance (SRF) - Liquid Security (AMF / VP)
Reporting to	Division Head - Consumer Finance	
Educational / Professional Qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum Graduation or equivalent from a local or international university / college / institute recognized by the HEC</li> <li>• Candidates having a Master's degree in Finance and/or relevant field would be preferred</li> </ul>	
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum 06 years of banking experience, out of which at least 02 years of experience in Consumer Financing and / or SME Financing and / or Commercial Financing</li> <li>• Candidates having working experience in a similar role for a large scale organization(s) / bank(s) would be preferred</li> </ul>	
Other Skills / Expertise / Knowledge Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well versed with consumer related SRF PRPs</li> <li>• Good understanding of Secured Running Finance product</li> <li>• Excellent communication and interpersonal skills</li> <li>• Ability to develop products and policies</li> <li>• Team management / leadership skills</li> <li>• Knowledge of KYC / AML guidelines</li> <li>• Report writing and analytical skills</li> <li>• Proficient in MS Office suite (Outlook, Excel, Word, Power Point)</li> </ul>	
Outline of Main Duties / Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To lead and devise workable strategy and plan for the launch and management of Secured Running Finance (SRF) - Liquid Security products with business objectives and deliverables</li> <li>• To develop policies, update product program of SRF - Liquid Security, and propose product feature / process enhancements to ensure that the Bank maintains its market leadership over competitors and stays aligned with the competitors</li> <li>• To constantly review and contribute in development of existing loan application system for its improvement and implementation after successful UATs</li> <li>• To update changes in SRF - Liquid Security product policy in-line with the Bank's SRFs and SRF Regulations</li> <li>• To issue policies and procedures of secured running finance to the field after obtaining approvals from all the stakeholders</li> <li>• To prepare budget, develop and suggest strategies and action plan to increase product reach and product profitability thereof</li> <li>• To assist in conducting training sessions about product launch / enhancements</li> <li>• To ensure strict compliance with all regulatory guidelines such as SBP's Prudential Regulations as well as Bank's internal policies</li> <li>• To engage with recovery teams for overdue / default loans</li> <li>• To coordinate with team on the regular / Non - Performing Loan (NPL) targets and provide clarification on various matters related to the product</li> <li>• To prepare / issue memos and presentations related to product for the Management review</li> <li>• To review draft policies / framework documents received from different groups and recommend amendments (where required)</li> <li>• To assist in designing themes of press / electronic, digital and social media campaigns for the product with the Strategic Marketing Division</li> <li>• To perform any other assignment as assigned by the supervisor(s)</li> </ul>	
02	Position / Job Title	Product Manager - Advance Salary (Personal Loans) (DG - I / AMF)
Reporting to	Vice Head - Advance Salary	
Educational / Professional Qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum Graduation or equivalent from a local or international university / College / Institute recognized by the HEC</li> <li>• Candidates having a Master's degree in Finance and / or relevant field would be preferred</li> </ul>	
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum 06 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)</li> <li>• Candidates having experience in product development and / or financing advance against salary (Personal Loan) would be preferred</li> </ul>	
Other Skills / Expertise / Knowledge Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well versed with personal loan policies</li> <li>• Sound knowledge related to consumer banking</li> <li>• Excellent communication and interpersonal skills</li> <li>• Ability to develop products &amp; policies</li> <li>• Strong knowledge of SBP Prudential Regulations and KYC / AML guidelines</li> <li>• Proficient in MS Office suite (Outlook, Excel, Word, Power Point)</li> </ul>	
Outline of Main Duties / Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide support to the Management for promoting growth in Advance Salary Loan (personal loan category) which is aligned with industry best practices</li> <li>• To constantly review and develop existing loan application system for its improvement and implementation after successful UATs</li> <li>• To conduct routine inspection of operational issues related to Advance Salary Loan (personal loan)</li> <li>• To manage work-flow, analyse the product data and support supervisor in automation initiatives</li> <li>• 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-apportion of product's NPLs</li> <li>• To have a strong follow-up mechanism for the closure of relevant complaints</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• To maintain M&amp;I portfolio for reporting and monitoring purpose</li> <li>• To assist various stakeholders in developing Service Level Agreements (SLAs) related to products</li> <li>• To review and develop product program / product paper of personal loan (Advance Salary)</li> <li>• To assist supervisor for development / revision of product programs of new / existing products</li> <li>• To review policy paper / framework / documents provided by supervisor for feedback</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• To support supervisor in providing trainings related to personal loan products to field staff</li> <li>• To maintain and update monthly SOA and profile data reconciliation activity</li> <li>• To perform any other assignment as assigned by the supervisor(s)</li> </ul>	
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.silatifyyden.com.pk/careers](http://www.silatifyyden.com.pk/careers) and apply online within 10 working days from the date of publication of this advertisement as per given instructions.

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Cost Manager: [Riaz.Mirza@DawnSupplements.com](mailto:Riaz.Mirza@DawnSupplements.com) DAWN 0311-444-7777



### The Ismailia Youth Services

#### Career Opportunity

The Ismailia Youth Services (IYS) seeks applications from dynamic and talented individuals for the Principal position of Prince Aly Higher Secondary School, Multan, Karsaz.

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, preference in Education, with at least 10 years of experience in school management. Consideration with a B.Ed/M.Ed. will be preferred. Interested candidates meeting the criteria can send their CV with the position applied for in the subject line to recruitment@iys.org by July 8, 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  
0311-94179004



## HRSG DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

### OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE!

Our client, Sino 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 primary responsibility of the Managing Director is to continuously drive and inspire the organization towards the realization of its fundamental philosophical mission, vision, values, deeply ingrained values, strategic priorities, and multi-layered operational objectives. Tasked with crafting a dynamic strategic blueprint, this role aims to augment the company's revenue streams, build substantial growth, and foster sustainable growth. He / She works on the company's transformation 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 acumen, stakeholder management and astute implementation of targets. The MD will stand as a champion of accountability, directly answerable to the Board for strategic implementations and operational outcomes. The detailed job description is available at <http://hrsgonline.com/job-opening/>.

#### 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 rewarded with a highly competitive salary and benefit 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 graduate.

- A minimum of 20 years' (paid qualifications) 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 trusted leader managing 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 best-in-class 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 HSSEQA.
- Exceptional people management and relationship building skills; multicultural competency 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 authenticity.
- Experience of handling change management, organizational restructuring, succession planning, profitability maximization experience with a large organization.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Unquestionable 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 Statuted Based Enterprises (Governance and Operations) Act, 2021, 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 <http://recruitment.hrsqgolink.com> latest by July 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 pipeline ranging from 8" - 42" 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 Pakistani 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.	<b>Registrar</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PhD / MS qualified</li> <li>• Requisite post - qualification experience as Registrar setup in HEC recognized University / Degree Awarding Institute</li> </ul>	54 years
2.	<b>Controller of Examinations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MS qualified</li> <li>• Requisite post - qualification experience of CoE setup in HEC recognized University / Degree Awarding Institute</li> </ul>	54 years
3.	<b>Associate Professor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PhD in the field of Strategic Studies / Defence &amp; Strategic Studies / Peace &amp; Conflict Studies</li> <li>• Requisite post - qualification teaching / research experience in HEC recognized University / Degree Awarding Institute</li> </ul>	45 years

#### TERMS & CONDITIONS

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

#### Registrar

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